

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES IN CIRCUS ARTS



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INTRODUCTION



Circus Space is based in a magnificent Victorian power station, redeveloped specifically for Circus training. Over the last two decades it has played a major part in the teaching and development of professional Circus Artists working both in the UK and internationally. Higher Education courses in Circus Arts include the Foundation Degree, the BA (Hons) Degree and the Postgraduate Certificate, all of which are validated by the University of Kent. Circus Space is a founding member of the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC) and is involved in the development of Circus Arts training across Europe.

The outstanding facilities that Circus Space provides and the exceptional teachers who work here make for a supportive and stimulating environment in which to learn. We recognise the importance of both technical prowess and performance ability; in order to ensure that these are developed equally regular physical training in a student's chosen discipline is complemented by a wide range of performance experiences. This approach has produced highly successful professional performers who have gone on to prosperous careers in the UK and beyond.

London is an inspiring place to study. The opportunity to train alongside like minded fellow students and artists in the encouraging and productive environment provided by Circus Space is unparalleled in the UK. If you have talent and the ambition to succeed as a Circus Artist we are ready to help you take the next steps towards becoming the very best that you can be.

Tim Roberts
COURSE DIRECTOR



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Circus Space's unique programme will appeal to those with some previous experience in Circus, gymnastics, physical performance or dance. There are three key components to the programme.

The Foundation Degree in Circus Arts is a two year vocational course which aims to equip students with the skills necessary to gain employment in the performing arts sector.

The BA (Hons) Degree in Circus Arts is a one year course designed for students who have achieved Foundation Degree level and have the potential to pursue further study that combines refining the technical level of a specific Circus discipline with the development of an individual artistic approach.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Circus Arts is a one year course for students who have already reached BA level. The course provides the opportunity for in-depth research into a specific Circus discipline with a view to creating more innovative forms of Circus expression.

The courses are divided into modules for assessment purposes with a varying number of modules in each year. The training is intensive, weeks are 35 hours long and each academic year is 36 weeks in length. During the year students can expect to complete approximately 1260 hours of training, every minute of which is necessary in order to sustain physical progression.

During a typical week students follow a packed timetable which includes classes in acrobatics, physical conditioning, theatre, movement and Circus as well as independent practice sessions. Class sizes vary depending on the specific discipline being taught. Alongside the development of physical skills we place a strong emphasis on artistic exploration and creativity. As part of our commitment to ensuring that students are fully immersed in the world of Circus you will spend time looking at the history of the artform, analysing and critiquing performance and learning about all of the different aspects of being a professional performer.

All Higher Education courses at Circus Space contain academic components which form an important part of the assessment process. You will be expected to complete a series of written projects, essays and research presentations. These are requirements of the course and will need to be successfully completed in order to progress from one year to the next.





FOUNDATION DEGREE IN CIRCUS ARTS

COURSE DURATION

2 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Aged 18 or over on entry.
- BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts or
- 5 GCSEs at grade C or above, including English Language or
- 3 GCSEs at grade C or above, including English Language and 2 A Level passes or equivalent.
- Candidates who do not have any formal qualifications but who are able to demonstrate their potential to successfully complete a degree programme on the basis of previous professional experience will also be considered.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate their intention to pursue professional employment in the Circus Arts following graduation.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and spoken English language. For the Foundation Degree in Circus Arts this would normally be GCSE English Language at grade C or above or a pass of 6.0 or higher in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
- A satisfactory medical fitness report signed by a doctor.

All candidates applying for the Foundation Degree in Circus Arts will be asked to participate in a two day audition process (see page 23 for details).



PROGRAMME CONTENT

Year 1

During your first year you will develop your strength and flexibility. Your training will help you to build your proficiency in acrobatics and your capabilities in movement and theatre. During the second term you will have the opportunity to explore a variety of Circus disciplines. This will lead you to find one Circus discipline which will suit you physically and psychologically.

