

BRAVE SPACE PRESS QUOTES AND LINKS

Wendy Arons, [The Theater Times](#)

“The intimate and mesmerizing Brave Space is a circus performance unlike any other you may have experienced...Where most circus performances seek to dazzle with superhuman feats of credibility-defying agility and power and flexibility and daring, Brave Space has an altogether different allure: this is a circus without ostentation and showiness, one in which the performers seem interested in creating and sharing an experience of precarity, courage, and other-directedness rather than simply wowing an audience. Indeed, at the end of a few of the routines the audience forgot to applaud—not because we were unimpressed, but rather because the performers finished with such humility and calm that applause felt out of place; it would have been like applauding someone who had just humbly handed you a gift they had carefully crafted just for you...”

Casey Cunningham, [PGH in the Round](#)

“It’s an experience that can only be relayed in impressions, as a literal description of it would be an unforgivable act of reductionism. Brave Space is a wonderful piece. It is daring, beautiful, whimsical, profound, simplistic, complicated, safe, scary, beautiful thing, and I very much hope it sticks around. Be Brave, go see it, and support these supremely talented artists. Their skill and commitment are an example to us all. Be inspired.”

Victoria Gomez, [University News](#)

“Beauty unfolded in many different forms as the cast moved in tiny, intricate movements to collectively create a breathtaking, single-living art piece. Swanson created an environment which was all inclusive without any forcible drive. From the time the act started up until the end, the audience felt a rush and release of emotions from pure excitement to power, physically and mentally supporting the cast as they performed artistic acts. An outstanding performance, and well done to the team, audience included.”

Nicole Blackwood, [Chicago Tribune](#)

During the opening of the show, while Tapper walks on poles, a recording plays. “You will be safe,” a voice says. Then: “You will be cared for.” As Tapper’s arms flail back and forth, begging the air for balance, the audience can see that these things aren’t the same. Real safety would mean putting the pole away, walking the stable ground instead. But care, the cast holding the poles like a lifeline, allows Tapper to feel brave, enough to take one step forward, then another. Sometimes, inevitably, she stumbles. It’s not beautiful to watch; it’s harrowing. But when she finally lies down, doubt has been beaten — and the audience, standing in a circle, can breathe more fully than before.

Mackenzie Chase, [Arizona Daily Sun](#)

It’s not quite a safe space, although all are welcome. It’s also not a specific, tangible place. Rather, Aloft Circus Arts’ *Brave Space* brings audiences face to face with their fears and shortcomings, all the while imagining how they can be more open to trust and acceptance

Becca Most, [Minnesota Daily](#)

Removing the barrier between audience and performer, the crowd sat knee-to-knee, just feet away from suspended acrobats, saucer jugglers and daring high-walkers. Here, performers are close enough to the

audience that the crowd can see beads of sweat on the acrobats' faces and note the quiver of limbs as the base strains to lift four of her associates on her shoulders.

Caitlyn Fowlkes, [The Ashland Tidings](#)

About halfway through the performance, everyone was instructed to lie down in the middle of the tent as two female trapeze artists swung about inches from their faces. A collective gasp escaped from the crowd as Larson flipped the other woman like a pancake. For a split second, it looked as if she would fall on the audience lying underneath her, but the woman caught the flier. As the audience exhaled with relief, smiles plastered the performers' faces in a knowing way, as if that moment is why they do what they do.

Elisa Shoenberger, [Not Without My Bowler Hat](#)

“Simply put, I was impressed with the show. It’s unlike any other circus show I’ve seen (and trust me, I’ve seen a lot) in both its execution and its feeling. In addition to the sense of space and community, I was struck by how intimate and how vulnerable the circus felt. To be clear, there were amazing feats to be seen: a beautiful double trapeze act, a pole stepping act, and more. But there was an openness to the performers that I haven’t experienced before. The atmosphere certainly helped in creating that feeling with the intimacy of the tent, the music and sound, and the lighting but I was struck by how each performance felt very raw and exposed. It’s not something that happens in circus often to have that feeling of vulnerability and intimacy. Most of the time it is: on stage there are humans doing superhuman things, we mere mortals stood aside and watch. That wasn’t this show.”