

Hi, and welcome to **Press Pass With the Editor** on the Circus Voices Network brought to you by CircusTalk News. This is Kim Campbell, the editor of CircusTalk News. If you are new to the show, this monthly news-based podcast will revolve around the circus and performing arts industry and provide front row access to what's happening around the performance world. This month, in light of summer solstice and staff vacations, the episode will be a shortie and we don't have a featured interview to share, but tune in this August and we'll be back on full-sized interview.

In Breaking News

To start, we have some vaccine news that sheds some light on what audiences might look like this year. A new study reported on by Illinois State University indicates that arts patrons are more likely to get vaccinated than the general public, leading to them being increasingly more comfortable returning to in-person events. At the same time, the study does show that a “significant minority” of patrons are still not ready to rejoin in-person events. The Audience Outlook Monitor data suggests that about 95% of arts audiences are vaccinated, while 40% of them are not ready for in-person events. This might indicate that going to the theatre may be safer than going to the grocery store. It will be interesting to see how this plays out for the performing arts community.

Next up, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment CEO Daniel Lamarre reports that their ticket sales are soaring, reaching pre-pandemic levels. This coincides with a surge in entertainment bookings and many venues reopening. Lamarre says, “Every day we sell the double-digit number of tickets that we used to sell on normal days.” At the same time, Cirque du Soleil is well into rehearsals for their reopening shows, *Mystere* and *O*. Cirque du Soleil is also preparing to reopen *Blue Man Group*. These three shows will begin performances this summer in Las Vegas. Cirque is planning to vaccinate all cast and crew members, and open in markets that are highly vaccinated. At this time, it also looks like they are planning to rehire about 95% of their former artists. News has since come out announcing the reopening of Michael Jackson's *One* as well.

In CircusTalk News

We are pleased to announce that Stacy Clark is joining CircusTalk as CEO! Stacy has over 20 years of experience in the industry and is a recognized leader in the circus community. This year, we're really trying to focus on career resources and reimagining circus arts. Stacy's vision really aligns with ours, and we're excited to begin this journey together.

The inaugural International Circus Awards have been announced, and opened for applications June 1st. This July, a committee of 30 voting members will review up to 200 circus submissions. The ICA is produced and managed by the Contemporary Circus & Immersive Arts Center. In addition to the original awards presented by the committee, there will also be an Audience Choice award, chosen by the general public, and a Critic's Choice Award, presented by CircusTalk. I'm happy to say yours truly is a member of the awards committee. The awards will be presented October 2 in a pre-recorded digital ceremony filmed in downtown Troy, New York. There will be special guests and highlights from nominated submissions. Stay tuned for more updates!

Now for Shows

CircusTalk associate editor Madeline Hoak reviewed Cirkus Cirkor's world premiere of *Circus Days and Nights*, the latest collaboration between director Tilde Björfors, and composer Philip Glass which was co-produced by Malmo Opera in Sweden. She attended the show virtually, stating "The show was a live streamed event, and therefore had a few predictable compromises. While it was hugely satisfying to hear applause from the fifty or so live audience members in real time, it was also a bit lonely and disconnected to watch it online."

Madeline weighed in on the poetic synergy between Robert Lax's writings, and Philip Glass's music as well as the performances of the circus artists themselves, saying, "Stand out performances were given by Aaron Hakala and Andreas De Ryck who displayed ambitious and impeccable skills on teeterboard. Peter Åberg's juggling sequences were exquisite, and Pierre Heault opened the show with a gorgeous swinging trapeze routine. I wanted to see more of the expressive Karolina Blixt and Simon Wiborn in their joint ringmaster-like roles."

Let's hope this type of cross-disciplinary show becomes an even bigger trend and gets a chance to tour other opera-friendly cities in a similar way to Ganidini's Akhnaten, which got remounted at the MET in NYC in 2019 after an initial run in 2016.