Year 1 is comprised of 6 modules:

CA101 UNDERSTANDING CIRCUS - *This module explores the historical context of Circus as well as the influence of movement and theatre on the Circus Arts. You will learn about the contemporary development of the artform and the future artist's place within it.*

CA102 WORKING WITH THE BODY - *This module focuses on essential aspects of your training. It will be the core physical activity of your first year and it aims to develop the basic and fundamental technical skills appropriate for your future needs in your chosen specialist discipline.*

CA103 DEVELOPING MOVEMENT COMPETENCY - *You will create, develop and perform movement pieces, both as a solo and ensemble performer.*

CA104 THEATRE, PLAY & PERFORMANCE - *This module looks at presence; the dynamics of play; mask and clown work.*

CA105 THE MOMENT OF PERFORMANCE - *This module complements the work explored within modules CA103 and CA104 by integrating elements of them into an ensemble performance.*

CA106 SPECIALISATION ASSESSMENTS - *Initially identifying the variety of Circus disciplines available, this module will highlight the physical and psychological standards required to practice competently and safely. You will work in strict collaboration with the teaching staff to choose the most appropriate specialist discipline for you.*

Year 2

The second year of the course is devoted to the development of your technical abilities in a chosen discipline as well as increasing your understanding of performance contexts. Classes in acrobatics and other means of physical preparation remain at the heart of the programme. You will have a tailor made programme of classes that is specifically designed to support you in the development of your chosen Circus discipline. Independent practice sessions are also scheduled in order to allow you some autonomy in your development. A typical week during year two will include classes in your specific discipline as well as related physical training; theatre and movement training; academic study; library and research time and independent practice.

Year 2 is comprised of 5 modules:

CA201 PRODUCTION/PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENT 1 - *An ensemble project with emphasis on collaborative processes. The performance is presented publicly.*

CA202 PRODUCTION/PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENT 2 - *During this year you will begin to develop your own artistic approach and apply the technical abilities you have developed in your chosen discipline to a performance context. The presentations in this module are performed individually or in small groups to Circus Space staff, students and some invited guests.*

CA203 PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS - *This module will help you to develop the skills necessary to critique performance.*

CA204 BUSINESS OF BEING A PERFORMER - *A series of lectures on the variety of performance contexts open to a contemporary Circus performer, as well as lectures in a range of topics such as funding opportunities, health & safety regulations and international Circus companies. Part of the assessment of this module will include a seminar presentation on an area of Circus performance that you find interesting.*

CA205 CIRCUS ARTS AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS LEVEL 1 - *This module helps you understand the needs that a Circus performer has in regards to the monitoring of their own physical progression and technical ability. The module includes complementary classes that will contribute to and support your development as a performing Circus Artist.*



COURSE DURATION

1 year

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the BA (Hons) Degree programme should hold an appropriate qualification from one of the recognised Circus schools listed below:

Circus Space

Centre National des Arts du Cirque (France)

Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque (Belgium)

University College of Dance/Cirkuspiloterna (Sweden)

Turku Polytechnic Arts Academy (Finland)

Any candidate applying for direct entry to the BA (Hons) programme from any of these institutions must provide evidence that they have successfully completed two years' training on a relevant course. In the case of Circus Space this means that applicants will have passed the Foundation Degree in Circus Arts.

- Candidates who do not have any formal qualifications but who are able to demonstrate their potential to successfully complete a degree programme on the basis of previous professional experience will also be considered.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate their intention to pursue professional employment in the Circus Arts following graduation.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and spoken English language.
- Candidates must provide a satisfactory medical fitness report signed by a doctor.

All candidates applying for the BA (Hons) Degree will be asked to participate in a two day audition process (see page 23 for details).



PROGRAMME CONTENT

The emphasis of this course is to consolidate the technical level of your specific Circus discipline and continue to develop the integration of your personal artistic approach. A typical week includes classes in your specific Circus discipline along with the associated physical training; sessions in theatre and movement; academic study; library and research time and independent practice.

