

BA (Hons) in Circus Arts
PROSPECTUS

2026–2027



**national centre
for circus arts**

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WELCOME



I am delighted to welcome you to the National Centre for Circus Arts.

Located in the heart of East London, in an area long known for creativity and new ideas, our aim is to immerse as many people as possible in the art of circus. Whether recreationally, or as part of our higher education programme, we are passionate about ensuring the highest standard of training whilst advocating for the art form so that circus is fully visible within the UK's rich cultural tapestry.

Whatever training you may have undertaken before, the National Centre's higher education programme will support you to develop and grow as an artist. This process will give you the tools, understanding and inspiration needed to explore your future as a performer in this vibrant sector and our incredible team, all of them passionate circus specialists with years of professional experience, will be committed to making sure each student has the best possible training.

Alongside this, we maintain ourselves as a hub for over 400 professional circus artists, through subsidised access to the facilities. This means you will find yourself training alongside and meeting this community on a regular basis, providing the opportunity to build personal and professional relationships with practising artists in the sector. After graduation, you will have the opportunity to join that network and will receive a year of free training.

We have always recognised the power that the performing arts has in holding a mirror up to society and teaching us about the world around us, and circus is especially well-placed to do this. Circus can transcend traditional language barriers and offers those creating it a truly pliable art form through which to tell their stories and share their lived experience, reflecting their place in the world in the most authentic way.

So, as you embark on your higher education journey with us here at the National Centre, our aim will be to provide our world-class training to help you hone your technical circus skills, cement your approach to experimentation and innovation and ultimately, allow you to decide what kind of circus artist you want to be.

I look forward to welcoming you to the National Centre for Circus Arts and to meeting you at auditions.

Dan Cowdrill
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CENTRE

The National Centre for Circus Arts is a registered charity and one of Europe's leading providers of circus education. Based in a magnificent Victorian power station adjacent to Hoxton Square, we involve around 900 people every week in the training, creation and performance of circus.

Our diverse range of work includes support for professional artists, recreational classes for adults and young people, and progressive training for under-18s in the London Youth Circus. Our Higher Education course is a full three-year BA (Hons) in Circus Arts degree. We enrol around 30 new students each year and our graduates have gone on to join companies such as Giffords, Cirque du Soleil, Ockham's Razor, Cirque Eloize, Seven Fingers, Circa and GOM, or set up their own circus production companies such as Barely Methodical Troupe, Brainfools and Revel Puck.

Here at the National Centre, we celebrate over 30 years of fostering the development of circus professionals across the UK.



OUR HIGHER EDUCATION MISSION IS TO...

Be a centre of artistic excellence

Be experimental and innovative

Nurture bravery and boldness

Embrace the idea of trial and error as part of the process of discovery

Develop creative openness in our students and teachers

Be a research facility

Actively and strategically search out the next generation of artists and collaborators

