



Academy for Circus and Performance Art

WELCOME TO ACaPA FONTYS ACADEMY FOR CIRCUS AND PERFORMANCE ART



The academy offers a four-year full-time study programme with a pioneering, distinctive artistic shape. The study leads to an internationally recognized academic diploma of professional education as Circus performer (Bachelor).

Since more than two decades, circus lives revitalization as an authentic art, which takes inspiration from other Performing and Fine Arts. At the same time, circus enriches these art forms and stimulates ground-breaking contemporary creation in performing arts.

Willing to contribute dynamically to this development, the innovative study programme combines the acquisition of technical competences on high level with its implementation in an individual and collective creational process. Each student is encouraged to develop his own personal artistic profile both as creator and performer in circus art. The academic constituent of the study encourages intense reflection on arts and the situation of the artist within culture and society.

The academy offers its students the exceptional opportunity to combine circus with other arts as drama, fine arts, dance, music, in direct co-operation with the other academies of Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts.

MISSION

- 1 The education at the Academy for Circus and Performance Art enables its students to start a professional career in various fields of contemporary circus and in other performing arts. It provides them with the aptitudes to meet the requirements of an incessantly evolving art form on a professional level.
- 2 The academy wants to participate in the development and enrichment of contemporary circus, as an important element of culture and society. Such development takes place in the tension between tradition and innovation of circus art.
- 3 The international, highly competent educational team participates in setting ground-breaking and innovative marks in circus and performance art education.

TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

- We aim at an outstanding technical level, combined with a broad, multidisciplinary artistic approach.
- We encourage the individual development of you as a versatile, autonomously performing artist with a personal, distinctive position in art and in society, by promoting inventiveness, originality and independence.
- We are responsive to the particular connection of contemporary circus with other arts, and namely with Performance Art. Therefore, we challenge you with a learning environment that encourages experimentation and artistic research.
- Our programme offers an individually shaped study career, personalized to suit your talent, capacities and affinity.
- Your practice will focus both on individual and collective performances.
- You will experience intense contact with the professional field, acquainting you with the authenticity of the professional practice.
- We consider health care and safety as being of elementary importance for the practice of circus art. For this reason, these subject matters are placed first and foremost.
- You will perform in professional settings. In the past students have performed at several well-known festivals including Circo Circolo, Theater op de Markt, Oerol and CIRCa.



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

Since its very beginning, circus has been a global art form. The professional field of a circus artist is not limited by national borders. The education is unambiguously built on international and cross-border collaboration. This philosophy is clearly reflected by the study programme of the academy.

ACaPA is member of FEDEC, the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools. We co-operate with international institutes of higher arts education, in particular in circus, with exchange programmes for students and teachers. We encourage our students to spend part of their study at a school abroad, deepening and widening their education or by specialising in a particular professional profile.

At the same time, the academy wishes to attract foreign students from European and overseas countries. This may concern either full-time study or shorter periods (as part of exchange programs). English being the official teaching language should facilitate this possibility.

THE PROFESSIONAL PROFILE CIRCUS PERFORMER

The four-year bachelor at the Academy for Circus and Performance Art educates young people with sufficient talent and motivation for the profession of circus performer.

A contemporary circus performer will be working in the field of circus, a large professional field that has evolved considerably, and that nowadays embraces various structures: circus, variety shows, street performances, site-specific work, circus theatre, visual theatre, amusement parks, events, and more.

The term 'contemporary circus' includes not only the so-called 'New Circus' (which is often assimilated to circus theatre), but all present day types of circus art.

As a professional circus performer you are a highly-skilled artist, mastering one or two circus techniques at an exceptional level. In addition, you have extensive skills and knowledge in other art forms and you are able to experiment, to mix up and to merge these art forms, and to give meaning to his performances. You master techniques of creation and give individual shape to your performances. You work either as a solo performer or as a member of a group. You are able to work both as interpreter and as author/creator. As an entrepreneur, you are able to manage your professional career, to promote yourself and to position yourself as an artist within society.





STUDY PROGRAMME

The programme aims to:

- educate you as a versatile, highly-skilled circus artist who will find employment as performer and creator in various branches of the professional field of con-temporary circus and circus-related performing arts;
- develop your physical, technical and creative talent to the highest attainable level;
- give individual, distinct and clear-cut shape to your artistic profile;
- stimulate both your aptitude and passion for individual and the collective performance work;
- encourage and facilitate from the start of your study intensive contact with the professional field, so as to confront you with the reality and the actuality of the professional practice.

STUDY PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme comprises eight modules. Each module embraces a certain number of subjects which participate in an integrative and progressive way to the achievement of the educational aims. The modules are spread over the four years of study, according to the specific objectives of the different phases.

MODULE

- Circus techniques
- Expression and interpretation
- Basic body training
- Theory and methods
- Laboratory and research
- Performances / productions
- Career planning and management
- Minor

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Entrance examinations are held each year at the Academy for Circus and Performance Art. The entrance examination takes place in spring time (no later than June). This examination is instated to select the most talented students capable to match up with the exigencies of the education and the requirements of the profession.

WEBSITE

At our website www.fontys.edu/circus you will find the latest information about open days, study programmes, enrolment, study costs, registration and the entrance examination.

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