



## Prescott Circus Theatre 2021-2022 Personnel

### Executive and Admin Staff

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

David holds a BA from Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, and has over eighteen years of professional performing and arts administration experience. He was the co-founder of the New Orleans School of Circus Arts (2000 – 2004), has coached youth with several programs including Cirque du Soleil's Cirque du Monde and the SF Circus Center. He served on the Board of Directors for the American Youth Circus Organization from 2005-2010 and currently serves on its Social Circus Initiatives Committee. He is the co-founder of Circus Bella and 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 served as a resident artist for PCT programs for 7 years before stepping into leadership as Director in 2011.

#### **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 where she lends assistance with administrative and program support, including scheduling, bookings, and communications. She also assists with record keeping and ensuring grants compliance.

### Key Program and Artistic Staff

#### **Carolina Duncan-Page, Performing Company Manager / Leading Teaching Artist**

Carolina is a social circus teaching artist, project coordinator, and circus artist originally from Columbia. She has worked with PCT allied-programs Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theatre (Middletown, CT) and Circo Latino (Albuquerque, NM). In 2017 she created and managed Almar Ola de Circo, a social circus project operating in her home country, Columbia that provides training for adults and youth that was recently awarded a Create Grant from the Secretary of Culture in Columbia. She has received a certification as a teacher instructor for Social Circus pedagogy and has recently participated in a "training the trainers" workshop with Cirque du Monde (formally run by Cirque du Soleil). This is Carolina's first year with Prescott Circus and is heading up the Prescott and Martin Luther King Jr. after school, Pathways for Older Youth, and summer programs and leading year-round community performing opportunities.

#### **Jamie Coventry, Teaching Artist. East Oakland Pride and short-term residency programs**

Jamie is a professional performer and arts educator, well known throughout the Bay Area as one half of the clown duo, Coventry and Kaluza. Jamie studied theatre arts in Santa Fe, music in San Luis Obispo and education in San Francisco and is a graduate of the Clown Conservatory at San Francisco Circus Center. He has worked with Flynn Creek Circus, New Pickle Circus, The Pickle's School Tour, Sweet Can, and is a long standing company member of Circus Bella. He is currently a company member of Circus Bella, SF's premier one-ring circus. He has been a head coach with Circus Smirkus in Vermont and teaches at Oakland's Kinetic Arts Center. He has been a part of PCT's teaching artist cohort since 2004.

#### **Hannah Kahn, Teaching Artist. Prescott Elementary**

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 and body awareness through balance.

**Sarah Kim, Teaching Artist. Parker School, Sankofa United**

Sarah has a background in social work and over the past 6 years, has pursued her interests in movement, play, and mental health— teaching acrobatics to children as young as 4 up to adults through different programs including the Athletic Playground and Kazio. She has experience integrating story, theme, and even science concepts into her movement instruction. Sarah applies movement and creative instruction to promote whole person wellness, pro-social communication, and community building. She recently completed a teacher training in Circus Arts Therapy on adapting circus arts skills for students with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals.

**Debra Moore, Teaching Artist, Summer Academic Lead. Montera Middle School, short-term residencies**

Debra Moore 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. She holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and just completed her 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 Nyguen, Teaching Artist. Sankofa United, Piedmont Ave.**

Jessica grew up in Oakland, attended Oakland Tech, and is a graduate of UC Davis with a degree in Taphonomy and Entomology. Through high school and college, she studied and trained acrobatics, puppetry, and juggling. At Davis, she trained tight wire and apprenticed under former Cirque du Soleil artist, Ante Ursic. She's worked with children and youth through arts education camps and one-on-one tutoring programs. This is Jessica's third year working with Prescott Circus.

**Freda Yalley, Site Coordinator. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Prescott Elementary**

Freda Yalley is an educator, textile artist, and PCT parent of a daughter who is an OUSD student. Freda brings over 12 years of experience working in education settings including work for the Rutgers Graduate School of Education and her own graduate studies at the University of the Pacific, pursuing a Masters of Arts in Curriculum Instruction. Prior to the pandemic, Freda worked for OUSD as a full-time site based substitute teacher focusing on reading intervention. This past summer, she was a very supportive parent to her daughter who was enrolled in our summer program. Freda is providing program site coordination and education consulting this year.

**Guest / Speciality Artists**

**Tristan Cunningham, Clowning, Acting, Act Development, Choreography**

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, Teaching Artist. All Sites, Unicycle, Juggling, Circus History**

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, Teaching Artist. Pathways Program, Summer Program**

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.

**Derique McGee, Hambone Body Percussion, Tech Production, 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.