



**Prescott Circus Theatre**  
800 Pine Street #10  
Oakland, CA 94607  
510-967-0355    [www.prescottcircus.org](http://www.prescottcircus.org)

### **Administrative Personnel**

#### **David Hunt, Executive / Artistic Director**

David began with PCT as a teaching artist in 2004 and became Director in 2011. He has 20+ years' experience as a performer and 18 years in program development and organizational leadership. He was co-founder and performer with Circus Bella (2008 – 2011), served on the Board of the American Youth Circus Organization, and now serves on the organization's Social Circus Committee which supports social circus programs and teaching artists across the country.

#### **Zahra Mahloudji, Managing Director**

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 Prescott Circus Theatre since 2015.

### **Leading Teaching Artists**

#### **Ori Quesada, Lead Teaching Artist**

Ori Quesada was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and began training and performing at the age of 7 under Master Lu Yi and Xia Ke Min in traditional Chinese Acrobatics. He began specializing in Rola Bola Kick Bowls at the age of 16, and has performed with the San Francisco Circus, 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. Ori has over 15 years of experience teaching in Circus and Performing Arts programs around the country. He's currently the Lead Teaching Artist and Summer Program Co-Director with Prescott Circus Theatre.

#### **Ceara Walton, Leading Teaching Artist**

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. She returned to PCT as a junior in high school as a tutor and class assistant. Since 2006, Ceara has worked as a teaching artist at most our school sites. In 2017, she stepped into leadership as the Summer Program's co-director and Performing Company Director at Prescott and Martin Luther King Jr. Schools. Her specialties include stilt dancing, Hambone body percussion, juggling, hip hop, and African drumming.

### **Core Teaching Artists and Staff**

#### **Orlene Carlos**

Orlene has been teaching, directing, and performing circus for the past 21 years. She has performed on the street corners of SE Asia and piazzas of Europe. A graduate of the San Francisco Circus Center's Clown Conservatory, and has trained in China to perfect her foot juggling technique. Performance highlights include tours with the Zoppé Italian Family Circus, Circus Monti, Krystalpallast Variety, Circus Bella, and the Flynn Creek Circus. She incorporates their 3 older children into the foot juggling act. Their 4th flyer-child made her debut with Circus Bella at just 3 months old. Under the tutelage and in the tradition of Charly Castor she has evolved the family number over the past 8 years.

### **Josh Matthews**

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 has served as a lead teaching artist for Prescott Circus Theatre since 2015.

### **Debra Moore**

Debra Moore (Coach Deb) creates theatre activities and games that embrace cultural humility and support students' psychological needs. She has teaching credentials in English and Special Education and 17 years of teaching experience. Coach Deb holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is completing doctoral research on student motivation and psychological needs support. She has written, acted, directed, and taught drama courses to high school students and teacher credential candidates. Working with the students, staff, and other teaching artists at Prescott Circus Theatre has been the most bountiful and enjoyable phase of her career to date.

### **Jessica Nguyen**

Fresh out of the pastures of UC Davis with an unusual understanding of Taphonomy and Entomology, Jess made her way back through the Bay (which she calls home sweet home) with circus at her heels and growing in her heart. Armed with fond memories of Oakland Tech's underground partner acrobatics club with Ena Dallas, some casual three ball tricks, an appetite for adventure, some sagely advice, and a couple years of funambulism apprenticeship experience under Ante Ursic, Jess found herself ready to take on the circus scene she'd admired so much in the sunset years of her childhood.

### **Supporting and Specialty Artists**

#### **Tristan Cunningham**

Tristan Cunningham started her performing days when she was ten years old touring with Circus Smirkus in Vermont. She toured with the company for eight years and went on to earn her BFA from S.U.N.Y Purchase Theater Arts and Film conservatory. She works between the Bay Area and Los Angeles as an actor, teaching artist, and circus performer, taking part in productions by the California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theater, African American Shakespeare, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Shakespeare, Velocity Circus and Circus Bella. She was most recently in All Rise on CBS and The Fugitive on Quibi. Tristan has been serving as a resident guest artist for Prescott Circus Theatre since 2011.

#### **Judy Finelli**

Judy Finelli is one of the cornerstones of the American New Circus Movement. She received her BFA from NYU School of the Arts in 1970, and has appeared in theatre, film, and television. Live performances include the Circo dell'Arte, the Carnegie Hall, the Theater for the New City, and Circus Vargas. In 1984, she co-founded the San Francisco School for Circus Arts 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, ACT, the Ringling Clown College. Judy has been serving as guest artist for PCT since 2018. Judy has been working on her non-profit Notoriety Variety with a debut performance in 2020.

#### **DeMarcello Funes**

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.

**Hannah Kahn, Rolling Globe Teaching Artist**

Hannah Kahn studied acrobatics, juggling and balance at the National Circus School in Paris, France for three years. She has traveled, taught circus and performed in the streets and in festivals throughout Europe. Hannah studied physical theatre with Jacques Le Coq and clowning with Phillippe Gaulier. Hannah has performed on the low wire with the Pickle Family Circus and with the S.F. Opera as a pantomime and acrobat. For the past thirty years, Hannah has focused on integration work through circus arts with children. At Prescott Circus Theatre, Hannah is responsible for teaching students act development and mastering the rolling globe.

**Derique McGee, Guest Artist, Wellness Consultant, Summer Teaching Artist**

Derique McGee, aka Lance McGee, has been an Artist-in-Residence teaching Hambone body percussion and Circus Arts with Prescott Circus Theater since 1997. He began his clown training as a teenager with Berkeley's Circus A La Mode and later joined San Francisco's famed Pickle Family Circus. Derique has performed in South Africa, South America, Europe and Asia, shared the stage with Bobby McFerrin, the Temptations, and Sammy Davis, Jr., and has appeared on the Disney Channel, PBS, and Univision's Sábado Gigante Internacional. Derique also holds an MA in Counseling Psychology, and as a Wellness & Mindfulness Coach, he provides Wellness Support for school staff and teachers in Oakland and to the Prescott Circus Theater staff and students.