

# SAMANTHA HANCOCK

AERIAL DIRECTOR • CHOREOGRAPHER • EDUCATOR

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Aerial director, choreographer, educator, and curriculum developer specializing in theatrical aerial experiences that merge movement, storytelling, artistry, and community-centered performance. Collaborative and multifaceted creative with over 15 years of experience developing aerial programs, directing ensemble work, mentoring instructors, and bringing large-scale artistic concepts to life.

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SELECTED DIRECTING • CHOREOGRAPHY • CREATIVE WORK

ENSEMBLE THEATRE CINCINNATI *Associate Aerial Choreographer | 2026*

IN THE WORKS *Aerial Ensemble Director & Event Coordinator | 2026*

AERIAL FINESSE INTENSIVE *Co-Creator & Creative Director | 2023-2026*

MAD HATTER TEA PARTY — MERRYBAND ENT *Aerial Coordinator, Choreographer & Performer | 2024*

VESSEL SHORT FILM *Director & Performer | 2022*

ZOOFARI *Aerial Coordinator & Performer | 2022, 2023, 2025*

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Elevated Aerials

Artistic Director • Performer • Coach • Curriculum Developer | 2017-Present

- Developed comprehensive lyra programming emphasizing safe progressions, adaptability, inclusiveness, and artistic exploration.
- Direct and mentor instructors through continuing education initiatives focused on coaching methodology, injury prevention, spotting, rigging awareness, and creative movement practices.
- Choreograph and direct aerial acts and ensemble works for student and professional performers.
- Co-Founder and Creative Director of Aerial Finesse, a multi-day aerial and creative movement intensive alongside Brittany Naegle, hosted in Cincinnati, OH, and in Thailand at Fly Karavek.

## Paper Doll Militia

Instructor • Mentor • Curriculum Developer | 2021-Present

- Lead virtual aerial education courses for Level 1 and Level 2 lyra students.
- Provide individualized coaching feedback focused on skill progression and artistry development.
- Consulted on the development and implementation of the Level 2 Lyra curriculum.
- Facilitate 40-hour live instructor trainings centered on safe progressions, coaching methodology, and creative exploration.

## Defiance Studios

Performer • Instructor | 2012-2016

- Assisted in the development and launch of a new aerial and movement studio.
- Coached and choreographed students for showcases and competitive performances.

## Dance Alley

Instructor | 2010-2012

- Redesigned curriculum programming while revitalizing student engagement and community participation through updated instruction and leadership initiatives.

## TRAINING • CERTIFICATIONS • INTENSIVES

### Certifications & Teacher Training

- *Paper Doll Militia Level 1 Lyra Teacher Training*
- *Paper Doll Militia Level 1 Silks Teacher Training*
- *Paper Doll Militia Level 2 Lyra Curriculum Developer*

### Rigging & Movement Studies

- *Aerial Rigging Workshop — Brett Copes*
- *Floor Flow Teacher Training — Marlo Fiskén*
- *Movement Archery Intensive — Tom Weksler*
- *Shared Levitation Intensive — Marion Sparber & Alan Fuentesguerra*
- *Competitive Ballroom Dance Training*

### Artistic & Creative Development

- *Audacity Project — Rachel Strickland*
- *Spins & Spirals Intensive — Jenny Tufts & Aisling Ní Cheallaigh*
- *Newfoundland Vertical Dance Intensive — Cirqueletics*
- *Irish Aerial Dance Festival — Fidget Feet*
- *Cetna Sling & Teardrop Intensive — Fly Karavek*