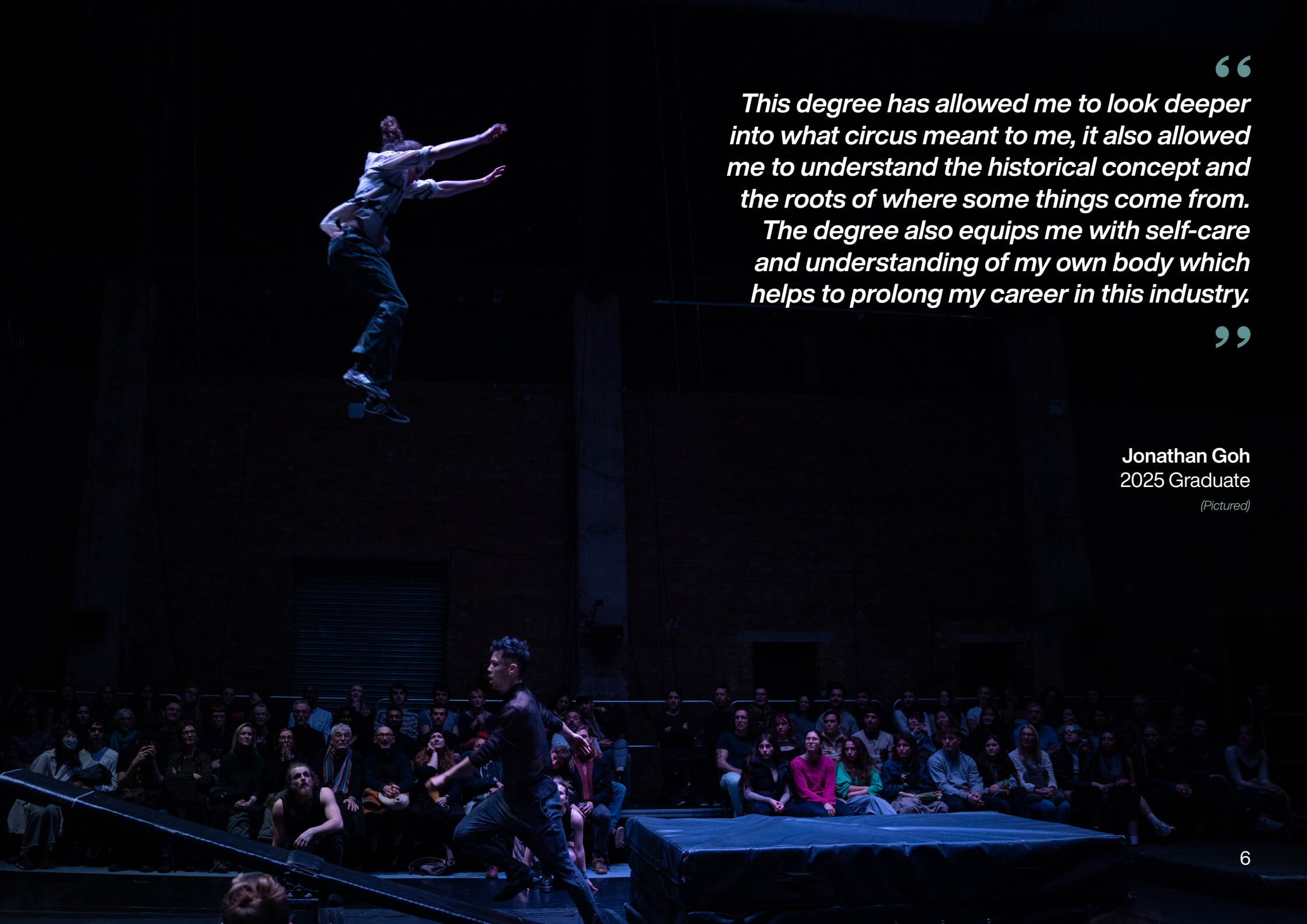
Be a space for personal growth

Create excitement within the organisation and outside

Value circus artistry by driving:

- **Curiosity**
- **Challenge to industry perceptions**
- **Cultural engagement**
- **Collaborative practice**





“

This degree has allowed me to look deeper into what circus meant to me, it also allowed me to understand the historical concept and the roots of where some things come from.

The degree also equips me with self-care and understanding of my own body which helps to prolong my career in this industry.

”

Jonathan Goh
2025 Graduate

(Pictured)

FACILITIES

Retaining the features and character of an imposing industrial space, our building began life as an electricity generating station in 1896.

The site was rescued from dereliction in 1994 and following extensive restoration and reconstruction, the building gained a new lease of life as a unique facility for circus arts.

Our facilities include:

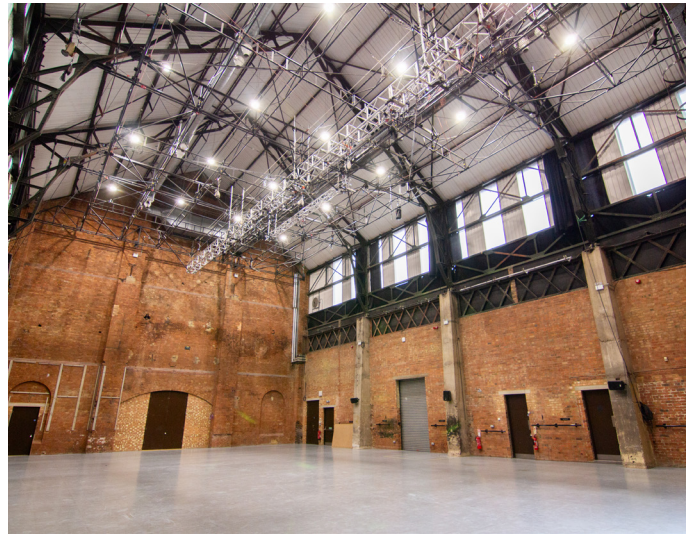
“

It is a beautiful building to study in and the facilities support our learning across a range of disciplines.

”

