

codarts
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rotterdam



Connecting Arts

BROCHURE
CIRCUS ARTS



‘Of course circus can save the world!’

— Danny Ronaldo, Circus Ronaldo

Dear reader,

Located in a former warehouse in the harbor of Rotterdam, the bachelor programme of Codarts Circus Arts offers a creative environment for young talents. We welcome you to develop your artistic identity with the support of the teachers and the staff.

We help you enhance your craftsmanship by transmitting practical and theoretical knowledge. Regular courses and a constant monitoring of your abilities form the basis for constructing your physical, mental, and artistic awareness. School and student weave together a safety net. We literally ask you to respect the safety rules, but figuratively, we trigger you to take creative risks in order to let you develop your artistic identity.

Codarts Circus Arts actively constructs bridges with all (performing) arts. Special weeks and project weeks offer opportunities to work with colleagues of the Codarts dance and music departments. Guest teachers stimulate different approaches to circus skills, and external coaches and guest directors accompany the creation process of graduation projects.

We look forward to seeing you display your new ideas in Circus Time, a frequent try-out platform, in which constructive feedback from students and teachers supports your development and abilities directly after presenting *en piste*. We invite you to make circus, with a thrilling balance between a rational study of skills and an honest présence with guts, never pretending, not afraid to mock reality, and always with an open view, ready to touch the public straight from the heart.

Anna Beentjes

Head of Codarts Circus Arts

Circus artist. Creator/Performer. Researcher. Entrepreneur.

To become a high level circus artist with a distinctive profile, a broad and intensive study programme is vital. The study programme of Codarts Circus Arts is built in four pillars: the circus artist, the creator/performer, the researcher and the entrepreneur.

Presentation

During four years you will create group productions and own work that will be presented in a realistic setting with an audience.

Exchange

In collaboration with members of FEDEC (the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools), Codarts Circus Arts offers exchange programmes in the third and fourth year. In consultation with the management of both schools you can apply for a short exchange in one of the partner programmes.

Work field

Codarts Circus Arts encourages its students to discover the work field, next to the training. In consultation with the internship coordinator they may participate in circus, theatre and/or dance productions. They perform at festivals in Rotterdam and at (inter)national festivals – opportunities to see and meet the professional work field.



Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 form the foundation of the studies at Codarts Circus Arts.

In group classes, the students are trained in several basic skills: object manipulation, handstand, trampoline, floor acrobatics and partner acrobatics.

In the first semester of the first year, the students start to prepare their main skill by means of a basic schedule which will become more intensive in the second semester. In agreement with the artistic coordinator and the specialization teacher the schedule will be adapted to respond to the needs of the artistic plan of the student.



‘There’s a feeling that everyone is on this journey together, and teachers and students are willing to go the extra mile for each other.’

— Harm van der Laan, alumnus Codarts Circus Arts

From the start of the second year, there will be more specialization hours available. If needed, students can choose to use some of their personal hours for another circus discipline that supports the main specialization or which complements their artistic plan.

Apart from the circus group classes, there are group classes in the artistic areas of theatre, dance, music, and movement improvisation/composition.

Circus Arts students have to learn to create their own work, develop stage presence, and present their work in front of an audience. In ‘own work’, students are given assignments for a solo or duet. The presentations take place in a safe setting within the school. Aside from their individual project, circus students will learn to work together in a group production, which is directed by a dance choreographer (year 1) or a theatre director (year 2). The performances take place either in the main hall of the circus building or in an external theatre.



Physical preparation

To prepare for a day of physical training, students start with a physical preparation class, which can be a ballet training or a circus-based training. Flexibility classes are offered at the end of the day.

The first and last week of the training programme are focused on physical preparation for the school year or the maintenance of a reduced training programme and physical fitness during the summer holiday.



Theoretical subjects

Circus artists need to reflect on their own profession and the relation to the external world and have to develop research skills. In the theoretical classes of Circus History & Professional Orientation and Art Orientation, you will reflect on your own profession and the broader art world.

Nutrition, performance preparation, injury prevention, anatomy, and physical fitness are taught in the module Health and Wellbeing.

