

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.

### **In Breaking News**

A new study by RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, finds that digital currency platforms are likely the future of street performances. Passerbys are more likely to donate larger amounts to performers via credit versus cash. The study also found that circus performers received the biggest donations.

As I'm sure you know, Simone Biles made mental health history at the Olympics this year. Biles' actions as a performer on the world stage will affect the conversation about the performing arts and mental health for the foreseeable future. We shared an article at Inside Gymnastics Magazine by Gina Pongetti Angeletti. The author explains her take as a physical therapist on the reason athletes/performing artists often feel so much pressure to perform: "Expectations. The fear of letting people down sometimes is so much stronger than the practical understanding that there is physical risk. Today, Biles changed that conversation."

Congratulations to the 2021 recipients of the International Jugglers' Awards! These honorees are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the circus and juggling community. To spotlight a few:

### **Sky King Award**

“In recognition of a BIPOC member of the juggling community who has shown outstanding dedication to furthering diversity and equity in the juggling community.”

2021 Recipient: Sky King

### **Flamingo Club Award**

“Highlighting a female-identifying or non-binary person who has shown outstanding support, inspirational skill, or exceptional promotion of juggling.”

2021 Recipient: [Lucy Eden](#)

### **Excellence in Education Award**

“In recognition of outstanding efforts to teach juggling to non-jugglers and expand the knowledge of those who already juggle.”

2021 Recipient: [Thom Wall](#)

### **IJA Extraordinary Service Award**

“In recognition of a consistent commitment to provide outstanding support and promotion for the field of juggling.”

2021 Recipient: Taylor Glenn

### **In CircusTalk News**

We published episode one of Cafe & Circo, a new series brought to you by Hablemos de Circo.

In this new series, Hablemos de Circo investigates the circus development in different contexts.

Cafe & Circo is their first podcast in English! Our CEO Stacy Clark was a guest on this episode, and circus in Latin America, casting, online platforms, and more.

This month in CircusTalk News we covered the Tokyo Olympics. Circus and sports have a lot of overlap, with some sports originating from the circus arts and others influencing contemporary circus. Just as importantly, the heart, spectacle, and spirit of showmanship present in the Olympics can be found in the circus world as well. It was interesting for associate editor Lydia Nord and I, who co-wrote the article together, to make those connections and to find the precedents for the crossover between athleticism and art that have occurred in the Olympics. Read the article [The Olympics & Circus—How They Overlap](#) to find out more!

In the latest episode of Think Like An Acrobat with Shenea Stiletto, she and world record breaking hoop artist and roller skater Marawa The Amazing break down how to use social media to set goals, stay relevant, and move your career forward. If you are looking for some tips on how to represent yourself on social media without getting overwhelmed with influencer pressures, this is the discussion to check out. One of Shenea's top 5 takeaways from the interview is to use the same filters in content in order to keep things consistent.

### **Now for Events**

Running from September 2-15, CIMAC will be hosting an online circus festival in Spanish. They will have activities for circus professionals, younger artists, and families.

NECCA still has in person Weekend Immersions for September. The remaining workshops will focus on German wheel and Lyra.

## **Mentions 1**

### **Now for Shows**

I've been talking about hybrid circus festivals for a few months now as the circus world adapts to COVID safety and waves of the virus. The Festival called Physical Fest in Chicago has done a fine example of this in early July--taking advantage of the as of then still fairly low transmission rates to have a one day outside festival. Here is a portion of my review:

Physical Fest organizers (and power couple) Marc Frost and Alice Da Cunha have done many things right since the beginning of their festival 8 years ago, from grassroots organization to sustainable growth, and local partnerships, to the ever-popular Scratch night for local performers. Another thing they have done right is to assure that Physical Fest maintains a diverse, multicultural presence in the performance world by their careful cultivation of shows and narratives that feature a variety of generations, voices, cultural heritages, genders, nationalities and ethnicities....

Physical Fest also hosted a digital component to the happenings to align with their tradition of offering workshops and talkbacks. On July 30 [they discussed the audio play \*Pangea\*](#) by Limbik, and on August 31 the panel discussion will be on the [State of the Performing Arts](#).

The festival was small but multi-disciplinary, featuring dance, and roving physical theater/clown characters. The Era Footwork Crew performed *She Pick the Speed*—a feminist dance performance by a team of five talented dancers who not only impressed with their foot work, but also made their work engaging and accessible by leading a fun, pre-show workshop for the whole audience on this unique Chicago dance style.

