**HULL – BUILDING A YOUTH CIRCUS**

Having successfully run the London Youth Circus since 2005 we are now looking to extend the offer and ensure that young people from other parts of the country can access training of the highest quality.

Within 2 years of launching the LYC we saw an increase in successful applications from the UK into our internationally recognised BA course (affiliated to the Conservatoire of Dance and Drama). In 2010 we were invited to join the DFES Centre of advanced training scheme and, (with our partners at London Contemporary Dance School) now support 28 young people (8 from outside of London). 2012 was when we launched the BTEC Performing Arts Circus with our local Community College (Hackney) to bridge the gap between the provision offered by LYC/ CAT activities (up to 9 hours a week) to Degree training (full time).

The success of our own work has been on establishing a clear pathway for young artists. This has raised expectations and repositioned circus as a viable option for young people. This has created an aspirational model meaning that young people can see others success and that the dream of working as a circus artist can be a reality.

We recognise that for every successful alumni now touring the world as an artist, countless others have benefited from participating in a physical, challenging fun activity.

Circus is a participatory activity that engages young people who may not take part in traditional sports activities. By its nature it is collaborative rather than competitive – the best circus needs different types of people to thrive. The anarchic, dangerous image of circus gives it natural appeal to risk takers, and the inherent progression lends itself to developing personal responsibility.

As Hull currently has very limited circus activity, Phase 1 (June 16 – September 16) will be to train teachers to begin building an infrastructure for youth circus activities. Phase 2 (September 16 – July 17) will be to establish regular classes for young people aged 15 – 17. These classes will be maintained post 2017, when they will be independent and self-financing. We will maintain close relationships with these groups and will ensure support is in place for these young people to enter our National CAT scheme, BTEC programme and beyond.

**PHASE 1 – Mentoring Programme**

5 potential circus leaders will be recruited in Hull (June – July 16). It is expected that these are people with existing experience in gymnastics, dance, theatre or teaching artists/ educators. They will be selected via a recruitment process. It is offered free at point of delivery.

Once selected, participants will attend a 5 day training programme in London (August 16). This will include our accredited training as well as opportunity to observe and work with our teaching team on the summer school.

After this initial training, each individual is mentored by staff from the National Centre for Circus Arts to establish next steps for them. The focus will be on establishing youth circus activity in their area and we will use our contacts and experience to assist with this. As well as individual support, we plan to facilitate regular meetings with the group to ensure cohesion.

**PHASE 2 – Establishing Youth Circus Classes**

In September 16, we will work with these trainers (supported by National Centre for Circus Arts staff as required) to run a series of 5 taster sessions, aiming to appeal to around 200 potential youth circus members.

The locations of these will be determined by the trainers themselves either in areas where they are already working if looking to add circus to an existing offer or helping them to identify new locations where circus could happen.

From these launch events we hope each trainer is able to recruit around 10 young people.

In November 16 the 5 trainers (along with any other team members they have been working with) will be invited back to London for some further training.

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| June 16 – July 16 | Recruitment of 5 circus leaders  | £1,000 | recruitment - adverts in local press, admin from NCCA/ City of Culture |
| Aug-16 | Training week in London | £10,000 | cost of training (includes training materials and ciriculum), accomidation, food etc at £2000 per person  |
| Aug-16 | Promotion of Launch events  | £1,000 | fliers/ postcards?  |
| September  | Launch Events in Hull | £5,000 | staffing, space hire etc for each event at £1000 per event  |
| November  | Training top up in London  | £6,000 | cost of training, accomidation, food etc at £1200 per person  |
| Throughout  | Establishing regular classes/ maintaining a group cohesion  | £5,000 | individual mentoring for each training at £1000 per person  |
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TOTAL COSTS **£28,000**