Laban Movement Analysis, with the basic elements of Body, Space, and Effort provide the useful tools to analyze, create, and improve movement in combination with circus skills.

Safety

Safety is an important aspect in the circus profession. A general introduction to safety and proper use of circus materials is given in the first year. In the second year, you will dig further into the subject during the Safety & Rigging module. Aerial students also receive separate instructions for their discipline.

Year 3

In the third year, the focus is more on the individual development of the student preparing for the graduation year. Students continue with their specialization, but get fewer group classes. They present a more elaborate individual circus act. The group show is directed by a circus director and can be developed in collaboration with another Codarts department, such as Pop, Jazz, World Music or Classical Music.

Aided by physical preparation instructors and circus discipline teachers, students develop their own training and warm-up programme, which is frequently monitored.

For the transfer to the professional practice students need a basic knowledge of business and artistic management, production, fundraising, communication, working in a group, and taking responsibility within a group. In the Cultural Entrepreneurship module, this knowledge will be handed to the students, and they will use this knowledge to found a company with their fellow students.



‘Nothing is more frustrating than an ‘artist’ who is not of this world.’

— Ward Mortier, artist, ESAC alumnus



Health

Codarts has a Student Life department which is the central service point for questions not directly related to the study programme, for all students of Codarts.

Codarts uses the Study Career Coach (SLB) system. Every student is appointed a SLB who will be the first point of contact for everything connected with the study and study progress. Apart from that, services can be offered by the mentors, the student counsellor, the international office, and the health centre.

Physical and mental health are necessary to be able to perform at a high level. At the start of the education, every circus student gets a physical and (sports) medical screening.

Year 4

The fourth year is directed toward the graduation. There are less group classes and students receive more individual coaching. The final exam consists of an individual act and a group show directed by a circus or theatre director, which are presented in one of the theatres in Rotterdam and which is assessed by an international jury.

The theoretical graduation project (TAP) is also a compulsory subject of the fourth year. The student is able to independently conduct a circus-related research and present the results.





During the year, students can consult the Health Centre staff such as the physiotherapist, the manual physiotherapist, the performance coach, or the dietician. If intensive treatment is needed, they will be referred to an external network of paramedics, physicians, and specialists.

The Circus department currently takes part in a survey about injury prevention directed by the professor of Performing Arts Medicine.

Each class is represented by two students in the student council. This council is in close contact with the management and together they will discuss content and structure of the programme, which develops constantly.

‘The fear of failure prevents us from trying.’

— **Julien Auger**, director Codarts Circus Arts graduation group show 2015

Alumni



Photo: Megin Zonderwan

Tall Tales Company, One of these Days 1



Photo: Bart Grietelis

Grensgeval, Plock!



Photo: Rob Hogeslag

Panama Pictures, GO NORTH and see what those strangers do



Photo: Casper Koster

Boost Producties, Vita



Photo: Piet-Hein Out

Milena & Christopher, Perspectives



Photo: Hanneke Meijers

TENT / Zinzi & Evertjan, MEMO



Photo: Geert Roels

Circus Katoen, As Heavy As it Goes



Photo: Nicole Oestreich

Satchock Trio

Festivals and network

Among others: Atoll festival, Karlsruhe; Berlin Circus Festival; Circa, Auch; Circuscentrum, Ghent; Circomundo, Tilburg; Cirque de Demain, Paris; European Juggling Convention; Smells Like Circus, Ghent; Theater op de Markt, Neerpelt/Hasselt; Festival Suisse de Cirque de Jeunesse, Geneva; Operadagen Rotterdam; Up Festival Brussels; YOUNG STAGE Festival, Basel.

Producers and companies

Among others: Boost, Circus Ronaldo, Circonstruction, Cirque du Soleil, Cie XY, Collectif AOC, El Circo d'ell Fuego, Gandini Juggling, GOP Variete, La Central del Circ, Het Klooster Breda, H&H Productions, TENT, Panama Pictures, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Wintercircus Arlette Hanson, Les 7 Doigts de la Main.



Partners



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Festival



CircusNext

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