

# ACADEMY FOR CIRCUS AND PERFORMANCE ART

2012 / 2013

THINK  
BIGGER



School of Fine and Performing Arts

[fontys.nl/circus](http://fontys.nl/circus)

# WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY FOR CIRCUS AND PERFORMANCE ART

THE SCHOOL OFFERS A FOUR-YEAR FULL-TIME STUDY PROGRAM 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 groundbreaking contemporary creation in performing arts.

Willing to contribute dynamically to this development, the innovative study program 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 school 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 from 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

## SAAR ROMBOUT

THIRD YEAR STUDENT AT THE ACADEMY  
FOR CIRCUS AND PERFORMANCE ART

*"My speciality is triple cloudswing, three U shaped ropes under each other, with which I swing and do static tricks in.*

*Most frequent asked questions you get are: are you a clown? Do you also have to train animals? What are you going to do when you're graduated?*

*No I'm not a clown, I'm an aerialist. We had one week of clowning but that's all. We don't work with animals, that happens in traditional circus, but not in modern circus. What I will do when I am graduated, I don't know exactly but I would like to work in a circus company for example in France, to perform and travel around.*

*When I auditioned at this academy 3 years ago there was only one year above us, because the school was just founded one year before. I knew already that it would not be easy to start in such a new school, we would be the ginnea pigs. But now the first people are graduated and it is very nice to see that they are really good and that the school changed a lot for the better since I first came here. So next year it is our turn to graduate and I am very curious what will happen after."*

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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

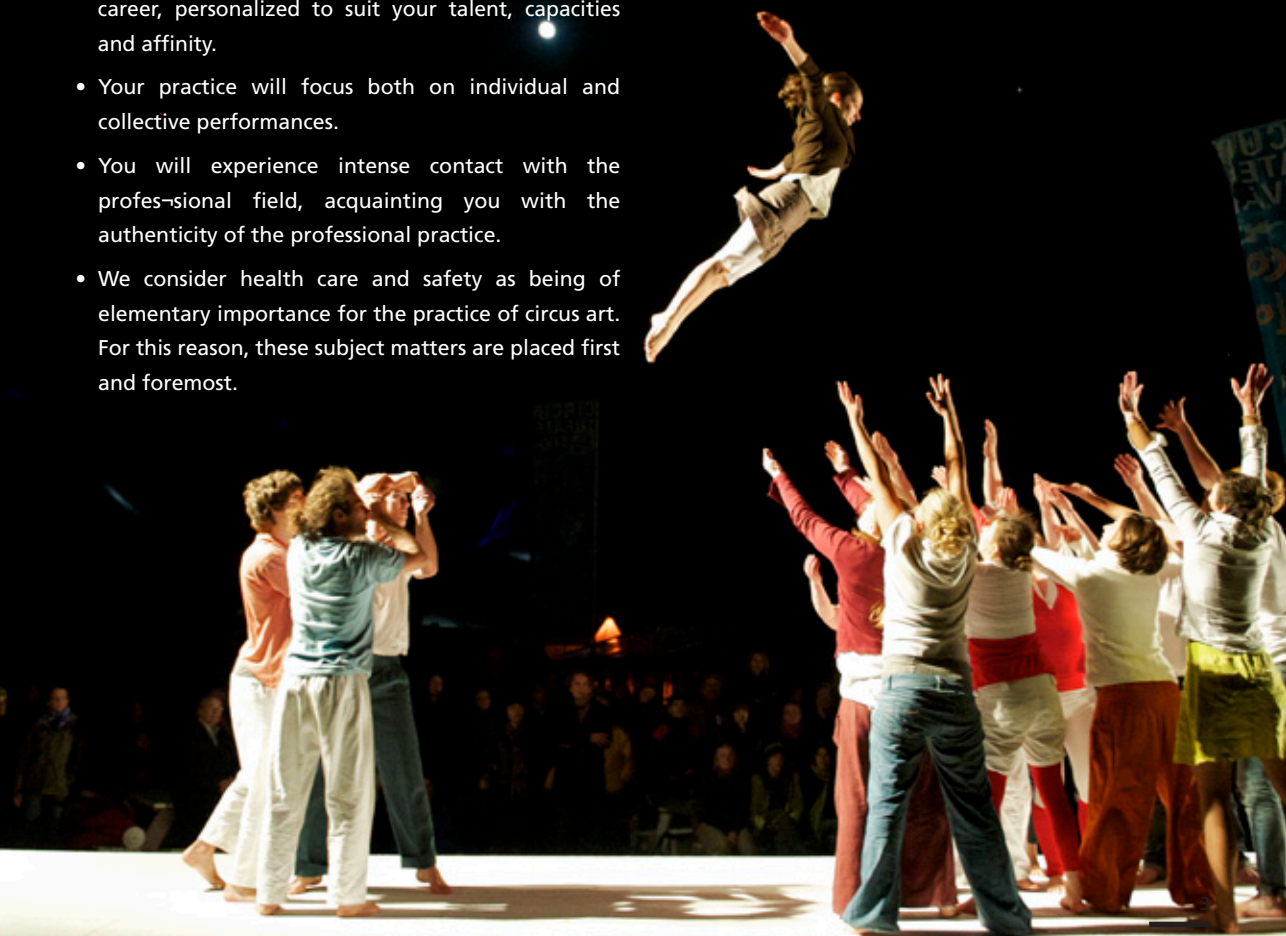
- We aim at an outstanding technical level, combined with a broad, multidisciplinary artistic approach.
- We encourage the individual development of you as versatile, autonomously performing artist with a personal, distinctive position in art and in society, by promoting inventiveness, originality and 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 program 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.

