



Prescott Circus Theatre
800 Pine Street #10
Oakland, CA 94607
510-967-0355 www.prescottcircus.org

Administrative Personnel

David Hunt. Executive / Artistic Director

David Hunt holds a BA from Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, and has over 18 years of professional performing and arts administration experience. He was the co-founder of the New Orleans School of Circus Arts (2000 – 2004) where he directed and coached adults and youth. He has coached youth through Cirque du Soleil's Cirque du Monde program for at-risk youth, the San Francisco Circus Center, Trapeze Arts, and the Oakland Fine Arts Summer School. He served on the Board of Directors for the American Youth Circus Organization from 2005-2010, was program director for its conferences and festivals during those years and currently chairs its Social Circus Committee. He is the co-founder of Circus Bella, a San Francisco based professional, open-air circus that stages an annual free summer performance series. He has performed his slack rope and juggling acts across the country with the Zoppé Italian Family Circus, the New Pickle Circus, Velocity Circus as well as on TV and film (Water for Elephants). David was a resident artist for Prescott Circus Theatre from 2004-2011 and served on the Advisory committee before stepping into leadership as the new Executive / Artistic Director in August of 2011. David provides oversight and program management for these proposed residencies. This includes professional development, partnership facilitation, and day to day support.

Zahra Mahloudji, Administrative Coordinator

Zahra brings deep experience with non-profit performing arts organizations across production, administration, and fundraising. She has stage-managed and produced several plays with Darvag Theater and oversaw concert productions and fundraising as youth orchestra manager for the Oakland Symphony. While on sabbatical in Tanzania, she managed operations for the Dar Choral Society (Dar es Salaam), collaborating with the conductor to bring the first-ever full orchestra concert there. She has been with PCT since 2015.

Lead Artistic Staff

Ceara Walton, Performing Company Director and Leading Teaching Artist Prescott Elementary and Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary

Ceara Walton is an educator and youth worker from Oakland, CA. She grew up in West Oakland and was a performing member of the Prescott Circus Theatre while attending Prescott Elementary School. She returned to PCT as junior in high school as a tutor and class assistant. Since 2006, Ceara has worked as a teaching artist at Prescott, PCT's summer, and each of PCT's Satellite programs. In 2017, she stepped into leadership as the Summer Program's co-director and Performing Company Director at Prescott and Lafayette / Martin Luther King Jr. Schools. Her specialties include stilt dancing, Hambone body percussion, juggling, hip hop, and African drumming. As a former student, she also advises our teaching artists in PCT culture and practices.

Oriana Doria-Quesada, Lead Teaching Artist, Prescott and Lafayette Elementary

Oriana was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and began training and performing with the San Francisco Circus at the age of 7 under Master Lu Yi and Xia Ke Min at the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. With Lu Yi and Xia Ke Min's guidance, he was exposed to a multitude of different skills in traditional Chinese Acrobatics, and began specializing in Rola Bola Kick Bowls at the age of 16. In addition to performing with the SF Circus, he has also performed with the New Pickle Circus, Circus Finelli, Circus Chimera, Troupe Vertigo, Sweet Can, Circus Bella, the Santa Rosa Symphony, in the Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival, and with the Los Angeles Opera. He was just recently cast for Circus Bella's Summer 2019 Season. Oriana also has over a decade of experience teaching Acrobatics and Circus Arts, as well as taking a short hiatus from the circus world to get his BA in Community Studies from UC Santa Cruz. Oriana has taught in Circus Arts and Performing Arts programs at Circus



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Center, 888 Monkeys and Loco Bloco in the San Francisco Bay Area, at Kinetic Theory in Los Angeles, and at Circus Smirkus in Vermont, as well as guest teaching in various locations around the country. He is currently the Lead Teaching Artist and Summer Program Co-Director with Prescott Circus Theatre in Oakland, CA.

Core Teaching Artists

DeMarcello Funes, Teaching Artist, Parker Elementary/Middle School

DeMarcello is a multi-faceted performer and visual artist from Oakland, CA. He developed circus and performing skills at a young age as a student with the Prescott Circus Theatre and went on to graduate from the Oakland School for the Arts. Throughout his youth, DeMarcello continued to be involved with Prescott Circus, growing from a student to now serving as a core staff member coaching unicycling, juggling, stilt dancing, Hambone body percussion and mentoring youth. He has performed for the International Body Music Festival, SF Theatre Festival, and Circus Bella.

Josh Matthews, Teaching Artist, Piedmont Ave. Guest Artist and Curriculum Consultant All Sites.

Josh is Co-Artistic Director of Under the Table, having co-created and performed in seven Under the Table shows. Josh also performs with the immersive theatre company Third Rail Projects, including in Ghost Light at Lincoln Center and Then She Fell (New York Times Top 10 Pick). Josh directs too: he co-wrote and directed Bad Kid at Axis Theatre (New York Times Critic's Pick) and directed the Chicago Neo-Futurist's Production of Mike Mother (Time Out Critic's Pick). Josh works as a hospital clown with the Medical Clown Project and a lead teaching artist for Prescott Circus Theatre.