Industry insights

Last month we reported on the comeback of circus jobs in our industry insights section, and if it's one thing circus jobs ultimately lead to it is circus shows--so perhaps you have predicted my next insight--shows are back! All around the globe, circus shows, tours and festivals are cautiously announcing their return, hiring staff, auditioning talent, rehearsing and opening with tentative new rules about audience size, sure, but they are doing it. Broadway itself is prepping to open in early Fall, but circus is a bit ahead of schedule, as we have mentioned in our early news segment. In a CircusTalk article by associate editor Lydia Nord titled *Festival Round Up 2021*, you can read some details about how summer is unfolding around the world for festival goers. Here are the festivals Lydia shares some info about:

[International Circus Festival Gold Elephant in Spain](#)

[Alberta Circus Festival in Canada](#)

[Underbelly Festival in the UK](#)

[Montreal Completement Cirque Festival in Canada](#)

[TILT in the UK](#)

[Edinburgh Fringe in Scotland](#)

[Wet Hot American Circus Festival in the USA](#)

[St. Johns International Circus Festival in Canada](#)

Now for Jobs

Taking a look at CircusTalk's job board, there are some neat postings this month. SOUL Aerial and Performing Arts Center, a dance studio and black box theatre, is seeking qualified professional aerial arts professionals with lots of experience to teach both children and adults. A dance background or a performing arts degree is preferential. The ideal candidate will have great references, love teaching, and work well in a team. The job is located in Richmond, Virginia, and applications are due July 31st.

Next up, let's take a look at Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance. They are a nonprofit based in Boulder, Colorado that focuses on performance and education. They are looking for a Director of Education Programming. The Education Director will be responsible for developing and managing all education programming and will report to the Board of Directors. Candidates should have experience as an aerial instructor and rigging for aerial acts. Applications due August 31st. Jump on over to our job board if either of these positions piqued your interest, or if you're looking for something different!

Twinkle Dance Company is seeking a full-time dance instructor. This job is located in Hong Kong. The job is full time, and applications are due August 31st. They are seeking native English speakers with dance qualifications in ballet or jazz.

Now for Events

Let's move on to upcoming events. CircusWA's July School Holiday Program will take place from July 5th to July 15th. Located in Fremantle, Australia, the program is open to all ages and skill levels. Over the course of 2 weeks, enjoy a variety of fun circus classes.

Circomedia's graduate showcase will take place in person in Bristol on July 2nd and 3rd. This show will feature Circomedia's 2020 graduates and give them the opportunity to finally show off their hard work to a live audience.

Also in July, concurrent with the Montreal Cirque Festival, Dr. Patrick Leroux of Concodia will run his 4th seminar that involves research and circus. This one will be fully online but will have some in person attendees for residents. Running June 9th through the 16th, the topic & title is The Dramaturgy of Research-Creation. It is described as "an interdisciplinary, international seminar that provides an opportunity to learn, explore and refine research and research-creation methods in the performing arts with a focus on contemporary circus, theatre and other embodied live performance."

Benton Harbor, MI--From September 6-12 The Wet Hot American Circus Festival will host a week-long camping celebration of community and joy in the woods of Southwestern Michigan. The festival is hybrid, with a weekend of shows, workshops, campfires, swimming, and more! They are currently accepting applications for the featured companies and residency participants. Check out www.wethotamericancircusfest.com for more info!

Head over to CircusTalk's events page to sign up for either of these cool listings!

Education segment - Lydia

Hi, and welcome back to another Press Pass Education Spotlight. This month it's still been all about graduates. In June, we have already kicked off our graduate features! If you follow us on Instagram I'm sure you've seen some of the highlighted students. We also got to share Circadium's graduate video. The video, titled Who Are We, introduces their students and talks about what contemporary circus means to them. Also, of course, on CircusTalk News I published our first Meet the Graduate article of 2021, which was pretty exciting. I got to introduce Constance Dansart, who fell in love with circus as a child, and is now an artist in her own right. She is an École graduate who specializes in static trapeze and Cyr wheel. When it comes to what Constance has learned from circus, she says: "In general, the circus arts have taught me to be alert and sensitive to the world around me, and to use this ability as my source of creativity and inspiration." Keep an eye out this month for our next Meet the Graduate article! Thanks for listening!

Wrap Up

That's it for circus in July and episode 5 of the Press Pass Podcast with the Editor, your front row access to what's happening in the performance world brought you by Circus Voices and CircusTalk--All the Circus News In Your Ear. At CircusTalk, we want to wish you a wonderful summer full of circus, whether you are a performer or a fan. Remember, the faster you get vaccinated the faster you can get back to the shows and help the variety arts world recover.

Mention 3: *If you enjoyed this podcast, be sure to subscribe and consider taking a moment to give us a review on Apple podcasts so we can reach more people interested in circus and the performing arts. Also, we'd love to hear from you directly; send your podcast-worthy news to news@circustalk.com* As always, if you have news, events, jobs or more to share, post it on CircusTalk.