

Hi, and welcome to **Press Pass With the Editor** on the Circus Voices Network brought to you by CircusTalk News. This is Kim Campbell, the editor of CircusTalk News. This monthly news-based podcast which will revolve around the circus and performing arts industry and provide front row access to what's happening around the performance world.

In Breaking News

The Journal Pioneer reported recently that Shirley the elephant died at age 72, after having survived a notorious 1963 circus ship fire. She was the oldest elephant living at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, and the second oldest elephant in North America.

Writer Breanna Holmes of Black America Web wrote an article about the history of UniverSoul circus. She explains how Cedric Walker founded the iconic American UniverSoul Circus with the idea of showcasing Black artists' talents beyond singing and dancing, and now, as COVID restrictions ease, The UniverSoul Circus has held free performances for the homeless community. Their other feats of altruism include raising awareness for the underrepresentation of African Americans on the bone marrow registry.

The Las Vegas Review Journal reports that former Zumanity artists have joined forces to create their own cirque show. The show is Aperó, and tickets are sold in small groups. The artists have adapted their existing acts to a smaller theatre and perform with socially distant measures in place.

In the UK

A compulsory licensing system for buskers is being developed in London. This new order may make busking illegal on more than 1,000 London streets. The new system would require buskers to pay a license fee even to busk in public areas. We got the inside scoop from a UK-based artist who says in their area, the Westminster council has been using the pandemic as a smoke screen to introduce draconian laws to severely restrict street performance in the West End. There have been organized efforts to push back, with the backing of celebrities like Eddie Izzard and organizations like the musicians' union, Culture Hustle and the Secret Comedy Club standing up for street artists.

And for the last bit of news--Apparently, we are # 1!

CircusTalk was honored to discover that our podcast Circus Voices was voted number 1 circus podcast in Feedspot's Top 20 Circus Podcasts You Must Follow in 2021! We were listed among our favorites in the circus podcasting world, such as Circus Stories, The Artist Athlete, Not My Monkeys, and Circus Futures! Thanks, Feedspot and all the circus folk who are tuning in here.

Speaking of circus podcasts, two of our favorites, Hideaway Circus and The Artist Athlete recently celebrated their 100th episode, which is a major milestone for any podcaster! We checked in with Hideaway Circus to ask for their advice and top tips for making it to 100 episodes.

You can catch our podcast Circus Voices as well as the Artists Athlete's 100th episode and Hideaway's 100th episode on CircusTalk news or wherever you get your fine podcasts.

Industry Insights:

In this segment, we take the long view of what is happening in the circus sector.

It has been just over a year since the pandemic has created a quarantine zone around the world blocking live performances. And one year ago last week we held our first panel to discuss concerns and issues that were unique to the circus sector. To mark the occasion of the one year anniversary of this show, last week we had a reunion with the original attendees titled: *Is Circus OK? Urgent Concerns Revisited--One Year into COVID.*

Here are a few quotes from our returning panel guests:

Vincent Messenger of Dolce Vita Spectacles says, "There are going to be less players, less shows and artists and it's going to take a couple of years before things can get better. We will lose a lot of incredible talent and that makes me sad. ...Humanity has a lot to learn from what we have been going through. It's shit that this happened but it's not as bad as the climate change that is coming right now. That's the big thing we're going to have to deal with."

Matthew Jessner of Dragone, "The art form needs to be vital....you're not going to have it (circus) as a career extension from competition... The only

people that are going to survive this are the people for whom it's absolutely vital as a form of artistic expression and that's going to be the end game.”

Nicki Miller, circus artist and director said, “I’m of the belief and opinion that the performing arts is a needle of public health and also a medicine for public health and the robustness of an arts and cultural sector, on any scale in any community, even on a block, is reflective of the amount of vitality and the amount of imagination in that space. We’re in a public health crisis and government does not see what we do as a form of medicine and frankly, I think that is a huge problem.”

Aldofo Rossamaundo of Juggling Magazine said, “As soon as the doors open again... in theaters or in squares, the circus community will find a way, slowly... to get back to our natural inclination to contribute to culture.”

So, a note from the editor here, I moderated both panels, and there was definitely a more realistic and somber evaluation of what has changed in the circus sector over the past year and how long it will take for the field to recover, but you should go watch the whole panel on CircusTalk to avail yourself of some of the more hopeful and concrete advice our panelists have to suggested in order to keep your own practice and the art form vital, as Matthew Jessner alludes to in his quote.

Shows

And here is an example of that hopeful return to live shows...Coming from Australia: The new show *Pulse* by Gravity & Other Myths was reviewed in Limelight Magazine by *Jansson J. Antmann*. Antmann points out that the world premiere of the show was scheduled to be at the Sydney Festival but was postponed due to covide. Now as Australia has gotten the virus more under control and begun to have live performances again, it recently debuted at Adelaide Fringe Festival. Antmann says, “Director Darcy Grant promises a story of cause and effect. The piece also clearly sets out to celebrate the need for human contact, that we have all been so deprived of this past year. In both those aims, *The Pulse* succeeds superbly. However, in the end, it remains an acrobatic showcase.” “The imagery is powerful, even disturbing.” The whole review is available on CircusTalk News.

Did you know you can list your show, festival and workshops on CircusTalk? You can even sell tickets or request Pay What You Can donations for your event. Visit....

