

MI Rope Expo – August 23-25th, 2019 – Where Rope Meets Flesh
Tickets on sale now – www.miropeexpo.com/tickets



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Barkas is a bondage educator, performance artist, and writer. His contributions to the bondage narrative include the development of Ranboo and the Interview Metaphor.

Originally from Vienna and now residing in Vancouver, he is the cofounder and caretaker of TheSpace2. In addition to ongoing teaching locally, he continues to travel, perform, and give workshops internationally; some highlights include Shibaricon ('14 & '15 & '16) in Chicago, Moscow Knot,

Kannawa Kai in Tokyo, West Coast Bound in Vancouver, FIRE in Orlando, Bondage Expo Denver, Place des Cordes in Paris, and EURIX ('14 & '18).

One of Barkas' focuses is the implementation of philosophical, sociological, mathematical, and historical ideas to develop a deeper understanding of erotic rope bondage. This pursuit led to the development of the Interview Metaphor – a mindset that prioritizes individuality, attention, and the interaction of the persons tying. As he often says, don't tie people, tie with people. In 2016 Barkas collected these and other thoughts, and published them in "Archaeology of Personalities: A Linguistic Approach to Erotic Rope Bondage."



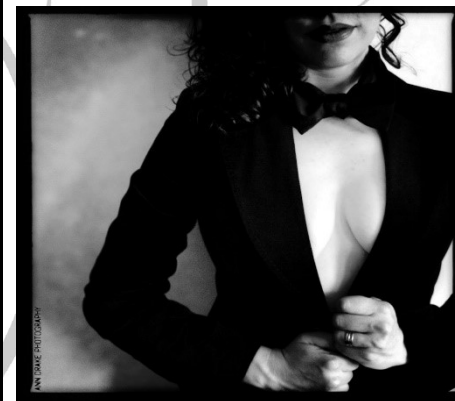
DeweyX - Equal parts artist and engineer, DeweyX has been actively tying, teaching, and innovating rope technique for over 9 years. He remains active in the Midwest community, and was a steward of Indy Rope Group for several years before it disbanded. Known for dynamic suspension, artisan and antique gear for creative visual and sensation experience, and traditional but unorthodox forms and methods of kinbaku, he combines his passion for performance as an art form with a unique and innovative eye to engineering and safety.

He is well regarded for his ability to negotiate and provide a unique experience to new rope bottoms, and intuitive approach to dynamic play with strong emphasis on communication and responsibility. His passion and mantra is "rope for everyone", and spends a great many hours working on ways, and with people, to tie with partners that account for special physical considerations, or those who cannot participate in the standard forms or methods or rope and bondage commonly taught. Dewey is a facilitator of the new Indy Rope Collective (formerly Group), and actively participates and teaches throughout the Midwest.



Addie has been practicing rope for several years now. She enjoys tying, being tied, and self-tying, as well as performing and educating. Her teaching is informed by her professional background as a nurse, mixed with a wicked sense of humour and the goal of providing impactful, practical, and adaptable techniques and information for the wide variety of individuals who enjoy rope. Addie has

spent the last three years teaching around the globe with her partner Barkas, providing information from and for the person being tied. Together, they opened and co-run TheSpace2 in Vancouver, a venue dedicated to the exploration of rope bondage and its contexts and expressions.



MrsB is a sadistic switch who is passionate about sharing her kinky knowledge. She enjoys rope, cuddling, good conversation, joking around and intense play, often all at the same time.

She has been an active member of the Chicago kink community since 2004, and founded the Chicago chapter of Hitchin' Bitches. In addition to teaching regularly in Chicago, she has presented with Dark Odyssey events, Ohio Smart, AIS, Metro Vancouver Kink, Leather SINS, Ropecraft and other local and TNG groups through the US.

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Kaa has been an avid Kinbaku/shibari practitioner and educator since 2008. He is the founding member of the now defunct Indy Rope Group, current Co-Presenter for Rope Bite Indy, and has been given the privilege to present, teach, and perform in the greater Tri-State area and beyond. He is passionate about not only practicing Kinbaku/Shibari, but also spreading knowledge to those who wish to learn.



Raiju, a.k.a. Riah (she/her), is a Columbus-based kinkster who enjoys helping others explore and play with the shape and bounds of "the box." Riah uses critical thinking tools, an extensive knowledge of anatomy and physiology, and her switchy experiences in kink, rope, and non-monogamy to help build paths to deeper understanding and greater skills for the initiate, the adept, and even the expert.



Treaonna is a passionate and experienced educator that teaches hands-on workshops and presents on a variety of topics including kink skills (bondage, fireplay, cigar play, etc.), moving meditation, hula hoop dance, communication tools, connective practices, alternative relationship styles, and conflict management in relationships in the leather, kink, occult, flow arts, and other alternative communities.

A trainer and curriculum developer by profession, she has been teaching on one topic or another for over 18 years. She has been involved with the leather and kink communities for over two decades, holds the 2017 and 2018 title for Miss Ohio Leather, and is a member of the 2018 class for International Person of Leather.



Enlightenup-69 and **Attnwhor-69** are the organizers of Oakland and Macomb rope as well as miropes.com. As two of the founders of the Michigan Rope Expo they have been sharing their passion and rope adventure as kink organizers for the last 6 years. As rope students they are best described as rope anarchists who prefer to break rope down to its fundamentals and then build back up into the different passions from patterns such as gote to predicaments to how to incorporate rope into sex and bedroom bondage.