The BA (Hons) Degree programme is comprised of 4 modules:

CA301 CIRCUS ARTS AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS LEVEL 2 - *This module exposes you to the reality of life as a professional Circus performer. The attitude and behaviour that you will develop during this aspect of your training are the gauge by which those already in the profession will evaluate you. This module will provide you with a solid understanding of what is expected from you as an artist after graduation.*

CA302 ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCETASK - *This module comprises a major ensemble production devised in collaboration with an external director or choreographer. This work takes place over an extensive period and culminates in the creation of a performance that integrates different aspects of the course. The performance is open to the general public.*

CA303 THE BUSINESS PLAN - *You can work individually or in a group of fellow students to prepare a business plan for the development of a professional project. All business plans are academically assessed. Student business plans may be submitted for The Deutsche Bank Award for Circus Arts (see page 32)*

CA304 NEGOTIATED PERFORMANCETASK - *This module gives you the opportunity to use all of the skills and techniques that you have learnt so far to create a devised performance. The piece that you create will allow you to show your personal approach to Circus creation and to highlight the technical level that you have achieved. You can work as an individual performer or as part of a group with other students. The performance is open to the general public.*







POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CIRCUS ARTS

COURSE DURATION

1 year

Places on this course are strictly limited. In order to ensure that Postgraduate candidates benefit from being part of a community of fellow students certain classes and modules will be delivered in conjunction with the BA (Hons) programme.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- No specific upper age limit is set for mature students.
- Indicative requirements would normally include a degree at Level 6 (eg. BA, BSc) in a performance related subject in addition to a Foundation Degree in Circus Arts or equivalent from a recognised Circus training institution.
- Applications from candidates without formal qualifications who are able to demonstrate their potential to successfully work at Postgraduate level may also be considered.
- Students should have a mature attitude and commitment to study and be able to provide evidence of Circus performance experience.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate their intention to pursue professional employment in the Circus Arts following graduation.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and spoken English language.
- A satisfactory medical fitness report signed by a doctor.

All candidates applying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Circus Arts will be asked to participate in a two day audition process (see page 23 for details).

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The Postgraduate Certificate in Circus Arts is a one year course for students who have already reached BA level. The course provides you with the opportunity for in-depth research into a specific Circus discipline with a view to creating more innovative forms of Circus expression.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Circus Arts is comprised of 4 modules and a portfolio of work reflecting your learning across the programme.

CA401 CIRCUS ARTS AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS LEVEL 3 - *Your continued development as a Circus Artist is the focus of this module. You will train in your specific Circus discipline as well as following a Programme of complementary classes that are designed to enhance your progress in your chosen discipline.*

CA402 ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE TASK - *The ability to work as a valuable member of a performing company is an important facet of the professional life of a Circus performer. During this module you will learn how to adapt your specific abilities to the artistic vision of an experienced creator while making a show for public performance.*

CA403 THE BUSINESS PLAN - *The aim of this module is to provide you with experience of developing a business plan that will support your professional ambitions. You will be encouraged to create and develop projects that can be implemented once you have finished the course. We believe that this is a good way of ensuring a potential pathway into the profession following graduation. Your business plan may be submitted for the Deutsche Bank Award for Circus Arts (see page 32).*

CA404 NEGOTIATED PERFORMANCE TASK 2 - *During this module you will undertake a performance/production experience directly related to your specific Circus discipline which will illustrate and affirm your personal artistic vision while integrating high technical standards of your practice.*

Postgraduate students will be required to submit a portfolio of work reflecting their learning and development across the programme. The portfolio will consist of written assignments that relate directly to the different modules.



FURTHER INFORMATION

HOW TO APPLY

All applications to the Higher Education Degree programme are dealt with directly by the Degree Admissions Service at Circus Space. You can download an application form from our website. Applicants wishing to receive a form by post should contact the Degree Admissions Service directly.

Once you have completed your application form please return it to us by post. We will contact you with details of your audition (normally held between the months of March and June each year). All auditions are by invitation only. Please note that you must be able to attend the audition that you have been invited to. We are unable to change audition dates once they have been offered.

The deadline for applications is the end of May in the calendar year you would begin your course (eg. a deadline of 31st May 2012 for courses beginning Sep 2012).

