

PACA

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April 13, 2015



Hi Everybody!

Welcome to the very first PACA Newsletter! My name is Thomas Vaccaro, and I am the artistic director for the Peterborough Academy of Circus Arts. It is my hope that by releasing periodicals to the community monthly that I will be able to stay in touch and keep you apprised of what is to come in the near future! (And believe me, there are lots of exciting things!) But first, after I take a selfie, let me tell you a bit about PACA.

As a non-profit organization, our primary function within the region boils down to three major things:

- 1) Offering recreational circus training programs to the public,
- 2) Facilitating social circus workshops toward marginalized groups and community organizations,
- 3) Putting on integrated arts productions featuring circus talent.

It's been an exciting first year for me on this journey. Last August I obtained an Artistic Residency at the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, and shortly thereafter put on the first PACA full-length Production, *Circus Dreamland*, with a talented group of people. The show sold out on November 14th. Following that, I was accepted into the esteemed and rigorous Circus Instructor program at the National Circus School of Montreal, and began developing many projects and partnering with other organizations. But this is where the Newsletter will come in handy, because there's a lot of work still to do, and It's too much for me to handle by myself. I need your help. And working together, I know there isn't anything we cannot achieve. So check out our upcoming projects and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Thomas Vaccaro
—PACA
Artistic Director



Peterborough Academy of Circus Arts

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Francis Perreault—

Photo Credit: Roland Lorente

Photo © Roland Lorente

P.A.C.A—Social Circus



I'm really excited to talk about Social Circus projects with you guys, because it's been one of my favourite classes at the National Circus School, and it is by far the subject that gets the most devotion in the entire curriculum. Social Circus is a way of approaching social problems through a combination of circus arts and social intervention, and it is one of the three focuses in PACA's mandate (The other two being recreational circus programs and production.) In collaboration with community organizations, the aim of a social circus project is to ensure the development and social inclusion of people at risk, especially youth. In this medium, participants are able to express themselves positively and creatively while honing perseverance, discipline, and self-esteem.

To this end, I am pleased to announce that PACA has solidified its first Social Circus Contract with The New Canadians Centre for this coming July, And we will be teaching two one-week long workshops in a variety of circus disciplines in a way that prioritizes social growth. Social Circus is different from recreational circus in this regard, in that more importance is placed on the experience rather than artistic result.

P.A.C.A—Social Circus

The Social Circus Program from my curriculum is the same one in use by Cirque Du Monde, a subsidiary social non-profit of Cirque Du Soleil that has been implemented worldwide. Due to the massive undertaking in this project, it is my goal to train paid assistant circus instructors to work in a social setting, under an abridged version of the same program I studied. While my training would not accredit you in the eyes of The National Circus School or Cirque Du Monde, it would certainly make you eligible for work in social projects conducted by PACA.

Eligible disciplines that could typically be taught in a social circus setting include:

- **Balancing Techniques**—Handstands, Hand-to-Hand, Pyramids, Rola-Bola, Stilts, Tightwire/Slackline, Unicycle
- **Acrobatic Techniques**—Acrobatics, Mini-trampoline, Cyr Wheel
- **Aerial Techniques**—Aerial Hoop, Fixed Trapeze, Rope and Silk
- **Juggling/Manipulation Techniques**—Diablo, Flower stick, Juggling, Hoop, Poi, Staff,
- **Acting Techniques**

Tuition for the training is \$100, and will take place over the course of three days: June 18th, 23rd, and 25th. If you have a mastery over one of the above disciplines, a passion for teaching and helping others, I strongly encourage you to enroll in the assistant teachers program. It will not only make you eligible for paid work as an assistant instructor in any of our social programs, but the work itself is very rewarding due to the social impact we will have on our community.

In order to register for the assistant instructor program, please email me at thomas.vaccaro@pyroflights.com. Registration must be completed before June 1st.

P.A.C.A—Circus Dreamland REMOUNT!

Last November, we put on our very first full-length circus Production, Circus Dreamland. The project was culmination of lots of hardwork, years of practice, and tireless sacrifice from everybody involved, and the show sold out. Now it is sent to remount 7 months later, June 12-14th, and it'll be better than ever!

Circus Dreamland tells the story of an everyman, Jack. Unremarkable, overworked, underappreciated, and disillusioned with life, the poor man does not have all that much to look forward to. Jack comes home from a typical day of work, exhausted as usual, simply wanting to relax and let the day end. His constantly ringing cell phone is a hindrance, but he does eventually succeed, falling into a deep sleep in which he will have an existential crisis for your benefit.

The Show features Thomas Vaccaro in the lead role as Jack, who performs on Fire Poi, Aerial Silks, and Cyr Wheel. Tessa Nasca and Tegan Moss also perform on Aerial Silks, as well as innovating a very lovely hoop duet. Conrad Jane does an excellent breakdancing set, and Victoria Wood along with Lester Alfonso lead Tyler Dore and Erin Hanes in a psychedelic, Jellyfish UV visual delight. Opal is the Spider Monarch majestically dangling in an aerial thread of subconscious self-doubt, and Special Guest from Toronto, Mark Segal will perform a death-defying rope set that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat. Rounding out the cast is Patricia Thorne as the ever present, beckoning manifestation of the inner child within Jack, leading him to his hopeful epiphany.

