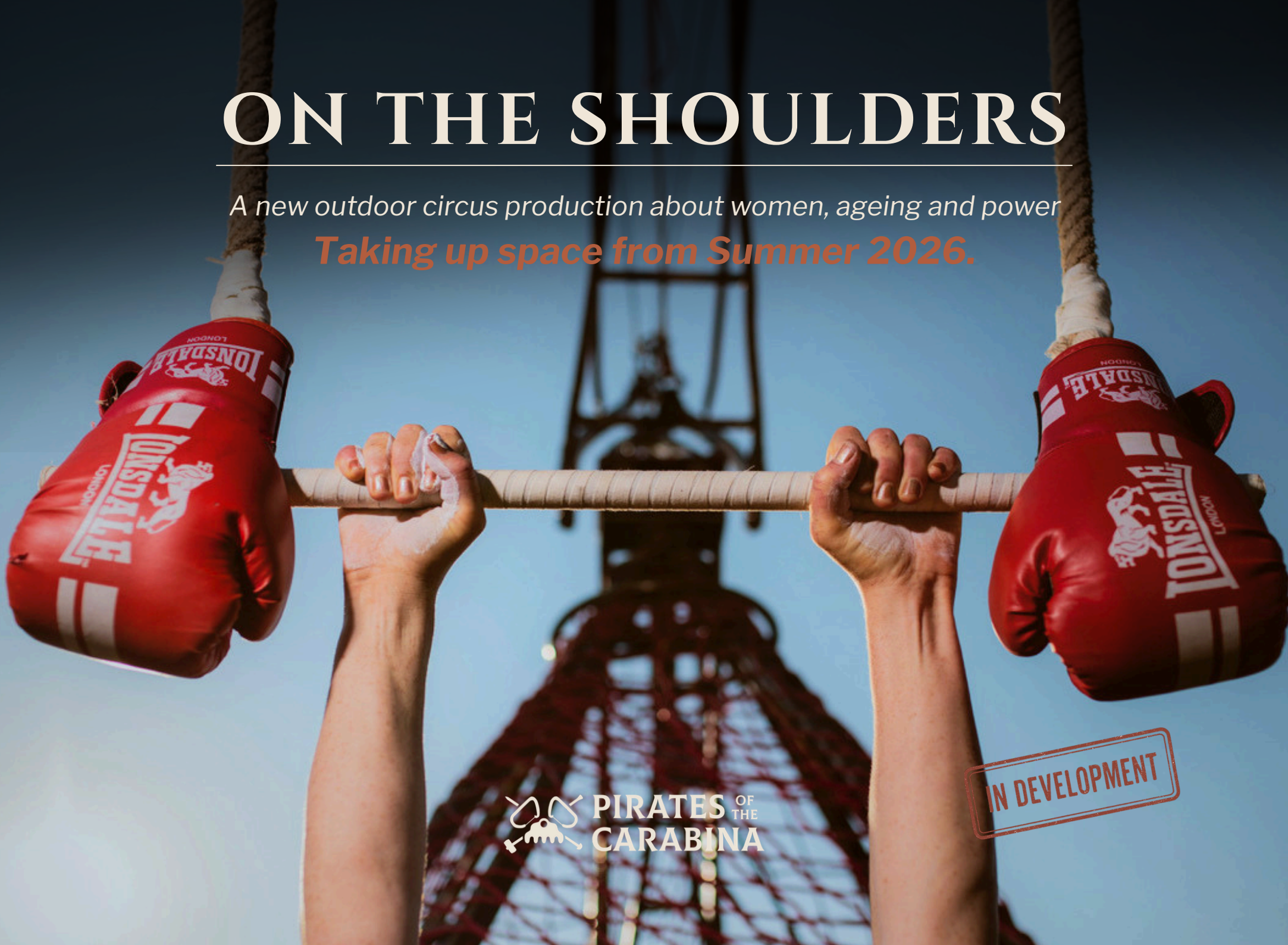


ON THE SHOULDERS

A new outdoor circus production about women, ageing and power

Taking up space from Summer 2026.



 **PIRATES OF THE
CARABINA**

IN DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT THE SHOW

An aerial circus-theatre show about sisterhood, and the mutual support that takes place when we get together, looking into our layers and foundations, and celebrating where we come from.

On the Shoulders is a new outdoor aerial circus production celebrating the women (cis, genderqueer and trans) who have inspired, supported and literally lifted us up. It explores the collective strength of women, community, and intergenerational connection. It delves into the ways we hold and caretake each other's diverse stories, and the universality of our shared challenges and intersectional experiences of marginalisation.

The show will blend aerial, circus, dance, puppetry, verbatim theatre, and live music. It incorporates the stories of women involved in our collaborative residencies and workshops, along with a community performance element. The professional cast of three multi-skilled female/non-binary performers will creatively construct a giant female puppet on stage throughout the performance, which will become strong enough to carry them for aerial performance.