CONTACT DETAILS

Applications

degree.admissions@circusspace.co.uk
+44 (0) 20 7613 8264

Degree Course Registrar

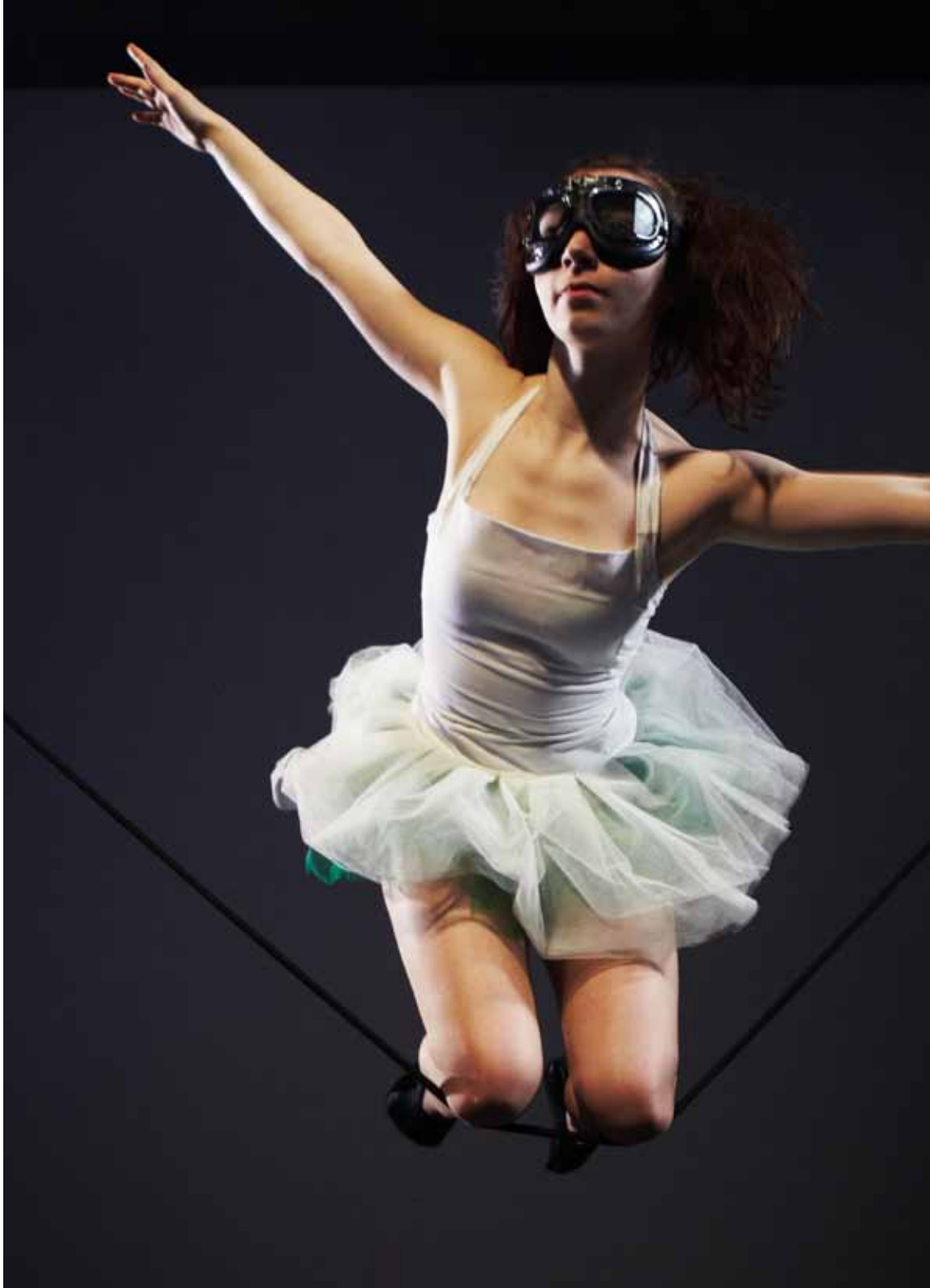
degree.registrar@circusspace.co.uk
+44 (0) 20 7613 8244

General Enquiries

info@circusspace.co.uk
+44 (0) 20 7613 4141

Website

www.circusspace.co.uk



AUDITIONS

Applicants must participate in a rigorous two-day audition process. Auditions are held between March and June each year for entry in September of that year.

