

# NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT 2018

## TRAINER UPDATE

### **CHRIS CARLOS – Adagio, Manipulation**

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Starting his career in the theatre and fire dancing world Chris' journey then took him to the National Institute of Circus Arts, graduating in 2011 specialising in Partner Acrobatics, Comedy Acrobatics and Russian Bar. Alongside performing internationally as an independent artist, for the past 10 years Chris has facilitated circus events for the Australian community. These include APAC (the Australian Partner Acrobatic convention) and Spin Circus Festival. Although Chris is an 'all-rounder' in circus skills, his passion lies in hand to hand acrobatics and fire spinning.

Chris is currently performing with Gravity and Other Myths, Rouge and his own creation 'Children are Stinky'.

### **BYRON HUTTON – Juggle**

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Byron Hutton is a self-taught circus performer who specialises in the art of juggling. He offers a modern, quirky, original style of juggling that incorporates dance and movement to best present his skills.

Recently performing sell out shows in Perth and Adelaide Fringe Festivals (2014) with a show by Madhouse Circus named *Illuminate*, Byron is an up and coming talent that is sure to impress. Whilst in Adelaide he performed several solo shows, including a spot on the Adelaide Fringe TV Gala night where he performed alongside some of the Fringe's greatest performers, including Paul McDermott, Katie Noonan, The Umbilical Brothers, Damian Callinan and amazing circus troupe Gravity and Other Myths.

In 2015 he won the Gasworks Circus Showdown with his 50-minute duo show called *Jugg Life*, which also received a nomination for the 2016 Melbourne Fringe Award for Best Kids Show and Best Circus Show.

### **TANYA LESTER – Static Trapeze, Double Trapeze**

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Tanya is one of FFFC senior trainers, specialising in Spanish web, swinging trapeze and cradle.

As an original Fruit Fly performer, Tanya toured Australia, was invited to Paris to compete in the Cirque de domain world children's circus competition, where she won gold in the aerial section, and performed and toured to Canada three times. As a performer and circus teacher, she participated in two Nanjing International and the Russian International training projects. Credits include World Expo 88, Rock'n'Roll Circus (now Circa), Circus Oz; and then "CirFunKus".

In 2011 Tanya ran local circus troupes in Tallangatta and Yackandandah, teaching circus skills to people ranging from two to 70 years of age fulfilling her passion to teach people of all ages and to pass on the joy and benefits of circus to all.

### **BEN LEWIS – Pole, Handstands**

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Ben began his career in the circus at the age of seven, with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, completing ten years with the company -1992-2001. Already a consummate performer he was accepted into the three-year Bachelor Degree at the National Institute of Circus Arts.

At NICA Ben specialised in aerial straps, hoop diving and Chinese pole, but is well known for being an all rounder and is an accomplished acrobat with high skills in tumbling, handstands, hand to hand and teeterboard. After graduating from NICA Ben became one of Australia's most prolific circus artists forging a successful freelance career performing all over Australia and the world.

Ben has been a member of Circus Oz, Circa, Dislocate and La Qlique. For the last five years Ben has been an integral part of the Aussie super group "The Tom Tom Crew" wowing international audiences with its unique brand of pumping tunes and hard-core acrobatics.

### **ALEX MIZZEN - Handstands**

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Alex Mizzen's background has left a wonderful imprint on the artist we find today. As a trained gymnast and an honoured graduate from the National Theatre Ballet, Alex worked as a contemporary dancer, honing both her physical and performance skills before turning her eye to circus.

Now as an established circus artist with specialties in hand balance, aerial chair, aerial silks and pointe skipping. Alex has performed extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, South America, New Zealand and Australia, working with and alongside some of the leading Australian and international companies and directors, including Les 7Doigts de la Main, Company 2, Cantina, CIRCA Contemporary Circus, Legs on the Wall, La Soiree, Tanssiteatteri Hurjaruuth and Le Grand Cirque.

### **BEC NEILL – Handstands, Tumble**

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Bec started gymnastics at the age of five in Bendigo. She received a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport at age ten and moved to Canberra, and began competing on the Australian Gymnastics team at the age of twelve. After gymnastics she began work on various circus training projects, which led to joining Cirque Du Soleil in Las Vegas.

