



SIDESHOW

Written & Performed by Nico Wood

Original Direction by Dr. Elyse Pineau

Road Direction by Olivia Perez-Langley

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



Ladies and Gentlemen: Come one, come all to witness the unbelievable Sideshow! Come see the illustrious feats of performance artist Nico Wood as she spins the stories of her family and their torrid history with the performing arts. Using bawdy burlesque, stunning hula-hooping, death-defying magic tricks, and good old-fashioned storytelling, Nico weaves a world of both passion and mystery. Come learn what she knows and imagine what she wonders. This show is not for the faint of heart.

This autobiographical, multi-media performance narrates the lives of five generations of working class women in the performing arts, beginning with Nico's great-great-grandmother, and ending with her own artistic practice. As foreclosures and other economic hardships have evaporated the material archive of these stories, Nico uses fragments, impressions, and her own imagination to fill in the gaps.

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Sideshow combines several major strains of performance studies artistic praxis: autoethnography, performance art, storytelling, media in performance, and embodied scholarship.

Ultimately, Sideshow ends on a note of permission: permission to make art; to be who you are; and to do your best, even when that may not be good enough. In addition to tracking the artistic experience through five generations, this show exposes Nico's creative process as she speaks frankly about her writing practice; the receipt of rejection letters; and how she reconciles (or fails to reconcile) her artistic, professional, and family lives.

Audience members often leave Sideshow ready to investigate their own families, tell their own stories, and create their own archives. This exponential burst of art-making is the ultimate goal of the show.

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Basic Technical Requirements

- 12' x 12' space
- Electricity
- A smooth floor in at least part of the space
(some props are on wheels)

Ideal Accommodations

- Basic theatrical lighting
- Audio equipment
- Access to a Projector

The Sideshow Team

Writer and Performer - Nico Wood

Road Director - Olivia Perez-Langley

Magician's Assistant - Carlye Schweska

Previous Performances

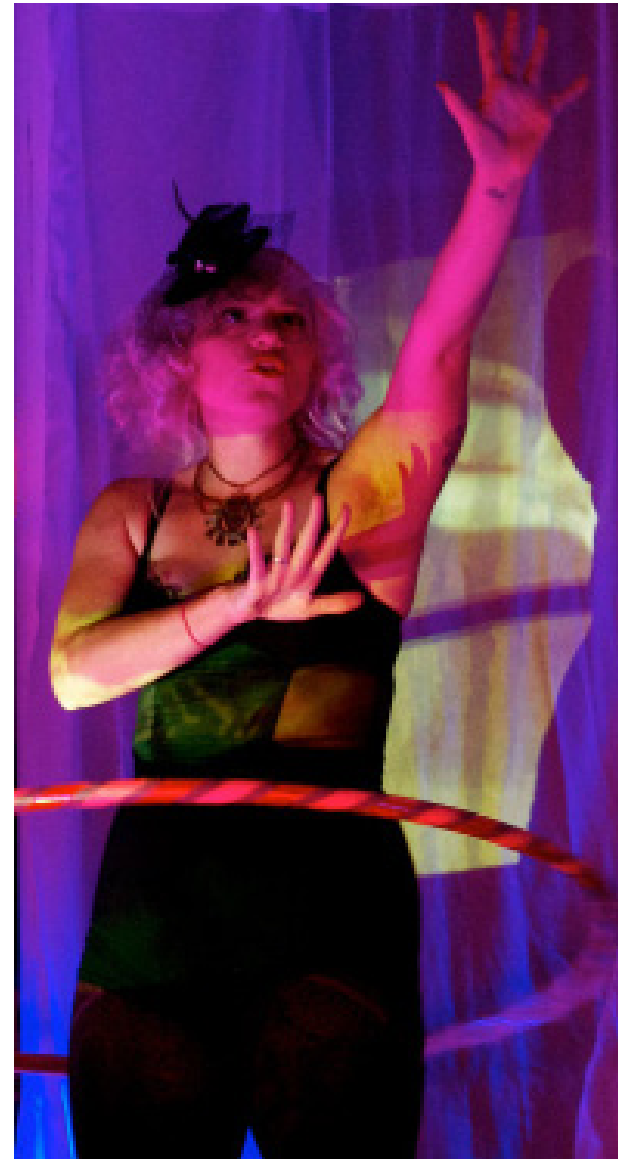
**The Marion Kleinau Theatre at Southern Illinois University
(April 2013)**

**Sideshow Fringe Festival in Nashville, Tennessee
(August 2013)**

**Petit-Jean Performance Festival in Morrilton, Arkansas
(October 2013)**

For booking information, contact

Olivia Perez-Langley at the1gigip@siu.edu



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"Nico's work is precisely the kind of production we seek to program at our festival. Her approach is innovative, her execution expert, and her professionalism unparalleled. I hope she will continue to devise new works that showcase her unique voice and vision so we may collaborate with her again in the future and share her treasures with our audiences."

- Jessika Malone, MFA student at Illinois State University, Head Organizer Nashville Sideshow Fringe Festival

"Nico Wood is an innovative and prolific performance artist who we had the pleasure of hosting for the Sideshow Fringe Festival here in Nashville Tn. Ms. Wood closed the opening night of our festival to rave reviews and was a crowd favorite amongst many local and national artists. Her talent and professionalism were matched only by her charm and candor making her one of the highlights of our entire Festival. Ms. Wood's "Sideshow" is a truly beautiful and courageous piece that is both provocative and heart warming. I fully recommend giving your audience the chance to enjoy it as much as we did."

- Matthew Marcum, Producing Artist, Nashville Sideshow Fringe Festival



"Sideshow" is a wonderful show and I was emotionally and artistically moved by not just the content, but also [Nico's] performance, attention to detail, and overall care/dedication to a series of really powerful stories. This has been one of the best thing I've seen on the Kleinau stage, and I hope [she] keep[s] pushing this narrative and area of research into other venues and fields of scholarship."

-Thomas Campbell, Assistant Professor, Communication and Theatre Arts at University of Wisconsin—Sheboygan

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Sample Publicity Materials



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Nico Wood is a performance artist, theater director, filmmaker, educator, and scholar. Her primary areas of expertise include performance studies, performance art, devised theater, experimental theater, media in/as performance, queer performance, posthumanism, and experimental film.

She has written three, directed five, produced media for eight, choreographed three, and performed in more than twenty full-length, experimental theatre productions.

She has traveled work to the Minnesota Fringe Festival (2011, 2012), Burning Man Art Festival (2010, 2011), Patti Pace Performance Festival (2011), Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago (2013), Sideshow Fringe Festival (2013), Petit-Jean Performance Festival (2013), and numerous academic conferences.

She performs in galleries, theatres, and at site-specific locations. Her visual art has been featured in the Vergette Gallery (2013); her films have been screened by the Little Muddy Media Arts Festival (2011, 2012); and her scholarship has been published by Kaleidoscope (2012), Technoculture (2013), and Liminalities (forthcoming).

She loves nothing more than live theatrical performance. She is also a Ph.D. candidate.

Full-Length Original Productions Include:

Cybernetic Fruit: A Posthuman Fairytale (2009)

Animalice (2011)

Sideshow (2013)

Athena and the Apple (2014 – forthcoming)

You may download her full CV and other materials at nicowood.com

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