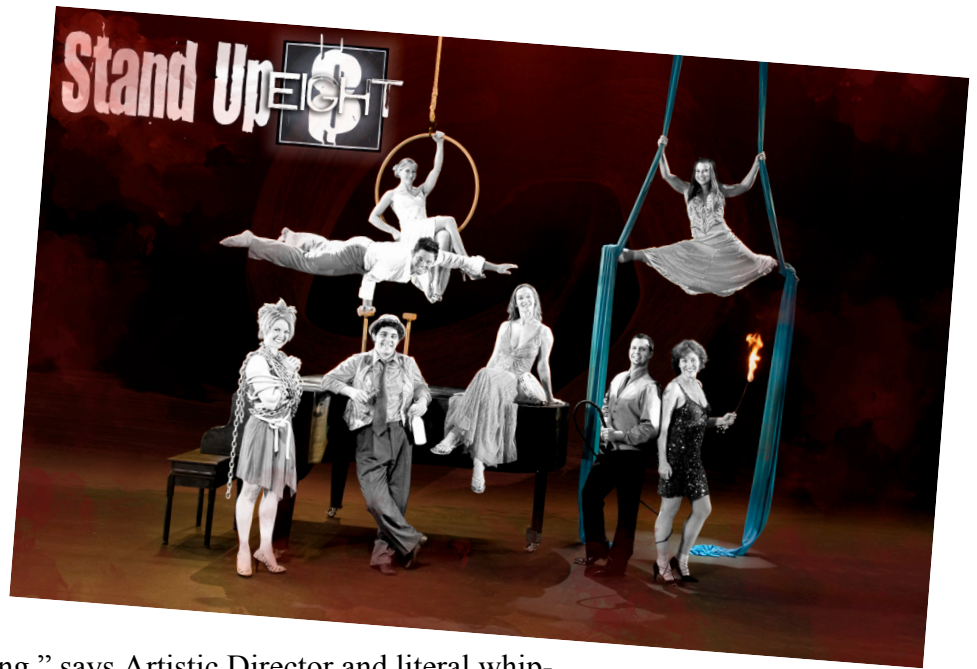


## ‘Reality Circus’ Visits Grand Valley State University Featuring Trampoline Champ Alumna

*Stand Up 8*, a rule-breaking modern circus brings edge, upbeat variety and death-defying stunts to Grand Valley State University on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The performers of *Stand Up 8* come from backgrounds of festival and street busking, German variety, American elite gymnastics, equine spectacular *Cavalia* and *Cirque du Soleil*. “We’ve combined the technical elements of a circus spectacular with the human connection of street performing,” says Artistic Director and literal whip-cracker Allison Williams. “It’s a Reality Circus.”



*Stand Up 8* is proud to feature five-time national trampoline champ Christianne Sainz, a GVSU alumna. Sainz graduated from GVSU in 2006 with a degree in theater. It was also in 2006 that Sainz met Allison Williams, future boss and director with the circus arts company Aerial Angels, and of course, *Stand Up 8*. “Allison was guest directing -we met on the theatre stairs,” laughs Sainz. And the rest, it seems, is history.

“GVSU helped shape me into the person I am today,” says Sainz. “The reason I am in *Stand Up 8* is because of GVSU. It’s thrilling to think that I once again will be returning to the stage at Grand Valley State University.”

The collaborators of *Stand Up Eight* appeared on Canadian reality show “*Dragon’s Den*” in October of 2008, winning a quarter-million dollars to stage their dream circus. The show began rehearsals and development in 2009 and currently tours the U.S. and Canada. For the cast of *Stand Up 8*, a performance at Grand Valley State is an opportunity to give back to their community – about half the performers hail from Southwest Michigan, and the company trains off-season at For The Kidz Gym in Grand Rapids.

*Stand Up 8* begins at 7pm on March 24<sup>th</sup> in the GVSU Fieldhouse. Admission is free of charge. For more information and to purchase your VIP pack, which includes priority seating, autographed *Stand Up 8* merchandise and an exclusive backstage tour, visit [standup8show.com](http://standup8show.com).

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