

Air Heart

Written and Performed by Mara Neimanis

Directed by Bryce Butler

Plane Sculpture by Laura Shults and Tim Scofield

Light Design by Heather Sorensen

Music by Jocelyn Pook

Voice Over Characters: David Crandall, Jed Dodds, Dallas Shelby, Bryce Butler, Mara Neimanis



Air Heart will be performed
without an intermission.

A talk back will follow the show.

Background: In July 1937 legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart disappeared in the South Pacific while attempting the most ambitious and dangerous flight of her career: to fly around the world at the equator. Fueled by Earhart's celebrity and the lingering mystery of her disappearance, her story has become the stuff of modern myth which continues to fascinate us. What compelled her to risk her life for flight? Why did she choose to leave her parachute, rubber raft and her lucky charm behind at the last minute? To date millions of dollars and man-hours have been spent searching for the remains of her plane. Future searches are planned. Using half fact and half fiction, *Air Heart* is an aerial journey into the joys and risks of challenging limits and being lost in the mystery of flight.

Mara Neimanis is the founder and principal performer of In-Flight Theater in Baltimore. Her work comprises original solo and ensemble aerial plays as well as on-site installations and performances in collaboration with sculptor/performer Tim Scofield and director Bryce Butler. Scofield's sculptures *The Flying Machine*, *Encounterings 1&2*, *The Teeter Totter*, *The Tower* and *The Weeble Wobble* have been performed atop roof tops, alleyways, and abandoned warehouses of downtown Baltimore. Other aerial collaborations include *For That Which Returns* with Arachne Aerial Arts premiering at the CenterStage at Reston Community Center in the fall of 2012; *Vacio* with Teatro Abya Yala in Costa Rica; *The Snow Queen* At Galludet University; and *Gravity Stories* at Stevenson University. Mara trained at The San Francisco School of Circus Arts, Trapeze Arts Oakland, and The New England Center for Circus Arts. She is a protégé of aerial pioneer, Terry Sendgraff, and a graduate of The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre where she served as an instructor and company member for seven years. Neimanis was a Creative Alliance Resident Artist from 2004-2007 and a recipient of the 2008 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award, 2007 Quest Fest For The Deaf Commission for new works, 2009 Baltimore Community Artist Award, and the highly acclaimed B Grant award for individual artists in 2011. Neimanis has been a guest artist at graduate programs in Israel, Toronto, Latvia, Costa Rica, and throughout the United States including the California Institute for the Arts, MICA, The University of Missouri at Kansas City and Springfield and for Pixar Studios. Mara is the founder and producer of *The Baltimore Alley Aerial Festival* scheduled for its 4th year in September 2012. Mara holds an MFA in Theater from Towson University and teaches aerial classes and mask performance at her studio at Load of Fun in the Station North Arts District in Baltimore. Neimanis is a guild certified Feldenkrais practitioner and teaches Awareness Through Movement® as a part of Aerial Studies. In February 2012 Mara will premier *Naomi's Flight*, a new solo aerial show about eldercare, dementia, and diabetes at The Creative Alliance in Baltimore.

For information: www.in-flighttheater.com

Bryce Butler is a writer, mask maker and actor. All three categories were used in his solo show *Why Icarus?* which played in California and Seattle. Bryce served for 10 years as a member of Seattle Play Back Theatre groups, Threshold Ensemble and Play Back Northwest. In Baltimore, Bryce serves as the resident director and playwriting consultant for In-Flight Theater. His masks appeared in In-Flight's mixed deaf and hearing production of *The Snow Queen* where he was a company member and co-director. He also directs the clown performances and other installations of Scofield and Neimanis. Current directing projects include In-Flight Theater's upcoming production of *Naomi's Flight* and *For That Which Returns* with In-Flight Theater and Arachne Aerial Arts premiering in the fall of 2012.

Next on Stage



Nnenna Freelon

Monday, January 16

8:00 p.m.

Tickets available online at:

www.restoncommunitycenter.com

\$15(Reston)/\$30(Non-Reston)

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the CenterStage



Air Heart

**Saturday,
December 17**

8:00 p.m.



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