

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 31st - August 23rd, 2015

Bike Circus Theatre Presents
storytelling performed entirely on a trapeze

Susannah Bird

at the

Edmonton International Fringe Festival

August 13th - 23rd, 2015

Venue #1 (Westbury Theatre, 10330 - 84th Ave)

Performances: August 14th, 11:15pm; August 16th, 8:15pm; August 17th, 2:00pm;
August 20th, 12:15pm; August 22nd, 6:15pm; August 23rd, 4:00pm

Written By: Natalie Frijia

Directed By: Zita Nyarady

Performed By: Morgan Johnson

Dramaturged By: Emma Mackenzie Hillier

Free-falling from 13,000-feet, at 120-miles-per-hour, strapped to a broken parachute.

There is one minute until Susannah hits the ground.

She knows exactly what is about to happen, and there's not a thing she can do about it, except wait for her life to start flashing before her eyes. Somehow, the only thing she can remember is that summer before eighth grade, with the carnival, her best friends and the one memory she never wanted to see again.

One minute. That's how long Susannah has left to tell you what she's done.

Susannah Bird is a story of flying, falling, regrets and acceptance. It is the inaugural production of the Toronto-based circus-theatre collective Bike Circus, and it is performed entirely on a trapeze. Playwright Natalie Frijia began the play as an exercise in polite eavesdropping – listening into a conversation about a man's first exhilarating experience jumping from a plane. When she began to collaborate with director Zita Nyarady, they became interested in investigating how they could dramatize a primarily physical story. Nyarady, an independent dance theatre-circus artist whose choreography and interdisciplinary collective creations have been presented around the world, brings her aerial trapeze experience to *Susannah Bird*, literally taking the show to new heights. Rounding out this collective is actor Morgan Johnson, who takes off in this piece as the title character. Throughout the show, her feet never once touch the ground.

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