They have also presented on other topics including polyamory on behalf of the Michigan Board of Education and BDSM education alongside the

Center for Relationship and Sexual Health.

In addition to presenting on rope **attnwhor-69** is also a licensed massage therapist and teaches on the healing power of touch and both the therapeutic and kinky uses of cupping.

Saturday Classes

<p>Hojo-jutsu and Inescapability – Kaa</p> <p>Hojo-jutsu is the Art of restraining a prisoner with the use of rope. This class will cover a brief history as well as demonstrating a few of the many ties. It will also cover the mechanics of the ties as well as the human body so that we may incorporate some of these principles into our Shibari/Kinbaku ties to make them more secure. Trigger warning: This class will demonstrate rope around the neck.</p> <p>Hands On Required Gear: Two lengths of 8m Rope</p>	<p>1 column, 2 bodies, 3 munters – Raiju</p> <p>Floor work is a crucial part of emotional bonding when using rope, which often can be simplified to “top” ties “bottom”, as if it’s a chess move. In this class, both the engineer and the poet can find ways to connect to their partners by tying themselves to their partner using basic rope skills like a single column tie and munter hitches. Whether it’s mischievously eeling, co-tying, or connecting on a spiritual level, this class will aid in seeing limbs as more than just potential columns, but ways to literally connect yourself to your partner using simple ties and intent.</p>
<p>Tying for Every Body – MrsB</p> <p>Rope bondage strategies and alternatives for people of all body-types, ages, sexes, and levels of ability who love rope bondage, but find the more common bondage poses a bad fit for them. We'll address strategies for both bottoms and tops. This is a hands-on class, Advanced-Beginner or Intermediate level.</p>	<p>QUICK! The Very Incomplete Guide to Quick Release Ties – DeweyX</p> <p>Quick release ties and cuffs can allow you to take your scenes to the very edges, having the security of a speedy escape from the binding... but that is not the only function of this interesting application. The ability to quickly transition load and tensions, as well as for safety and adding a dramatic "magic" appeal to your ties is a wonderful reason to add these to your scenes. We will explore peg bondage, using chopsticks or other pins, as well as the rope itself to rig an exploding tie.</p>
<p>Ranboo – Barkas and Addie</p> <p>Ranboo literally means stormy or overwhelming. Although it looks kind of brutal from the outside, it is in fact loving and caring through its subtleties and the variation of intensities.</p>	
<p>Torture with Rope - Mrs. B</p> <p>One needn't use all sorts of complicated instruments to bring pain to a masochist - a simple kit of rope is all any sadist needs! We will cover all sorts of devious and unexpected ways to bring pain, discomfort, and suffering to those who we tie, and we'll explore the masochist's perspective to bottoming for this kind of sadistic scene. Hands-on, all levels</p>	<p>Tying up the Johnsons – Treonna</p> <p>Like the idea of binding balls, but concerned you'll cock it up? Fear not, my kinky companions, in this hands-on workshop, participants will learn several techniques to not only bind the cock and balls, but other ways to play with the family jewels as well. Basic safety and risk awareness concerning cock and ball play will be discussed, but a general understanding of rope safety is assumed.</p>

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Sunday Classes

Gote Variations: - Kaa

3 differing styles of Gote will be presented in this class. After tying these variants, we will discuss the possible benefits and /or draw backs to using various ideas and ways of construction these Gotes. We will also examine some of the fundamentals that apply to all Gotes.

Self Suspension – Raiju

Self suspension is often thought of as a performance, but it can also be a great exercise routine, script-flipper, or an adrenaline boost to prepare for other scenes. In this group lab, Raiju will lead discussion and practice on risks to be aware of as well as group-think stretches, exercises, forms, and self-suspension styles and uses.

Differential Geometry - Barkas / Addie

Differential Geometry seems to be approximately the oddest choice when one wishes to study erotic rope bondage but a closer look uncovers its importance. What is geometry, what are curved surfaces and what are methods of measuring distances on such surfaces? We will discover that ropes and humans offer a great opportunity to apply ideas from differential geometry and we will see how useful these ideas are when it comes to stability, sustainability, rope handling, and connection.

In the second part of the workshop, we will study the Nambu TK, Barkas' contribution to the world of patterns. Learn or/and perfect this very sustainable multi-functional upper body harness which has been named after the Japanese theoretical physicist Yoichiro Nambu for his contributions to the concept of spontaneous symmetry breaking.

Prerequisites: intermediate to advanced levels, but it is always recommended to come and go beyond your comfort level.
What to bring: a partner! And about 7+ pieces of ropes.

Partner Stretching for Physical Dominance and Control - DeweyX

This class will show approach and technique in stretching your partner as the scene begins to establish physical intimacy or control through the energy and tone you create by manipulating the body. We will discuss adaptations for all genders and bodies, and flexibilities and limitations. We will show how to set the mood and establish the top's command and authority over the person being tied from the first moment, and through aftercare, and how to use this time to evaluate the specific needs of your bottom in a scene.

Type Partnered Hands-on
Attendee Pre-requisites None
Materials 1 hank of rope

Binding Intentions: Utilizing Rope in Ritual, Energy Work, and Other Practices – Treonna

Rope is an extension of self, a means of communication, and a transformative tool. Through a combination of rope binding and pressure, physical touch, and cultivating an awareness of shared experience, participants will learn techniques that can be used for various types of energy exchange, ritual practice, or to deepen the connection between partners. Participants will explore this tool through discussion, demonstration, hands-on exercises, and ritual practice. An understanding of energy work is assumed; however, no prior rope knowledge is assumed or required.