On The Shoulders is the first show written & directed by Shaena Brandel.



CO-CREATION



The show can be toured as a 3-hander performance with the professional cast, and for deeper engagement there are scaleable options for community collaboration, including:

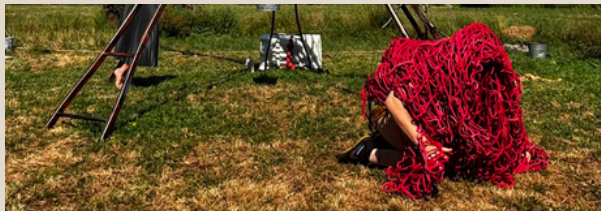
- Community Cast
- Storytelling workshops
- Aerial workshops

We're very used to adapting for different venues and communities, so if you like the idea but aren't sure how it could work for your audiences then let's have a chat!

This is a co-creation project. We are teaming up with partners in the South-West for a pilot-tour in 2026. Including *Grace and Growl*, a brilliant contemporary dance company of older people based in Dorset, who will develop the community cast element in collaboration with us. This will allow us to meaningfully work with integrational groups to co-create elements of performance and storytelling in touring location, so that each community-cast can tell stories that will resonate with audiences in their community.



REHEARSAL PHOTOS

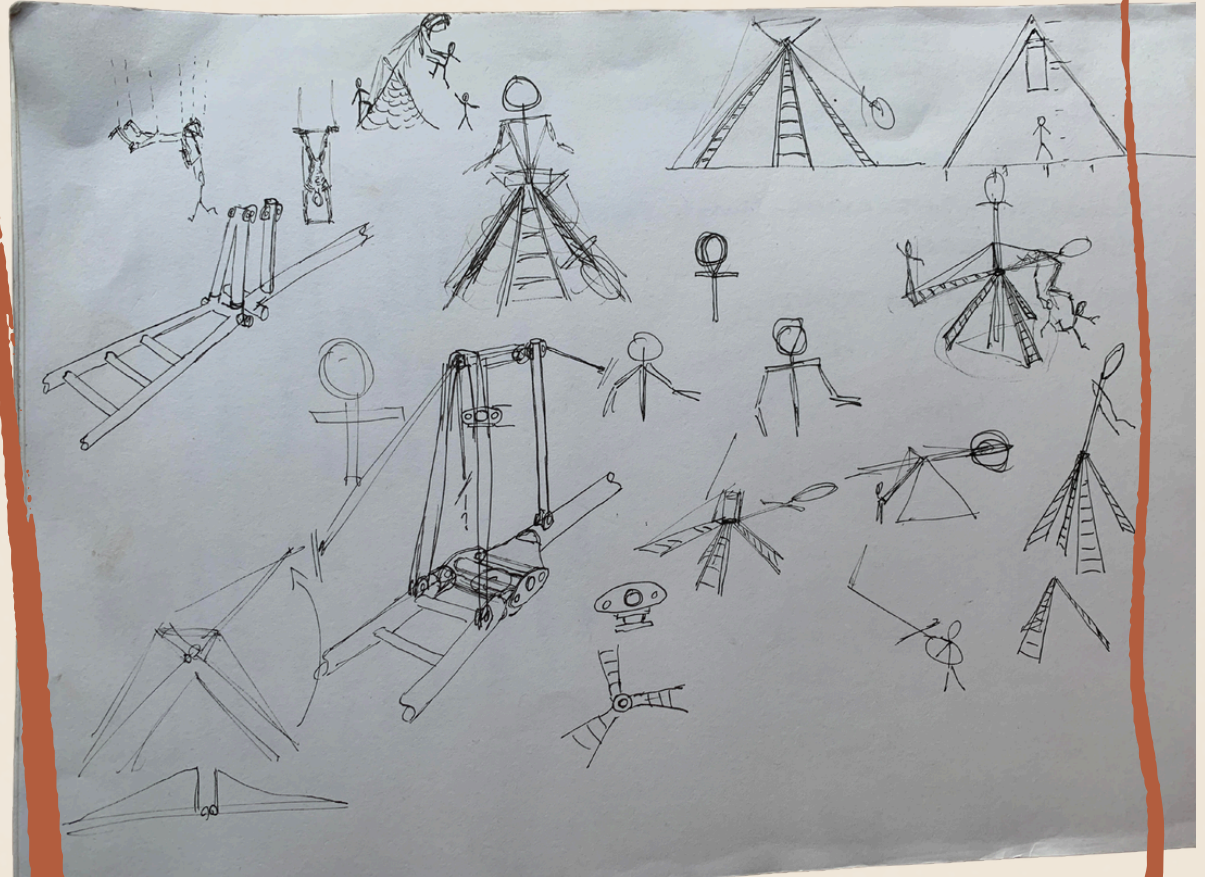


TECHNICAL INFO

- Show length: Approx 55 mins
- Touring Company: 3 performers + 1 Stage Manager
- Performance space: approx 8m x 8m, flat ground (8m height if indoors)
- Staging: thrust
- Power/tech: completely self-sufficient — no external power or tech support required
- Sound: via our own PA; for larger spaces we can link into an event PA if helpful (happy to discuss).
- Get-in: 2.5 hours (incl. 1 hour soundcheck) either side of the show, semi-private space to change and warm up, access to toilets, drinking water, snacks.
- Weather: we're happy to hold briefly in the case of passing weather; final decision on whether the show goes ahead sits with the company due to the aerial elements

Show Fees (Show Only): £2,500-£3,000 for one day (2 shows), plus travel, per diems and accommodation for 3-4 people.