Bec joined the Fruit Fly training team in 2018 with a focus on tumble, acro, handstands, strength and conditioning.

### **SCOTT NEILL – Trampoline, Tramp Wall**

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Scott was former Canadian National Champion in double mini trampoline. He began coaching gymnastics and trampoline at age 14, and coached to a national and international level as certified judge and coaching trainer. He was a member of Cirque du Soleil, from 1994 to 1999, as a member of Troupe Maison specialising in trampoline and wing-to-wing trampoline. Scott also performed teeterboard, fast track, Chinese pole, stilts, ball walking, comedy characters and Taiko drums.

Scott coached at NICA from 2001 to 2003, as well as at various gymnastics clubs in Australia until joining the Flying Fruit Fly Circus training team in 2018.

### **DAN POWER – Lyra, Tissu, Rope**

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Daniel Power studied circus at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne, specialising in aerial ring, vertical aerials and contortion.

Career highlights include performing with Cirque du Soleil (KA Las Vegas) 2004-2007; an excellence award for his duo aerial hoop act with partner Leigh Marning in Wuhan China 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Hong Kong's Pole Paradise Aerial Performance Tournament 2013 and winner of Aerial All Stars Australia in 2014.

In 2016 Australia's circus industry voted him to be Australia's leading male aerialist at the Australian Circus Festival, and in 2017 he won the professional category at the Australian Circus Championships. Currently Dan is building the circus program at Geraldton's PCYC and is excited to see where this new venture will take him.

### **MISHA REALE – Static Cloudswing, Swinging Cloudswing**

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Misha began her Circus career performing as an aerial artiste in the early 90's. She toured the UK and Europe with Skinning the Cat, The Circus of Horrors, Cottle & Austen's Electric Circus and also her own company, Skydance. She returned to Australia in 2001 and toured with Silver's Grand Magic Circus.

In 2003 Misha commenced working full time at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne, as an Aerial Trainer specialising in Cloudswing, coaching private classes and Adult Intermediate & Advanced Aerial & Act Development classes at Circus Oz.

After a break from Circus Training, Misha has returned to Australia and is currently training young students and adults at Spaghetti Circus and Circus Arts Byron Bay as well as coaching for Schools Gymnastics. Her love of Aerial Performance especially Swinging Acts is completely evident in her teaching and training style, with patience, adaptability, enthusiasm, encouragement and energy for all students wishing to further their skills.

### **JULIE WILSON – Tumble, Juggle**

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Julie first joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in 1986, as a six year old. Quickly joining the touring troupe, she has toured to most parts of Australia performing at festivals including Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Comedy Festival and Sydney Festival, and to Nauru for its 25<sup>th</sup> independence celebrations.

Julie participated in the Russian International Training Project, and she was trained in the disciplines of foot juggling and object manipulation by Russian and Chinese trainers. Her skills also include teeterboard, Chinese pole, unicycle and group bike.

After a decade of freelancing in set design, building and circus workshops in the region, Julie returned to the Fruities in 2004 specialising in foot juggle, ground based acrobatics and manipulation.

### **PHIL WITT – Tumble, Teeterboard**

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Phil first joined FFFC in 1991 as a ten year old. He has toured New Zealand and conducted training workshops in far north Queensland. He undertook an intensive master-class during the renowned Russian training project in the late 1990's.

Having run his own company, Evolution Acrobats, Phil has travelled widely in Australia and abroad to perform and direct shows, and conduct training courses. In 2008 he worked with Circus Oz choreographing table-slides for their 2009 show.

Phil currently works as a trainer and director for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, his signature skills are: mini tramp, teeterboard and comedy.

### **SHANE WITT – Tumble, Teeterboard**

Shane joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in 1990 when very young. He has been on many tours nationally and internationally, including New York, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand. Since graduating in 2000 he has been a freelance artist, establishing Tension Extreme Circus with fellow Fruit Fly graduate Daniel Catlow in 2004. Shane was a principal in the hip hop circus show 'Tom Tom Crew' that had sell out seasons at Sydney Opera House, the New Victory Theatre in New York and Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2007, 09, 10).

Recently he was the senior acrobatic trainer and ensemble member with Circus Oz wowing audiences with his hard-core acrobatics. Shane is part of the training team at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, specialising in straps, acrobatics, tumble, and teeterboard.