Rachel Milner, Teaching Artist, Parker Elementary/Middle School

Rachel Milner is an educator, performer, and clown. She recently moved to the Bay from the magical city of New Orleans where she was teaching high school mathematics as well as circus arts at the International School of Louisiana. Rachel is a recent graduate of the Clown Conservatory at the Circus Center in San Francisco. She works as a teaching artist for Prescott Circus Theater at Parker Elementary in East Oakland. As an educator and clown, Rachel believes in the power, creativity, and uniqueness of every student.

Walker Staples, Teaching Artist, Sankofa Academy

Walker founded the ArtWorks Summer Circus Program in 2011 in Beverly Massachusetts, teaching acrobatics, juggling, and clowning to youth ages 7-14 while making a living as a baker and training part-time at SHOW Circus studio in Easthampton Massachusetts. He received a degree in a self-designed major of Performance Storytelling from Hampshire College in 2014 and carried that work forward with him to Oakland in January of 2016, where he currently makes a living teaching acrobatics and performance skills to adults and youth of all ages. He has been working with Prescott Circus Theatre since 2016 as a resident artist at select sites and supporting the acrobatics curriculum across all programs.

Guest Artists

Tristan Cunningham, Guest Artist

Tristan began her performing career at age ten with Circus Smirkus in Vermont. She trained and toured with the company for eight years and went on to earn her BFA in Theater Arts and Film from S.U.N.Y. Purchase Acting Conservatory. She has performed with the California Shakespeare Theatre, Eastenders Repertory Company and is an associate artist with Atmos Theater/Theater in the Woods. Along with traditional theater, she has continued to perform circus and clowning over the years with Circus Bella, the SF Chamber Orchestra, and has been a regular at the Literary Foolery Cabaret at the Booksmith in SF. In 2014, Tristan was nominated for a Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Performance by a female actor for her role as Luciana in Comedy of Errors. She has been



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coaching children for the past eleven years at Circus Smirkus, San Francisco's AcroSports, and the Arts Education Project. She has been an artist in residence with Gritty City, teen repertory theater and has been serving as a resident artist for Prescott Circus Theatre since 2011.

Hannah Kahn, Guest Artist, Prescott and Lafayette Elementary

Hannah Kahn studied acrobatics, juggling and balance at the National Circus School in Paris, France for three years. She has traveled and performed on the streets and in festivals throughout Europe, as well as taught adult circus skills classes in France, England and Wales. Hannah studied physical theatre with Jacques Le Coq and clowning with Philippe Gaulier. For the past thirty years, Hannah has performed on the low wire with the Pickle Family Circus and with the San Francisco Opera as a pantomime and acrobat. At Prescott Circus Theatre, Hannah is responsible for teaching students act development and mastering the rolling globe.

Judy Finelli, Guest Artist, Prescott Elementary

Judy Finelli is one of the cornerstone figures of the American New Circus Movement. After graduating with a BFA from NYU School of the Arts in 1970, Finelli appeared in circus, theatre, film, and television before moving to San Francisco to perform and direct with the Pickle Family Circus. She appeared in Robert Altman's live-action film of "Popeye", and her television appearances include "Sesame Street," and "The Mike Douglas Show." Live performances include the Circo dell'Arte, a Luciano Berio concert at Carnegie Hall, the Theater for the New City, and Circus Vargas. In 1984, she co-founded the San Francisco School for Circus Arts (now Circus Center) with Wendy Parkman, before becoming the Artistic Director of the Pickle Family Circus in 1987. She has taught at the International Mime Festival, NYU School of the Arts, Juilliard Drama School, the American Conservatory Theater, the Ringling Clown College, the Prescott Circus Theater, and the Sons of Cayuga Circus Studios. Currently, Judy is on the teaching staff of Prescott Circus Theater in Oakland, CA.

Derique McGee, Guest Artist, Wellness Consultant / Trainer

Derique McGee, Aka Lance McGee, for the last 23 years has been an artist in residence teaching Hambone body percussion and Circus arts with the Prescott Circus Theater. More recently, he's been leading Trauma-informed practices, Mindfulness and Wellness Support to the Prescott Circus Theater staff, instructor, administrators and students. He has made international television appearances as well as sharing the stage with such entertainers as Bobby McFerrin, The Temptations, Lou Rawls, and Sammy Davis Jr. His television credits include performing on It's Showtime at the Apollo in Harlem N.Y., the Disney Channel, Universal Studios Hollywood and on Sabodo Gigante. At the age of 15 he learned Hambone and began his clown training in Berkeley with Circus A La Mode and later joined San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus and Make-A-Circus. He's recently been performing his new one-man family show called "Fool La La" in Bay Area Theaters.