## 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 program 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 programs 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 specializing 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 TEAM

At the Academy for Circus and Performance Art, you are tutored by a highly qualified team of regular trainers and invited guest teachers. We are responsive to the fact that the excellence of our school relies to a large extent on the quality of its pedagogical team. Teachers, trainers and lecturers are chosen for exceptional professional competences in their respective domains, for their experience gained through a high-levelled professional career as circus artists, and for their extensive teaching experience.

Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts, with its various art academies, offers the Academy for Circus and Performance Art an incomparable resource of highly expert, experienced teachers in various study subjects (dance, theatre, music, rock music).

## THE ARTISTIC LEADER

The artistic leader of the Academy is Samuel Jornot, who is of Swiss and French nationality. He studied education science in Switzerland, movement theatre with Jacques Lecoq and mime with Etienne Decroux in Paris. After a successful worldwide professional career as circus artist, he has been teaching for many years in higher art education (circus and theatre) in France, Belgium, Germany and Norway. He was guest trainer and artistic consultant for Cirque du Soleil. Actually, he works as visual director and choreographer for circus, theatre and events.

## FACILITIES

The Academy for Circus and Performance Art offers exceptional training facilities. As a particular attraction, our big top is well equipped and tailored to the needs of circus training such as aerial and floor acrobatics, tumbling and trampoline, juggling, tight wire and more. In co-operation with six other art disciplines that are part of Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts, the Academy for Circus and Performance Art takes advantage of an exceptional learning environment, which is unique in The Netherlands. Together with the Academies of Dance and Theatre, we share fantastic facilities such as dance studios with floating floors, a fully equipped theatre, lecture halls and classrooms for theory classes.

As a student you have access to studios with multi-media equipment, a multidisciplinary library and documentation centre, numerous work places with computer facilities and an electronic learning environment, as well as fully equipped workshops for wood, metal and printing.

## THE PROFESSIONAL PROFILE CIRCUS PERFORMER

The four-year Bachelor course 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 finds work 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.





- 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 PROGRAM CONTENT

The program 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.

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### MODULE

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

## THE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

An average study year starts end of August and runs until the second half of July. Normal school activities will last 40 - 42 weeks, including examination and production periods.

The study program is divided into three cycles.

The first year lays a physical, technical and artistic foundation for all students. The second cycle (2 years) aims to expand the artistic capacities of the future circus performers. The accent lays in increasing the technical skill to a high level in combination with the development of a distinctive artistic shape.

In the 3rd cycle (1 year) the student acquires the competences of autonomous professional circus performer and builds up her/his own network in the professional field.

A professional circus performer is a highly-skilled artist, mastering one or two circus techniques at an exceptional level. In addition, he has extensive skills and knowledge in other art forms (dance, theatre, performance art, scenography, music) and is able to experiment, to mix up and to merge these art forms, and to give meaning to his performances. He masters techniques of creation and gives individual shape to his performances.

He works either as a solo performer or as a member of a group. He is able to work both as interpreter and as author/creator. As an entrepreneur, he is able to manage his professional career, to promote himself and to position himself as an artist within society.

## STUDY PROGRAM

The program 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 contemporary circus and circus-related performing arts;
- Develop your physical, technical and creative talent to the highest attainable level;

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## 1ST YEAR

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The first year will provide you a solid physical, technical and methodological basis for individual development and progress in further study. An orientation towards artistic specialization takes place on the base of your talent, capacities and artistic vision.

You will acquire the theoretical knowledge and the methods which are linked to your activity. This knowledge shall help you to understand circus as an art form and to get insight in the professional field. You lay down the foundations of your personal project. This project is based on the specific circus discipline(s) that you have chosen. You will present a first draft of this project to an audience. It will evolve through your entire study time and helps to shape an individualized study plan.

A collective production is created at the end of the year and presented to an audience. The first-year examination assesses the physical, technical and artistic progress and the level of the competences that you will have acquired after one year of study.

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## 2ND/3RD YEAR

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You increase your specific artistic skills through intense technical training. Special emphasis is laid on the process of artistic research work.

With the help of the Academy, you develop your own project plan. This individual project plan evaluates constantly the requisites of your further artistic development. The program includes one minor study which deepens and widens your capacity of research and reflection.

The competence exam at the end of the 3rd year comprises a review of your personal project (technical and artistic level), as well as an evaluation of your interpretative and social competences shown during a directed collective performance. Your involvement in the creative process is also assessed.