Rounding out the full day of fun and interactivity, 3AM's team took to the stage with their new circus show called *Mindful Manipulations* playing to a packed lawn. This show, made by Philadelphia based circus creators Kyle Driggs, Andrea Murillo, Luna Deasy, and Kira DiPietroantonio, was a small departure from their previous Physical Fest feature in 2019 titled *Eventide*. Their sleek performance style remained, showcasing high skill levels in juggling, dance, aerial, and contortion, but layered on, to the delight of the onlookers, was a big heap of comedic timing and playful antics juxtaposed with their elegant acts.

In *Mindful Manipulations*, 3AM maintained a contemporary art veneer while digging deep into the heart of classic circus—and that is a juggling trick many circus companies before them have tried and bombed at. Yet they pull it off, floating from sophisticated juggling and graceful hair hanging one minute, to lip syncing romance and contortion challenges the next. They did so while using the traditional circus props as well as more innovative ones, like record players and treadmills. And with these everyday objects and some spontaneous leaping off the stage to interact with the audience, we were looped into the action by the smashing of the 4<sup>th</sup> wall. 3AM's mix of mastery, poise and comedy was an irresistible one for an hour-long family show on a

sunny day in Chicago. I'm looking forward to seeing future works from this versatile young company.

### **Industry insights**

The delta variant has hit the world hard, and in the United States especially during the months of July and August the effects on closures/openings of performances seem to be lagging. Most smaller scale performances were set for outdoors and thus unaffected, and the larger scale shows have protocols that organizers currently consider to be sound for vaccinated and masked populations. Still, it remains to be seen as more science filters in about breakthrough infections as to whether the public will continue to celebrate the return of performance or if it will choose a cautious approach. But surely in the USA at least, the behavior of public perception will drive the results more than public policy which is usually the case elsewhere. Speaking of public policy, covid and circus, a good example of this is noticeable in two recent CircusTalk articles-- one written by me titled [Is Big 'Cirque du Soleil' Style Circus an Economic Indicator of Recovery for the Performing Arts?](#) and the second titled **The Sparkles During the Pandemic in Taiwan: From Policy to Private Sector** about circus in Taiwan written by Tai jung Yu about how the government has responded to COVID with arts initiatives.

### **Now for Jobs**

**Mention 2 --Did you know CircusTalk is *the* source for international circus and street arts jobs? It's free to list your circus performing and admin jobs, open calls, auditions and**

**residencies on CircusTalk, so create your account today and start listing all the new performing arts openings and you will reach the right pool of talent.**

**[Green Fools Theatre Society](#) in Calgary, Canada is looking for artists with solo circus shows including but not limited to juggling, magic, and clown. They are open to kids shows, family friendly shows, and adult shows.**

**Circus Guide agency is looking for [Multi-Skilled Solo Male Equilibrists with Aerial Acts](#) and Urban Style Dancers.**

**The Works Entertainment is seeking stand out acts for a ‘secret’ Las Vegas Project.**

**Now for our Education segment--with associate editor Lydia Nord**

Hi everyone, welcome back to Press Pass' Education Spotlight! Since we're wrapping up graduation season, let's jump in by doing a mini Meet the Graduate. Today we have Antonia Sassine, a NICA graduate, joining us from Melbourne, Australia. After a successful diving career, Antonia began her circus training at the age of 11. She trained as a multidisciplinary aerialist and contortionist with Skadada Youth Runway Circus and was later invited to be a performer with Perth circus company! She has a bachelor degree in Performance Making and is known for her contortion straps routine. Let's hear from Antonia herself!

That sounds so great, I know for a lot of artists creation during COVID has been a big struggle so I'm always happy to hear about people's new acts. Let's hear about Antonia's post-grad plans.

Sounds like there's a lot of great things in the work! My fingers are crossed that pandemic restrictions are kinder to the circus community this year. Let's hear Antonia's advice for upcoming circus artists!

Well, thank you so much to Antonia for being on our podcast today. It was so lovely hearing first hand from a circus artist about their showcase acts and what it's been like to work in the industry now. Tune in next time for another Education Spotlight. Happy listening!

**Now for our Guest Interview with the Circus Boss Team**

**Wrap up**

**That is all for today's Press pass with the Editor, your front row access to what's happening in the performance world and a monthly circus news podcast brought you by Circus Voices and CircusTalk--All the Circus News In Your Ear.**

**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](mailto:news@circustalk.com)*