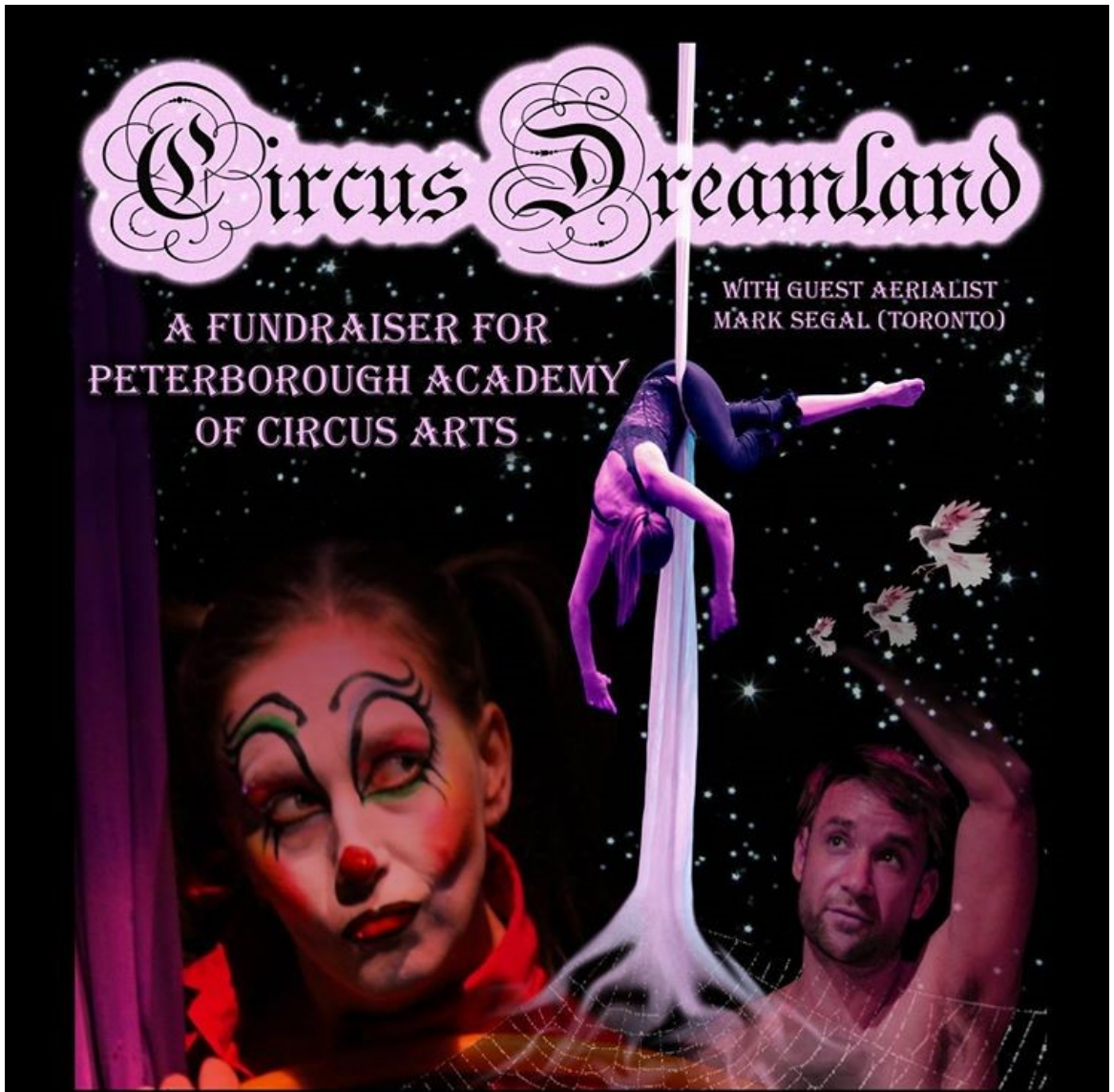
Show times are:

Friday, June 12th at 7:30pm

Saturday, June 13th at 2:00pm (matinee prices)

Saturday, June 13th at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25 for adults, (\$17 on the matinee) \$5 for children. All ticket sales can be purchased at Market Hall's Box office, or online at markethall.org.



Circus Dreamland, Original Poster
—Design by Opal
Photography by Warren Walsh

P.A.C.A. Upcoming Dates!

Workshops

June 18th, 23rd, & 25th, 6-9pm: Assistant Social Circus instructor training, \$100. People who complete this workshop are eligible for hire in our social circus contracts with organizations like the New Canadian Centre July 13-24th, and Recreational Circus Camp with Market Hall, August 31st-September 4th. Space limited to 5.

June 26th-28th: Beginners Cyr Wheel Workshop, \$100. Instructor TBA. Space limited to 15.

Circus Study Buddies—Every Sunday & Tuesday in Market Hall for July and August. \$60 a month. The aim of this program is to practice new circus disciplines together with material provided by cirque du soleil via the National Circus School of Montreal. 17 disciplines available for study in all. Space limited to 10.

July 29th-30th: Cyr Wheel Workshop, \$85. Instructor TBA. Space limited to 15.

****To register your spot in any of the following programs, please write Thomas.vaccaro@pyroflys.com with the workshop in the header and prepayment by einterac in either half or the full amount.**

Circus Jams

April 13th, 6-8pm

April 28th, 6-8pm

May 11th, 5-7pm

****All circus Jams at Market Hall.**

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for students

Training Times

Tuesday, April 14th, 12-4pm

Saturday, April 18th, 9-12pm

Tuesday, April 21st, 12-4pm

Friday, April 24th, 10-2pm

Tuesday, April 28th, 12:30-4:30

Monday, May 4th, 12-4pm

Thursday, May 7th, 12-4pm

Friday, May 8th, 6-9pm

Monday, May 11th, 12-4pm

Thursday, May 14th, 9-12pm

Tuesday, June 16th, 12-4pm

Thursday, June 18th, 12-4pm

Tuesday, June 23rd, 12-4pm

Thursday, June 25th, 12-4pm

****Same Rates as Circus Jams, but must email 24 hours in adv.**