The auditions have been designed to ensure that entry to the Circus Space Foundation Degree is at a level consistent with those of our fellow Circus Arts training institutions worldwide: Centre National des Arts du Cirque (France), Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque (Belgium) and Ecole Nationale du Cirque (Montreal).

As well as participating in a range of workshop sessions you will be required to prepare a 3 minute presentation that should showcase your performance and artistic abilities. Presentations demonstrating competence in a Circus skill are preferable but not an essential requirement at this level.

WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED DURING THE AUDITION?

- We will use a range of tests to assess your physical strength, your fitness, your acrobatic abilities and your capacity for endurance.
- In the movement and performance workshops we will look at your existing technical level and assess your potential for development.
- During your individual presentation we will evaluate the quality of the presentation and your artistic expression.
- Throughout the course of the audition we will look at how well you contribute to group work.

INFORMATION FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Circus Space welcomes applications from disabled people and offers places solely on the basis of potential and suitability for a career in Circus. We encourage all students to visit the school before applying to view classes and facilities. Applicants are encouraged to disclose any impairment or condition (for example dyslexia or a physical, sensory or mental health condition) in advance so that the school can endeavour to make any adjustments at audition and during the course to enable participation.

The Building

Circus Space is based in Coronet Street, Hoxton in a former electricity generating station. The site has level access throughout the ground floor and lifts to upper floors. There is an adapted toilet on the ground floor and two further accessible toilets in the building. All performances scheduled at Circus Space are accessible for wheelchair users. There are currently no signed performances or hearing loops.

Student Productions/ Off-site venues

Whilst most devising & rehearsing takes place at the Coronet Street site, some student productions take place off-site at a variety of venues. Access to these venues may vary but wherever possible adjustments will be made to classes and performances held off site to ensure accessibility.

Student Support

Circus Space is committed to supporting students at all stages of the application process and within the course itself. Circus Space degree programmes offer a range of support services including physiotherapy, counselling and English for foreign language students. We can also help with applications for the Disabled Student's Allowance where appropriate and arrange specialist dyslexia support. All students have access to an Academic Support Lecturer. Please contact the Degree Course Registrar to discuss disability issues during the application and audition process or to request information about the Disabled Students Allowance. (See page 21 for contact details).

FEES AND FUNDING

UK/EU students

Fees are set by the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama. Information about the fees for UK/EU students can be found on the Conservatoire's website and in the booklet Fees and Financial Assistance. The website and booklet also outline the Conservatoire's bursary scheme which is available to eligible Circus Space students.

www.cdd.ac.uk

International students

Non-EU international students will be required to pay the full cost of tuition. Further information is available from the school. Please note Circus Space reserves the right to alter the exact amount payable for all its courses prior to enrolment.

Hardship Funds

We aim to provide support to all students who need extra help. We are committed to ensuring that people from a broad range of backgrounds have access to training in Circus.

If you require any further information, please contact the Degree Course Registrar (see page 21 for contact details).

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants will be required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and verbal English language which would normally be a grade C or above in GCSE English Language or equivalent or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) at 6.0 pass level or higher.

FINANCE

Student finance options include grants, bursaries and student loans to help you with tuition fees and living costs while you are studying. It is advisable to apply as early as possible. To find out more about the support available to you, visit the website that applies to the area you normally live in:

England

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Wales

www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Northern Ireland

www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

Scotland

www.saas.gov.uk

EU Nationals

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-EU

Information on funding for postgraduate courses

www.direct.gov.uk/postgraduate-funding

HOUSING

Circus Space does not provide halls of residence, however East London is one of the least expensive areas in which to rent accommodation in London and there is a variety of reasonably priced housing nearby.

Options for housing include house shares, private halls of residence and living with resident landlords or host families.

Information

www.studenthousing.lon.ac.uk

LIVING IN LONDON

London has long been a centre for arts, music and fashion – the city is filled with theatres, dance venues, art galleries, bars and restaurants. It has a hugely diverse population, over 300 languages are spoken by the 7.5 million inhabitants, creating a dynamic and inspiring city that is the ideal place to study and perform. In the last year a huge variety of Circus companies such as Les Sept Doigts de la Main, Cirque du Soleil, Compagnie XY and James Thiérée have performed at London venues such as Sadlers Wells, the Roundhouse and the Barbican Theatre.

