

Dirt and Glitter Brings Art, Culture, and Wonder to the Redwoods

By LINDA SUTTER Contributing Reporter July 29, 2026



Some Sunday afternoons become memories that stay with you for years. This past Sunday was one of those rare occasions.

Hidden beneath the towering redwoods, families gathered for a unique outdoor performance presented by Dirt and Glitter, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing performing arts opportunities for tribal youth ages 14 to 24. Sponsored by the Yurok Tribe's Promise Neighborhood Initiative, the organization offers young people an opportunity to develop confidence, creativity, and artistic expression through dance, theater, and aerial performance.

Guests attending the 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. performances embarked on a short hike through the peaceful redwood forest. Along the trail, artistic creations suspended from trees and bushes hinted that something extraordinary awaited just ahead.

As approximately 30 visitors entered a forest clearing, they found themselves surrounded by nature's cathedral, where towering redwoods became part of the stage. Before the performances began, Director Loren Godla welcomed the audience and explained what they were about to experience.

The program featured three interpretive performances that blended movement, emotion, and aerial artistry. Using suspended ropes, the performers gracefully climbed, spun, and danced among the trees, creating a

brehtaking combination of athleticism and storytelling. Against the backdrop of the ancient forest, each performance encouraged the audience to interpret its meaning in a personal way.

Nature itself seemed to cooperate. Warm sunshine filtered gently through the redwood canopy, creating ideal conditions for an afternoon outdoors. The weather was comfortable, the hike was accessible for families, and the peaceful surroundings added to the magic of the event.

Programs such as Dirt and Glitter do more than teach performance skills. They provide tribal youth with opportunities to build confidence, develop leadership, and express themselves through art while strengthening connections within their community.

For those fortunate enough to attend, the afternoon was much more than a performance—it was an experience. While the dancers' final movements eventually came to an end, the memories created among the families gathered beneath the towering redwoods are certain to last a lifetime.