

SOUTHPARK

MAGAZINE

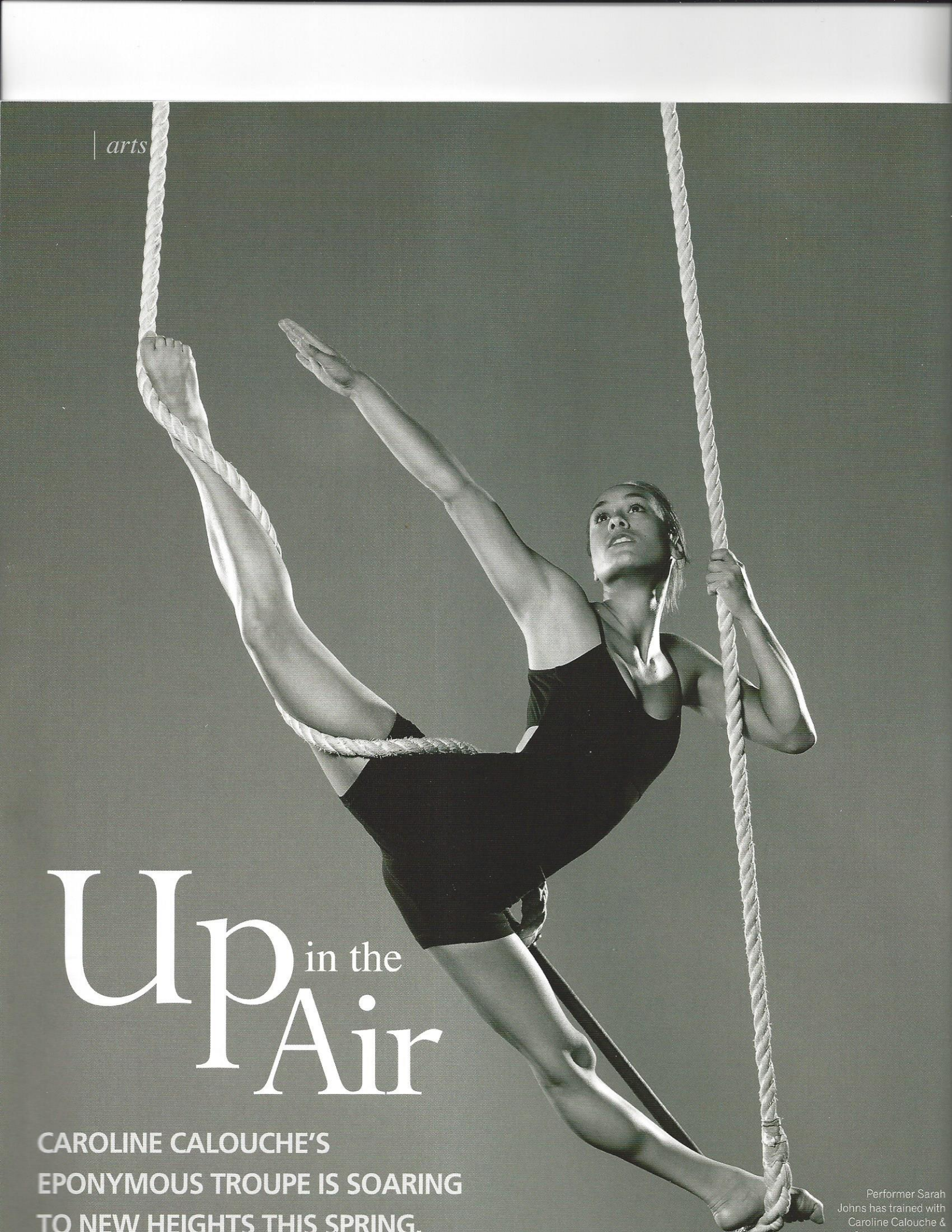
SOUTHERN
escapes

Plus

POST SECRET TAKES
CENTER STAGE

INSIDE CHARLOTTE'S
MOST EXCLUSIVE PARTIES

| arts



Up in the Air

CAROLINE CALOUCHE'S
EPONYMOUS TROUPE IS SOARING
TO NEW HEIGHTS THIS SPRING.

Performer Sarah
Johns has trained with
Caroline Calouche &



For someone who spends as much time up in the air as Charlotte dancer and choreographer Caroline Calouche, the aerialist has her feet on the ground when it comes to promoting her brand. Her troupe Caroline Calouche & Co. was established in 2005 and Charlotte audiences have been both charmed and spellbound by their work ever since. This month they take the stage—and seemingly take flight—at Booth Playhouse for *Spring Forward* (April 11-12).

“Growing up in Gastonia I took classical dance and ballet,” says Calouche, who received BFA degrees in ballet and modern dance at Texas Christian University and had years of supplemental training and experience in Europe before returning to Charlotte. “When I first was exposed to aerial dance through the Brenda Angiel Aerial Dance Company, I was fascinated and knew someday I’d need to further explore to make my mark with this style of dance. Starting a company here, I wanted to make sure I had something unique and something that would set us apart.”

Calouche, 34, saw an opportunity to promote contemporary dance in a community raised mostly on classical and traditional dance. But she knew there was an appetite for dance that literally pushed boundaries skyward. Attending a Caroline Calouche & Co. performance transports audiences as they watch her gazelle-like dancers perform feats that appear whimsical, but display true athleticism.

Calouche has captivated local residents, corporate

clients, and education outreach partners for years with her dramatic and physical choreography that takes dancers off the floor and into nimble movement from silks that hang from the rafters, trapeze, harnesses, cubes, aerial loops, lyra, and sophisticated riggings similar to what’s used in rock climbing. Those who view her shows see flawless dance and in-flight choreography that seems effortless.

“We work very hard at not giving away our tricks,” says Calouche. “Our programming strives for cross generational appeal. We love it when families come because our work offers something for everyone.”

The troupe employs four main dancers including Calouche and more than a dozen adjunct performers. One of only a small handful of resident companies affiliated with the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, dance lovers can take in the troupe’s four primary performances at the intimate Booth Playhouse.

This month’s program is a repertory concert that showcases some of Calouche’s best and most innovative work. Audiences should be on the lookout for “Black Coffee,” a collaboration involving the troupe and Charlotte blues singer Nita B as they use four movements to tell a tale of heartache, anxiety, and infidelity.

The company also brings the family-friendly “Star Gazer: A Trek into Outer Space” to the Booth on April 12, taking viewers to the stars and back escorted by young Stella. For performance information visit www.carolinecalouche.org or www.blumenthalarts.org. 