



Prescott Circus Theatre 2023-2024 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) and has coached youth and received training from 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 its Social Circus Initiatives Committee from 2019 - 2021. 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 for TV and film (*Water for Elephants*). David began work with PCT as a teaching in 2004 and stepped into leadership as Director in 2011.

Ella Rochelle-Lawton, Program Manager

Ella is a multimedia installation artist and designer from San Francisco. She received her BFA and certificate in design from UC Berkeley and developed her skills for arts education through local residencies and museum positions. Ella's practice surrounds local issues of connectivity, mental health, technology, and housing. She brings years of experience as a teaching artist, curriculum consultant, and program developer from her work with SCRAP and Culinary Artistas. This is her first year working with Prescott Circus Theatre.

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). Carolina began with PCT in September 2021. She teaches and oversees programming at Prescott, Pathways for Older Youth, and summer programs while also leading older youth's year-round community performing opportunities.

Cesar Amaruc, Teaching Artist, Prescott Elementary, East Oakland Pride Elementary

Cesar is an accomplished juggler and teaching artist originally from Esteli, Nicaragua where he helped develop and continues to coordinate [El Nido de las Artes](#), a self-managed, cultural youth center with a focus on circus and other performing arts. He has been a featured artist with the International Juggling Association, completed multiple tours with Performers without Borders, and performs with his wife, Aileen Lawlor for festivals throughout the country. This is his second year with Prescott Circus

Maggie Lally, Teaching Artist, Sankofa United, Summer Circus and Academic Program

Maggie is teaching artist, early interventionist, and medical clown whose work integrates mental, physical and social emotional wellness and social justice. Her teaching artist experience includes curriculum development and delivery in theater and circus with Destiny Arts Center, Arcata Playhouse, and Marin Shakespear Company. She has worked as an artist for small independent films and brought her clowning to social intervention and humanitarian settings with the Gesundheit! Institute in Armenia, Guatemala, and Peru. She has a BA in Child Development from Humboldt State

and just completed her Masters of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley. This is her first year with PCT, having begun as a leading teaching artist with the 2023 Summer Circus and Academic program.

Aileen Lawlor. Teaching Artist, Esperanza Elementary, Sankofa Academy, Manzanita Community

[Aileen](#) is an accomplished performing artist and educator whose work spans from the Flow Arts (staff manipulation and juggling), acrobatics, and acting. She has studied with the Movement Theater Studio (NYC), Shelton Theater, and the SF Actor's Workshop. Her film credits include *Not Just Another Zombie Film* (Sophia Rivera) and *August Falls* (Sam Hancock). She has conducted numerous workshops in flow arts with countless students nationally and internationally for festivals and with Performers without Borders. With her husband, Cesar Amaruc, she annually teaches circus to youth in Nicaragua for El Nido de las Artes (see below). This is her second year working with Prescott Circus.

Chelsea "London" Stevens. Teaching Artist, Manzanita Community, East Oakland Pride, Summer Circus and Academic Program

Chelsea, aka London, is an experience actress, model, and emerging teaching artist. Her theater credits include work with Theatre Rhinoceros, *Killing my Lobster*, San Francisco Neo Futurists, and Black Repertory Group. She has film experience with Jeff Nichols/Big Beach Productions, Richard Bailey, and Jude Johnson/Jackie Dallas. She completed an apprenticeship in May 2023 with the African American Shakespear Company's Teaching Artist Development Program. This is her first year with PCT, having begun as a teaching artist with the 2023 Summer Circus and Academic program.

Guest / Specialty 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, Guest 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.

Lance "Derique" McGee. Specialty Teaching Artist, Hambone Body Percussion; Pathways and Summer Teaching Artist; Wellness Consultant and Trainer; Tech Production Lead.

[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.