



THE NAKED STARK

# Falling Up



# A celebration of play, possibility, and the tenderness of being human.

Six dance artists displace gravity to co-create new worlds with fantastical possibilities. Step into *Falling Up* and immerse yourself in the imaginative effort of turning the world anew, again and again and again.



COVER: Chloe wears a white ensemble. Their legs rise to the ceiling, and the backs of their shoulders touch the floor as they are “lifted” off the ground by a cluster of red and pink balloons that they hold above their face. IMAGE: The six dancers slide on their stomachs to rest their chins on a long beam of wood. They look into the faces of the audience up close.

ARE YOU a host looking to book our intimate and immersive dance experience? Expand this work with us in new venues and gallery spaces.

The 55-minute performance can be presented on a stage, as a site-specific installation, and as a public workshop.

*Falling Up* includes projection, architectural set-pieces, special opportunities for audience interaction, and is meant to be viewed up-close by folks of every age.

Bring *Falling Up* to your community!

*Together, can we take the time to fail and try and fail and try and fail and try?*

*Can the effort of change be as beautiful and joyful as it is challenging and overwhelming?*

*Can we say 'yes' to impossible ideas and unknowable outcomes?*



IMAGE: The six dancers displace gravity and “fall” from one orientation to another. They grasp a beam of wood and “drop” down to another surface. Marcie and Meredith are mid “fall”—they grasp the beam and their legs stretch out as they look “down.” Amalia’s hand emerges from the other orientation toward Marcie.

# PRESS

“Imaginative contexts evolve organically from one to the next as the performers attempt to reorient themselves within changing physical environments. The stage space seems to be a peculiar zone, where the laws of gravity are continuously morphing. The performers work together to discover and navigate each new situation. Along the way, they make many discoveries—and the audience does too.”

- Jane Fries, *The Dance Journal*

“They treat each other thoughtfully and gently, with holds and hugs, laughing and enjoying the simple presence of one another, of moving and exploring together. *Falling Up* appears as a look into the process of creating, wondering, questioning where true joy can be found.”

- Madeline Shuron, *thINKingDANCE*

# *Falling Up*: A COLLABORATIVE ADVENTURE

*Falling Up*'s co-creators and performers Amalia Colón-Nava, Chloe Marie, Harlee Trautman, Katherine Kiefer Stark, Marcie Mamura, and Meredith Stapleton vision alternate realities and arrive at mutual agreements for existing inside of them.

These whimsical, beautiful, and bizarre illusions invite performers and audience alike to adjust what is possible and collectively imagine each new reality as it emerges.

*Falling Up* is a testament to the power of collective imagination, exemplifying the creative brilliance that can emerge when diverse artistic talents collaborate.

IMAGE: There is a cluster of bright, multicolored balloons on the stage. Amalia dances on the ground, Harlee dances on a ladder, and Meredith dances on the chairsteps. The balloons frame them, creating the illusion that they are dancing on a cloud of balloons. Harlee emerges from the balloon cloud, folds over and extends their limbs and torso out of the top of a wooden ladder like they are flying.



**Projection Designer and  
Videographer**  
AMALIA COLÓN-NAVA

**Costume Designer**  
CHLOE MARIE

**Set Designers**  
HARLEE TRAUTMAN &  
KATHERINE KIEFER STARK  
in collaboration with  
EVAN DAWSON

**Sound Director**  
MARCIE MAMURA  
in collaboration with  
LEE CLARKE

**Zine Designer**  
MEREDITH STAPLETON

IMAGE (cont. from the previous page): Behind Harlee and to the left, Amalia's body is rounded and she holds her arms down like she is holding a large, invisible balloon. Behind Harlee to their right, Meredith sits on her knees atop the chairsteps. She echoes Amalia and holds her arms in front of her like she is holding a large, invisible balloon.



IMAGE: Marcie, Harlee, and Chloé leap from the chairsteps onto the stage. Each clutches a cluster of balloons in their right hand. We see Marcie from the back, one foot on the chairsteps, her left arm outstretched behind her; Harlee is standing stretched straight up in the middle; Chloé peeks out from behind Harlee looking up, their arms outstretched at a diagonal.



# AUDIENCE REVIEWS

“So imaginative, playful, and tender.”

“This is clearly a major achievement not only for *The Naked Stark* but also dance in our fair city.”

“The energy and love and care was infectious.”

*“Falling Up*  
**filled my heart up!!”**

“I didn’t realize how much I needed to see physicality, imagination, and hugging without being told what or how to feel.”

“I loved watching kids finding the world irresistible.”

“The performance was entertaining and astounding with a visceral effect...”



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Falling Up photos by Ashely Smith,  
Wide Eyed Studios  
Dossier design by Aubrey Donisch

IMAGE (tilted on its side): Chloe, Katherine, and Harlee all “sit”, echoing each other’s shape of one leg crossed over a bent knee in different orientations. Chloe stands, Katherine lays on her back against the wood wall, and Harlee lays on their back with their legs resting on a ladder which is “standing” on the wood wall (tipped on its side). BACK COVER: In a moment of preparation and rest, the six dancers (Chloe, Amalia, Katherine, Marcie, Meredith and Harlee) embrace in a colorful pile on the ground, heads and bodies pressed together, eyes closed. Chloe and Harlee’s hands are clasped, holding the group.

# The Naked Stark

{ dance up close }

The Naked Stark crafts captivating modern dance works that delve into the intricacies of the human experience.

The company's collaborative structure engages multidisciplinary artists who value intergenerational connections, and who find joy in this process of deep research.

Our home is Philadelphia, the indigenous land of the Lenape.

“[The Naked Stark] challenges us to see the dynamics of power shaped by historic narrative, social conventions, and our own unselfconscious playfulness.”

- Jonathan Stein, thINKingDANCE

“The process of building *Falling Up* has reaffirmed my deep understanding of why I create art and the profound beauty of doing so within a community. What we have collectively created is something we all wholeheartedly believe in, and we hope that our belief will inspire others to believe in it, too.”

- Chloe Marie, Artistic Collaborator



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