Circus Space is located in Shoreditch, a highly artistic and creative area of London. Shoreditch has a vibrant night life as well as numerous cafes, art galleries, cinemas and performing arts venues. The area is also famous for its markets, from Brick Lane's Bangladeshi cuisine and authentic Jewish Beignets to Columbia Road's Sunday flower market.

Shoreditch is in central London, east of the City of London's financial district, and lies mostly within the Borough of Hackney, home to the highest concentration of artists in Europe. The majority of Circus Space's students choose to live in Hackney which is, unusually for London, both centrally located and relatively cheap. It also contains more green spaces than any other London borough. London Fields, Clissold, Shoreditch and Victoria Parks are host to numerous music and performing arts festivals during the summer months.

Circus Space is well served by public transport, with many major underground, rail and bus routes nearby. The nearest tube station, Old Street, is on the Northern Line which connects with most other underground lines and is just two stops from St. Pancras International train station. London's five airports are all within easy access.



THE CONSERVATOIRE FOR DANCE AND DRAMA

Circus Space is an affiliate school of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama. Students registered at Circus Space on funded courses are jointly registered with the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama.

The Conservatoire was established in 2001 as a new higher education institution created to secure the future of professional training in dance, drama and Circus Arts in England. It has eight affiliates which are all small, specialist schools offering some of the best training in dance, drama and Circus Arts in the world. As a publicly-funded higher education institution, the Conservatoire ensures that students at its affiliate schools receive subsidised training. This helps us to achieve our aim of taking students based on talent irrespective of background.

The eight schools member schools of CDD are:

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
www.oldvic.ac.uk

Circus Space
www.circusspace.co.uk

Central School of Ballet
www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk

London Contemporary Dance School
www.theplace.org.uk

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)
www.rada.org

Northern School of Contemporary Dance
www.nscd.ac.uk

The Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance
www.rambertschool.org.uk

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art
www.lamda.org.uk

Further information www.cdd.ac.uk



Circus Space 3rd Year BA (Hons)Degree students perform at Watch This Space, National Theatre, Southbank

FEDEC

FEDEC was established in 1998 to build relationships between vocational Circus schools. The network enables the organisation of bilateral and multilateral exchanges of students, teachers and administrators.

Its objective is to launch, formalise and implement initiatives aiming to promote the development and evolution of creation and pedagogy in the Circus Arts sector. FEDEC develops contacts with national and European institutions, such as the government ministries for education, culture, trade and industry and develops Europe wide projects to support training. The Federation also aims to ensure that health and safety standards are maintained in all member schools.

The Statutes of the Federation commit to the following actions :

- Initiating activities to improve the quality of vocational training and teacher training in the Circus Arts sector.
- Encouraging and supporting international exchanges through the creation and implementation of networks to strengthen links between schools.
- Expanding creative cooperation between Circus Arts professionals and those working in other artistic disciplines.
- Promoting the work of young artists and creators that come from the member schools.
- Collaborating with the professional field and other associations that share the same philosophy in order to encourage the professional integration of young artists and creators.

FEDEC gathers and disseminates information relating to Circus Arts education, and intercedes according to the needs of its members with European or national authorities in order to strengthen and support initiatives through its activities. FEDEC increases the influence of creation and training in Circus Arts. The Federation uses a professional code of ethics from the European Charter of Professional Circus Arts Training.



Further information www.fedec.eu

DEUTSCHE BANK AWARDS

Deutsche Bank launched an awards scheme in 1993 to offer practical and financial support to artists, crafts people, designers and performers to start a business or carry out a project in that crucial year after leaving college.

Each year twelve winners from ten of London's leading arts colleges receive an award. The business plans of 3rd Year BA (Hons) Degree and Postgraduate Certificate students are submitted as entries to the scheme and presented by the students to a panel of judges. The successful application is awarded a £10,000 prize towards the realisation of their project, a mentor from Deutsche Bank for 12 months and a 4 day small business training course.

In partnership with
Deutsche Bank



Thank you for your support

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