Jobs

The CircusTalk job board lists jobs of all sorts for the circus professional as well as the performing arts, from auditions to administrative. Here is a sample of what is up on the board now.

Located in New York, Driftwood Day Camp is looking for flying trapeze and gymnastics instructors. Work experience with children is required; they are looking for a professional and outgoing candidate. Applicants should apply by March 15.

San Francisco Circus Center is looking for a part-time, remote merchandise manager. They are looking for someone dependable and detail-oriented. Applications are due March 28.

Circesteem is seeking a new Program Coordinator adept at multitasking, management, and administration. Applicants should apply by April 16th. (Chicago)

The Online Circus Festival is seeking acts for its showcase. Each participant can apply with only one continuous act video. The acts will be judged by a jury, with the finalists competing for prizes. Apply by April 2

CircusTalk PRO subscribers have access to the CircusTalk job database which is updated daily by circus and performing arts festivals, programmers and circus companies daily as they share their auditions and job information. You should visit the jobs board on CircusTalk to see the most recent offerings!

CircusTalk in April

This month we will be launching a new series on CircusTalk called *360 degrees: Coaching Through a Holistic Lens* hosted by Stacy Clark. Stacy will be exploring what she calls the three C's of circus (coaching, casting and career). This content will be available to CircusTalk PRO members starting in April.

But that doesn't mean you can't get a dose of Stacy's wisdom and expertise about the circus sector. Just check out the latest episode of my recent interview with Stacy on Circus Voices--Audio Explorations with the Editor available on CircusTalk News for all.

Equity & Inclusion page

As part of our ongoing mission to be an inclusive resource for the worldwide circus and multidisciplinary performing arts industry, CircusTalk has created a new page called the Equity & Inclusion page which is open to all visitors to the website. This page will cover topics of inclusion that we feel are of utmost importance in the circus world, namely equity and inclusion for people of all races, genders and abilities or disabilities.

EVENTS

Here is a sampling of some of the events listed on CircusTalk for this April: The Greatest Show Online, created by Green Fools Theatre Society, will stream their online show April 1 with a showcase featuring professionals, and puppets!

MA Digital Open Day, Circomedia, will offer a panel/discussion, on April 10 online. This zoom call will review the structure and purpose of the Circomedia Directing in Circus course. It will include a presentation by Dr Bim Mason and Dr Jonathan Priest, as well as a Q&A with MA students.

You can get links to attend these events in CircusTalk events page.

Now for our Education Spotlight with Lydia

Hi, this is Lydia, circus student & CircusTalk intern, welcome to another Education Spotlight. Let's talk all things auditions. CircArtive School, and ESAC are still accepting applications. CircArtive, located in Germany, will be holding in-person auditions from May 7th- May 9th, and will also have virtual auditions available. ESAC will be holding auditions the first week of July. For NECforCA, auditions will be online, from March 12th-14th. Escuela de Circo Carampa, in Spain, will have ordinary call auditions June 29th - July 1st in person, with results published July 2.

We spoke to the executive director of Circadium, Shana Kennedy. While Circadium's auditions were held online March 17th, Shana shared with us how COVID-19 has affected their audition process. She said, Like all circus schools around the world (that I know of), COVID-19 has required us to shift to an online audition format this year. Students are submitting videos that include selections of performance footage and training footage. We've been very specific about the exercises and skills we need to see demonstrated on the video, so that, as much as possible, our audition team can evaluate the students in the same way they would in person. Then we'll have an online Zoom component, where students will be able to meet faculty and get their questions answered.

We are disappointed not to be able to welcome our auditioners in person this spring to our Circus Campus; but we will all get to know each other as best as we can on Zoom, and students are welcome to come visit campus later in the spring or summer if they'd like a tour. The silver lining to this is that we've all gotten very accustomed to meeting and learning online, and so in future we hope our audition process can be more accessible for people who live too far away to travel in person."

That wraps up this segment of our Education Spotlight. Make sure to check out our advice pieces on CircusTalk for more guidance when it comes to your circus education. We have articles on deciding where to study, tips for applications, and tuition barriers. Thanks for listening and happy auditioning!

It's Time to Meet the Artists

Where did you first offer FBS and what was the response?

This iteration of FBS is quite unique, isn't it? Can you explain who it is for specifically? What is your fondest wish for the outcome of this free course? What from your own background, familial and/or professional, do you bring to the process

Our guest today is writer and historian Steve Ward, author of the new book 'Artistes of Colour; Ethnic Diversity and Representation in the Victorian Circus' published by Modern Vaudeville Press. Steve has a decades long background in education, theatre and clowning and has directed international youth circus festivals, in the UK, Europe and Brazil. He also ran his own award-winning youth circus. Now retired, he is a writer focusing on educational circus and historical aspects of the circus tradition. We asked Steve some questions about how his book about Victorian era artists was inspired and informed by today's Black Lives Matters movement, and he shared some information about the artists he researched in his book, including Pablo Fanque (first Black circus owner), George Christoff (great African rope-dancer), Maccomo (first Black lion tamer in UK) and Miss Lala.

That's it for episode two of the **Press Pass Podcast (PPP)**, your front row access to what's happening in the performance world **and a monthly circus news podcast** brought you by Circus Voices and CircusTalk--**All the Circus News In Your Ear.**

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*hear from you directly; send your podcast-worthy news to
news@circustalk.com*