



## Prescott Circus Theatre 2025-2026 Key Personnel and Teaching Artists

### 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 artist in 2004 and stepped into leadership as Director in 2011.

#### **Tristan Cunningham, Program and Engagement Director**

Tristan Cunningham holds a BFA from S.U.N.Y Purchase Theater Arts and Film Conservatory and has more than two decades of experience in circus, theater, and film as an artist, educator, and director. She grew up in the circus and has taught and performed all over the world from China to Kenya and beyond. Performance credits include California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theater, African American Shakespeare, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Shakespeare, and Circus Bella. Her TV credits include Family Matters, NCIS, SWAT, 911, The Conners and she plays Toni on Reasonable Doubt on Hulu. For the past five years, she has served as Youth Program Director for Cirque School LA, has been coaching and directing shows on and off with Prescott Circus Theatre since 2010, and joined as Program Director in August 2025.

#### **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, 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.

#### **Cesar Amaruc, Teaching Artist**

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. Cesar has been working with Prescott Circus theatre in 2022.

**Flavio Domeni, Teaching Artist**

Flavio is a professional performer and circus arts educator from Brazil with over 19 years teaching experience. He has degrees in Acting and Physical Education and has taught PE, theater, and circus arts in Brazil and the United States. He performs throughout the Bay Area as Frangolino Clown with his own company, [Giro Circo](#). Flavio teaches juggling, balance, and clowning with Kinetic Arts Center, SF Circus Center, and Get Empowered. He has been teaching with Prescott Circus Theatre since 2023.

**Damari Gilbert, Teaching Artist**

Damari is a stilt dancer, juggler, and youth mentor. He grew up in the Prescott Circus Theatre as a student at Prescott Elementary. Damari stayed involved all through junior high and high school, becoming a youth leader with the early stages of PCT's Saturday Circus that evolved into Circus Pathways for Older Youth. He served as an apprentice in PCT's summer program and with Circus Bella's Circus in the Parks. From 2021 – 2024, Damari was enrolled in the United States Military where he served as a warehouse manager. He returned to Oakland in summer of 2024 as Summer Program Class Assistant and now supports afterschool programs and Pathways students on weekend events.

**Salvador Mayorga, Teaching Artist**

Salvador is a juggler originally from the Valparaiso region of Chile. He has been part of Charqui Clown, a group that mixes stilts, juggling, music and clowning, a group that participated in the Off Company of France tour throughout Chile in 2013, showing their shows Les Girafes and Les Roues de Couleurs. Salvador also helped form the ConCon Cultural Center, who have been teaching artistic workshops to the community since 2015. He has been a teaching artist with Prescott Circus Theatre since 2023

**Sparkle Phelps. PCT Summer Academic Lead and Consultant**

Phelps has over 20 years' experience working with youth. She holds a Masters of Science in Special Education and five years' experience as a teacher, resource specialist, and STIP Sub with Oakland Unified School District. She brings exceptional knowledge of child cognitive development and different learning styles. Phelps served as a recreational leader and afterschool program leader where she developed standards aligned recreational and arts programming. She produced an anti-bullying play and dance showcase for K-4 boys.

**Guest / Specialty Artists****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.

**Aileen Lawlor. Teaching Artist, Esperanza Elementary, Sankofa Academy, East Oakland Pride**

[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. She has worked with Prescott Circus Theatre since 2022.