

Mackay Entertainment

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The Flying Pages

Husband and wife team, Willy and Jill Pages have been performing their flying trapeze act together since 1992, after enjoying successful careers as aerialists with various other troupes. Willy Pages, third generation of the Cuban circus family, spent the majority of his career performing with his brothers, Jorge and Felix as the Flying Pages.

These talented aerialists won gold medals for their trapeze act and the silver cup for the “Best Act” at the London Circus World Championships. Willy and Jill continued the family tradition of the Flying Pages. Jill began her professional aerialist career at the age of 16 and won “Best Female Trapeze Artist” at age 19 in the Monte Carlo Circus Festival in Monaco. Together Willy and Jill have performed in the Ringling Brothers Barnum Bailey Circus, Circus Circus in Reno, Nev., and the Big Apple Circus. An invitational trip to Monaco in 2002 brought the coveted “Bronze Clown” and the “Cup of Nice.” Most recently, the couple has traveled with The Shrine and Royal Hanneford Circus, the Varieties for Cirque Du Soleil, Germany Circus Krone, Japan Taiwan and Circus Sarasota. Daughter Mercedes is now a featured flyer with the troupe at eleven years old! Rounding out the troupe are members of the Pages extended family, the Ponces, as well as guest flyers and catchers graduates from the Circus School of Peru, Indiana.

The flying trapeze act is indeed a circus favorite. It is one of the few circus acts that was invented right here in the United States, and is performed in circuses world wide. For those unfamiliar, a flying trapeze act is basically a 3 point aerial acrobatic routine. The end pedestal board is the starting point, the flyer swings off on a trapeze, releases in mid air, performing an aerial maneuver such as a somersault or twisting layout, is caught by the catcher, who is swinging on yet another trapeze. Upon completion, the flyer returns back to the fly bar, and lands back on the pedestal board. Perfect timing is of the utmost importance to make this sequence of events work. The flying trapeze rigging itself is very complex, and great care must be taken to assure that it is set and guyed out correctly. It is just about 40 feet from the pedestal board to the catcher, and the rigging is usually 32 - 36 feet in the air. Despite what you may have seen in old circus movies, a net is always used for flying trapeze, and landing in the net properly is the first thing a new flyer must learn. The net is usually 50 feet x 10 -12 feet wide, with both a front and back extension apron.

The Flying Pages often perform with is what is known as the "middle catcher", who is positioned into a cradle that is mounted above the fly bar. This style of flying trapeze is fairly new, and was made popular by Russian trapeze performers.

Traditionally, the music that is used for a flying trapeze act is a waltz, such as "Wedding of the Winds" However modern flying acts have found variations of current popular, and rock & roll music to work very well also. During a circus performance when the "flyers" are on, other circus performers often gather in the wings of the tent or auditorium to watch, mesmerized just as the audience is. Through the years there have been many great flying trapeze performers and acts, far too numerous to mention. Today however, a name that stands out among circus fans, historians, and circus performers alike is the fabulous "Flying Pages"!

The Flying Pages are a 3rd and 4th generation circus family. Willy's parents, Jose and Sabina Pages came to America from Cuba in the early 1960's as flying trapeze performers. His brothers Jorge and Felix had also been aerialists and flying trapeze performers. Jorge now operates "Circus Pages", a traveling indoor circus which is presently on tour. He also has 3 sisters, Yolanda, Delores and Rosa, and another brother, Jose, all of whom are in the circus business. Jill Pages began her circus career at a youth circus in California.

During the 2007 season, the Flying Pages were featured with Circus Sarasota during their February month long engagement in Sarasota, FL. They have been on the winter and spring tour with the Hamid Circus playing several Shrine Circus dates in the East and Midwest, and this June they will be with St. Louis' Circus Flora, under the big top on their second appearance. The Flying Pages have however appeared world wide. They have been to Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Germany's Circus Krone, and were award winners at both the Circus World Championships in London England, and International Circus Festival in Monte Carlo. They have also performed on several other American circuses, including Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, Big Apple Circus, Circus Circus in Reno, NV, and for 3 seasons, they were at the Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana.

While they call Myakka City, FL home, the majority of the year they are on tour, living in the family's luxurious motor home.