For workshops/community cast there will be an additional cost which can be discussed depending on the requirements of local groups.



Early rigging design concept by Barnz Munn.

SMALL-SCALE INTEGRATED TOURING

Drawing inspiration from the success of our small-scale touring model, PIRATE TAXI, On the Shoulders is designed as a technically innovative, self-contained production allowing us to continue touring sustainably to outdoor venues and festivals.



**200+ OUTDOOR
PERFORMANCES SINCE 2021**



On the Shoulders will be another agile production, touring with its own PA and freestanding Aerial Puppet Rig. This tried and tested model of quick and easy aerial Circus set-up allows us to easily adapt to your venue and offer high quality engagement activity for communities.

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MORE ABOUT THE COMPANY

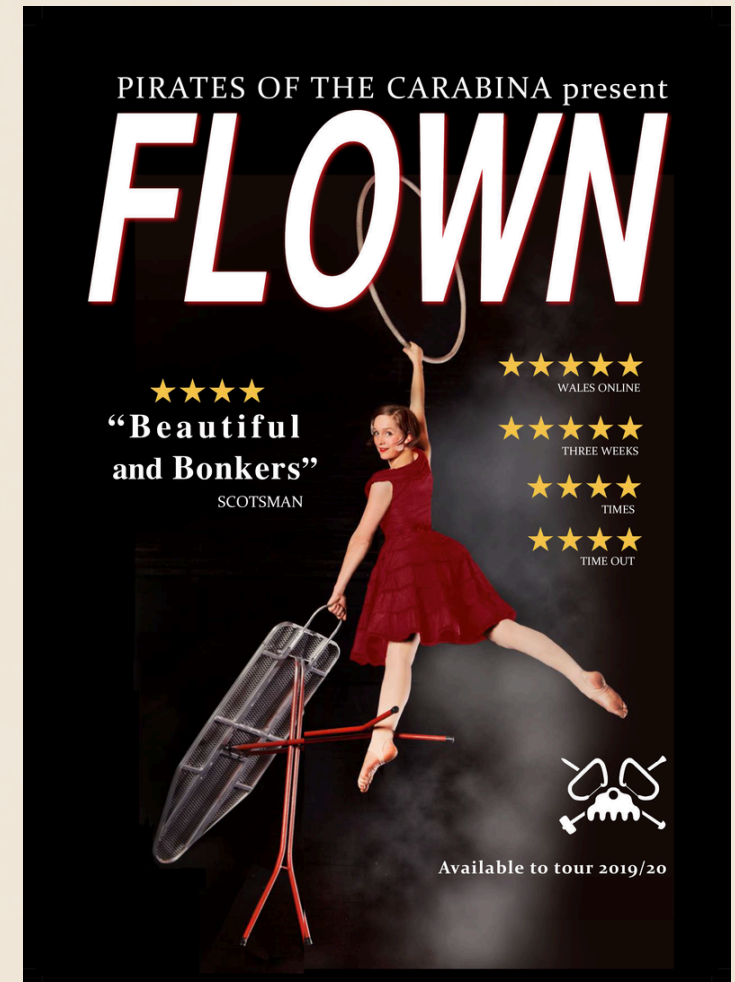
Pirates of the Carabina (POTC) is an award-winning contemporary circus company, specialising in mechanically ingenious, ensemble-led work. All aspects of performance – including the set and the rigging – are celebrated as part of our shows.

Our large-scale productions featuring casts of 8-15 have toured internationally. Since POTC hit the stage for the first time in 2011 at Glastonbury Festival, our award-winning show **FLOWN** has been seen in theatres and festivals across the UK, Europe, Australia & the Middle East, winning the Total Theatre Award for Physical/ Visual Theatre in 2013 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Our second production, **RUHM** premiered in 2018 at Roundhouse Circus Festival; later restaged at Brighton Dome as **HOME**.

Since 2019 we've refocused to pursue smaller projects in partnership with local communities in the UK; Our small-scale, outdoor show **PIRATE TAXI** is performed on a fully-functioning London Taxi by just two artists, allowing us to perform to many rural audiences and local communities.

'...delivered with immense skill and generosity of spirit.'

The Times ★★★★★





GET IN TOUCH

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Pirates of the Carabina



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