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## 4TH YEAR

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The fourth year prepares you for the reality of an existence as circus artist and autonomous entrepreneur. Besides intense skills training aimed at achieving a high performance level, your artistic profile will be fostered in order to provide you with a unique artistic character. You will also conceive, elaborate and produce a (individual or collective) performance, integrating your learned competences.

Career planning, management skills and PR will provide you with entrepreneurial competences and prepare you for entering the profession as a novice. In work placements you meet the reality of your future profession. These traineeships generate contact with the professional field and lay the foundation of your professional network.

The final examination includes a collective production, in which you give evidence of the integration of your acquired technical, artistic and socio-professional competences.



### THE AUDITION

Prospective students have to apply for an audition at the Academy for Circus and Performance Art. This is possible by enrolling on our website [www.fontys.nl/circus](http://www.fontys.nl/circus). Following documents must accompany the application:

1. A letter of motivation;
2. A medical certificate to confirm that the applicant is physically capable of undertaking the education, as well as the intended professional activity.

## STUDY COSTS

The amount of the tuition fee depends on your personal situation. You can calculate the amount simply by using our tuition fee indicator: [www.fontys.edu/tuitionfeeindicator](http://www.fontys.edu/tuitionfeeindicator)

Furthermore you must take into account a one-off Fontys contribution (€ 47,-) and the costs for study books, educational tools and activities.

- Legal tuition fee € 1.713 (the ministry of education will decide in 2011 about the final amount) if you match the criteria;



- Institution tuition fee for non EEA students € 9.000;
- If you already have a Dutch bachelor degree, you will pay a low institution tuition fee during the first two years of your bachelor study, equal to the legal tuition fee. From the third year of your studies you will pay a high institution tuition fee (€ 9.000,- for art programs). Exceptions are teaching programs (for example Dance teaching, Music teaching, Theatre teaching, Fine Art teaching) and health programs; for a first application in these programs you also pay the legal tuition fee (€ 1.713);

- Programs within FHK can ask for additional contributions;

- Audition Bachelor's degree program € 50

Registration: [www.studielink.nl](http://www.studielink.nl) (more info and manual on our website [www.fontys.nl/circus](http://www.fontys.nl/circus) under admission)

## 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). Visit our website [www.fontys.nl/circus](http://www.fontys.nl/circus) for details. 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. The application procedure takes place in two distinct rounds. The details of the examination process are regulated by the Examination Regulations.

### 1ST ROUND

Lasts 1-2 days and presents two individual tasks and tests:

- a) The candidates present an individual performance (a circus act) to a jury. The presentation lasts 3-7 minutes and includes at least one circus technique;
- b) Physical tests (strength, flexibility, stamina);
- c) Acrobatic test.

The following elements will be examined:

- Technical and artistic potential for the professional activity of a circus artist;
- Creativity, artistic expression;
- Physical capacity and talent.

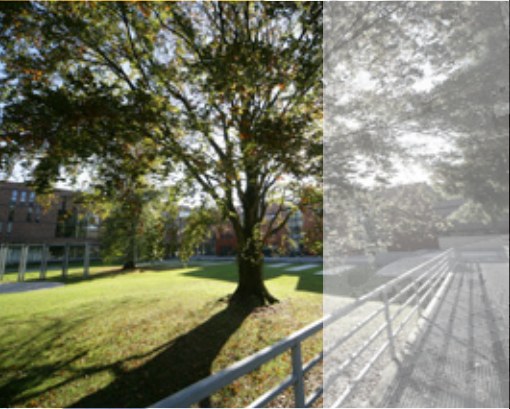
At the end of this 1st round, a selection is made by the audition committee. Success in this selection permits the applicant to pass on to the 2nd round of the audition.

### 2ND ROUND

Lasts 2 - 3 days and consist in a range of individual and collective tasks, tests and classes (dance, theatre, circus techniques). A written test in English will assess your acquaintance with circus arts.

The observation of the jury lays specifically on the following topics:

- Technical ability in one or two circus disciplines;
- Physical capacities and talent;
- Creativity;
- Personal interest and motivation for circus and other performing arts;
- General artistic, cultural and academic background;
- Capacity for communication and cooperation;
- Motivation to learn in a group and individually;
- Special individual talents and motivations.



## FONTYS SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

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AND FINE ARTS EDUCATION

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AN AMBITIOUS ATMOSPHERE  
A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING

### TO OUTSHINE IN YOUR OWN DISCIPLINE

HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION  
CLOSE TO YOUR PASSION

### OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2011

SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2012

WEDNESDAY 06 JUNE 2012 (INFORMATION NIGHT)

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Graphic design: Blend & Blink ([www.blendblink.nl](http://www.blendblink.nl))  
Print: Verhagen Grafische Media  
Photography: Frederique Guerri, Francis Nicoll  
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Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts consists of the Academy for Circus and Performance Art, the Academy of Architecture and Urbanism, the Academy for Teacher Training in Visual Arts and Design, the Academy for Art, Communication and Design, the Conservatory, the Dance Academy, Academy for Teacher Training in Theatre and the Rock Academy.