

NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT 2019 – TRAINER PROFILES

NICK HUTCHINSON – Pyramids

Nick, a Fruity himself, graduated in 2011 as a Porter, specialising in Hand to Hand, Cradle and general acrobatics. He has since performed these skills all over the world, most recently with *La Perle* in Dubai created and directed by Franco Dragone. Nick has taught the disciplines he specialises in as well as other disciplines at the Fruit Flies, at various workshops and within *La Perle* he was able to teach other artists. Nick sees teaching as something that has to make sense; physically, mentally and visually and will break skills right down to each part so that both the student and the coach is on the same understanding. He is very excited to return to where he learnt everything and teach at the NTP this year.

BYRON HUTTON – Juggle

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/Double Trapeze

Tanya is one of FFFC senior trainers, specialising in Aerials and acrobatics.

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".

Between 2006 & 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.

Kenneth Lindemann – Rope, Tissu, Straps, Active/Passive Flex

Kenneth is a circus performer in multiple disciplines and specialises mostly in aerial straps (solo/duo), hand-balancing and aerial rope. Kenneth trained at École de cirque de Québec and was a coach there for five years. Kenneth has performed on Broadway in 'Pippin' and with companies such as Cirque Du Soleil, 7 Fingers and other major companies throughout the world. Kenneth was a trainer at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in 2017 and returns from Quebec for National Training Project 2019.

BEN LEWIS – Chinese Pole, Hoop Diving, Straps

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.

LOIC MARQUES - Adagio

Loic is the Master Trainer at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. He is a French National sports acrobatic champion and former trainer at the Ecole de Cirque de Quebec amongst others. Loic specializes in acrobatics and coaches a large range of apparatus to a high technical level (trampoline, teeterboard Korean and Hungarian, Russian bar, hand to hand, banquine, handstand).

Loic possesses a vast knowledge in biomechanics and analyses of acrobatic movement, with expertise in practical and theoretical physical preparation. An excellent trainer of international standard, Loic is in high demand for consultation with Australia's circus performers.

ALEX MIZZEN - Handstands

Alex is a dedicated artist based in Brisbane. She believes in creating honest work about real things.

With grounding in classical ballet, contemporary dance and circus, Alex's career to date has continually crossed these borders. She has worked with many Australian and International companies as a performer and creator, including: Les 7 Doigts de la Main, Legs on the Wall, Company 2, La Soiree and CIRCA Contemporary Circus. 2018 saw the creation of Alex's first full length solo work, *Invisible Things*. In conjunction with 5 Star Reviews from ArtsHub,

it has gone on to be nominated for a Matilda Award (Best Circus/Physical Theatre), been awarded Brisbane's Best Show by ArtsHub & taken out the Directors Pick at the Anywhere Theatre Festival 2018.

As a Creative Circus Associate for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, show director for Circa Zoo and facilitator of independently run workshops and courses across Australia, Alex fulfils her intention to assist both young artists and adults alike towards their own experience of authentic artistry.

BEC NEILL – Handstands, Tumble

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

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 – Aring/Lyra, Rope, Tissu

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, 2nd 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/Swinging Cloudswing

Misha began her Circus career performing as an aerial artist in the early 90s. She toured the UK and Europe with Skinning the Cat, The Circus of Horrors, Cottle & Austen's Electric Circus and her own company, Skydance.

Misha returned to Australia in 2001 and toured with Silver's Grand Magic Circus. In 2003 she became a full-time aerial trainer at NICA, as well as coaching privately.

Misha visited the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in Albury for three consecutive years to teach Cloudswing at the National Training Project and has recently relocated there permanently.

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.

PHIL WITT – Teeterboard, Tumble

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.