

Friends and Flights Video Description

Artists Jane Kirby and Erin Ball

Sound engineering by David Parker

Videography by Josh Lyon

This description is from the video portion of the Skeleton Park Next Door 2021 installation "*Friends and Flights*". It is played as a loop.

A video compilation of Jane Kirby and Erin Ball's circus friendship over the past nine years. Erin and Jane are both white and use she/her pronouns. The video is 14:16 minutes long and consists of both the reality of training circus arts (failing over and over) as well as professional performances pieces. They perform skills on the ground as well as on aerial fabric (fabric that hangs from the ceiling in two strands), aerial rope (which they typically train side-by-side) and both of them on one trapeze at the same time (two ropes that hang from the ceiling with a bar at the bottom). They also use an aerial hammock.

The following are brief descriptions intended for audiences who do not process visually. They are in the order that the clips appear.

The first shot is two side-by-side clips of Jane and Erin in sparking turquoise body suits. Jane pushes a baby stroller

outside and uses it to balance in a big sideways split. Erin is in an industrial outdoor setting on an old hospital wheelchair with no lower legs, creating shapes by arching her back over the front of the chair.

The next clip is on the left side of the screen: the two wear fake fur colourful hats with big eyes, both on a trapeze with Erin hanging from Jane's feet while Jane sits on the bar. Another clip and day, in the centre of the screen, as the first fades out: similar trapeze skills in a training space minus the hats with another white person watching. The last clip in this row, on the right side as the middle clip fades: Jane is inside a light blue fabric hammock that hangs from the ceiling and Erin attempts to get in. More video clips appear in the first two spots: more trapeze and another clip with the hammock. Clips fade in and out in the three spots on the screen.

A sped-up video in a backyard of Jane on stilts pushing the baby stroller and Erin on long prosthetic legs that are like stilts pushing the wheelchair.

A video of the two on red aerial fabric outside. Erin has human feet and hangs from Jane in the air. The next several clips are of the same setting from different angles with different skills. Jane is wrapped in fabric and quickly unravels. Erin climbs the fabric. There is an angle from above.

Erin and Jane in a training space on one rope each, side-by-side. They hang upright and at the same time they

release hands that were holding the ropes, flipping simultaneously to land with the ropes across their backs.

Jane and Erin in a training space on the ground. Erin wears two shorter prosthetic legs that mimic the length of her human legs. They have thin peg attachments. The two perform movements side-by-side, sometimes solo in synch, sometimes completely different and they create acrobatic shapes together: cartwheeling, splitting, arching their backs, Jane stands on Erin's shoulder while Erin sits. They wobble. They handstand. They split their legs.

They climb ropes together in a training space. Erin has no lower legs. Again, they flip.

Back in the park on red aerial fabric, Jane and Erin perform solo silks and skills together. Erin has human feet for these videos.

Two side-by-side clips outside in the blue sparkly bodysuits. Jane with the stroller and Erin with the wheelchair. Erin balances on her hands on an armrest and Jane handstands with one arm on the stroller.

Back in the training space on the ground with the shorter peg legs, Erin does a handstand on Jane's thighs while Jane squats and holds Erin's upper back. After Erin steps down, they roll on the ground simultaneously and Jane cradles and motions to lick one of Erin's pegs.

Jane and Erin on a trapeze. Erin holds Jane's foot and tries to get up in the air while Jane sits on the bar.

Three clips side-by-side of hammock, trapeze and hammock. In the middle trapeze clip, a white person (Erin's mom), vacuums in front of the camera.

Outside in the blue sparkly suits, Jane arches backwards and grabs the stroller behind her. Erin lays back over the wheelchair, arching backwards, she touches the ground.

The two create shapes together in the hammock. One larger video turns into three side-by-side hammock videos. The middle video eventually becomes a trapeze video. The first video disappears and then the last video disappears to leave only the trapeze. Erin slides down from Jane's lap to attempt to hang by her legs (without lower legs). They try the same skill again and after several adjustments, Erin can release both hands.

Several photos cycle of the two outside on red aerial silks with Erin's human feet.