Talisman Gabriel
Graduate

**TAKE A DIGITAL TOUR OF THE
BUILDING**



COMBUSTION CHAMBER

Our largest space at an impressive 425 sq m



GENERATING CHAMBER

Our second largest space at 280 sq m



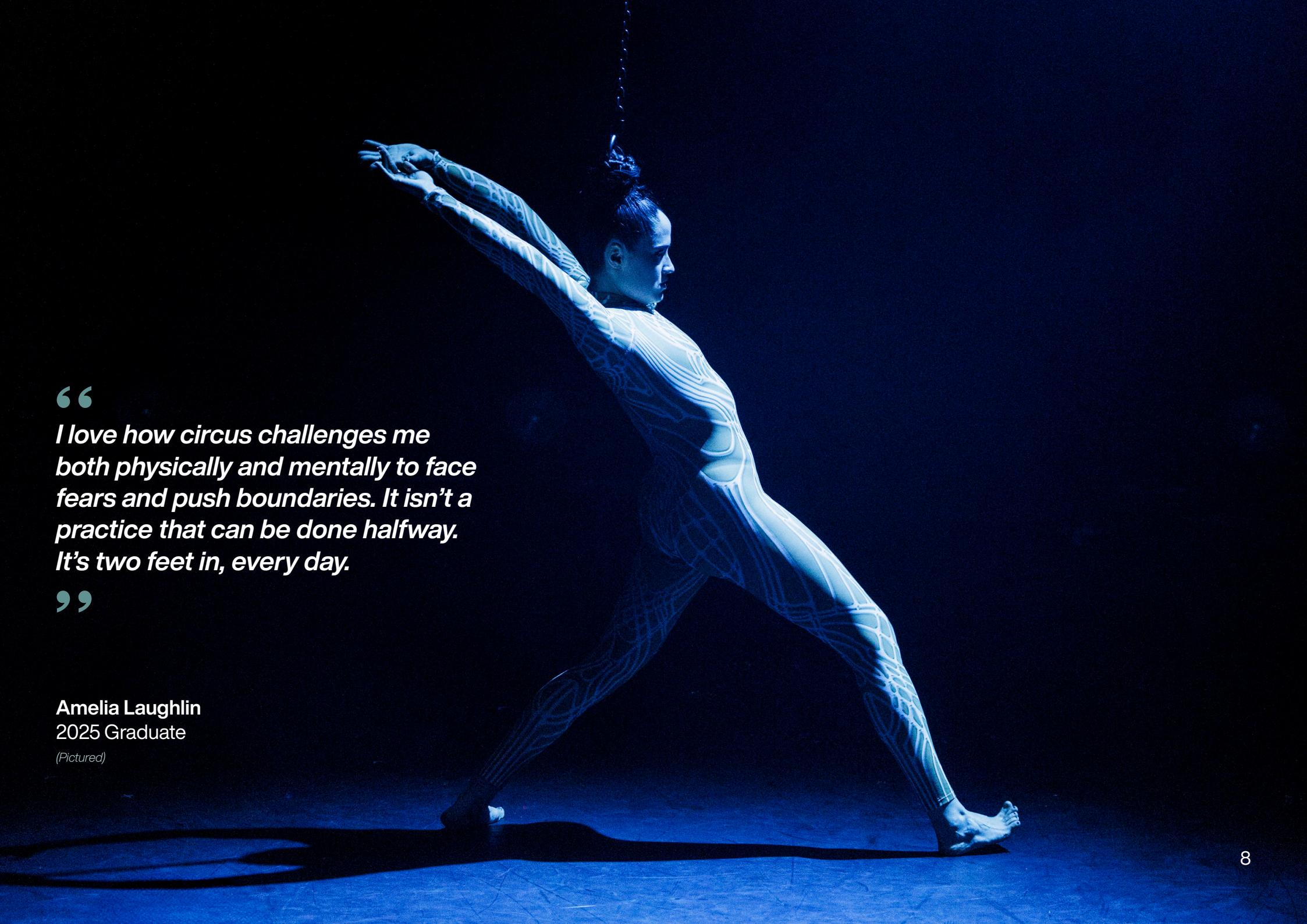
CREATION STUDIO

A purpose-built rehearsal studio for circus, theatre and dance



THE COURTYARD

A large outdoor space



“

I love how circus challenges me both physically and mentally to face fears and push boundaries. It isn't a practice that can be done halfway. It's two feet in, every day.

”

Amelia Laughlin
2025 Graduate

(Pictured)

BA (HONS) IN CIRCUS ARTS

DURATION:

Three years (full-time), September – July

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be 18 or over on entry.
- Applicants will be able to demonstrate their intent to pursue professional employment in circus arts.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate a proficiency in both written and verbal English language. This would normally be GCSE English or equivalent International English Language Testing System. Overseas students may be required to take a Secure English Language Test (SELT) prior to entry in order to meet visa requirements at B2 level.
- Applicants must fulfil both parts of the admissions process. If the applicant is from outside the UK or they are unable to attend an audition day they may request to submit a full video audition (instead of attending in-person).
- There are additional requirements for direct entry into Year two of the BA. [Learn more here.](#)

[HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI](#)



BA (HONS) IN CIRCUS ARTS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Challenge perceptions of what circus is and explore multiple ways of approaching creative work. As well as building on what you know, you will develop a curiosity to bring to all areas of your practice. The BA (Hons) in Circus Arts aims to develop a broad range of skills required as a professional circus artist and training is intensive in order to sustain physical progression. There is a strong focus on artistic exploration, creativity and collaboration, as well as contextual studies and industry skills. As students move through the degree a higher level of research, autonomy and independent practice is expected. Students will go through a specialisation process to enable them to find one circus discipline best suited to them.

Throughout the degree students perform as both an individual and ensemble. The final year usually culminates in a public performance of students' own devised pieces in their chosen specialisation, giving them the platform to showcase themselves as graduating circus artists.

[CHECK OUT A RECENT ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION](#)



BA (HONS) IN CIRCUS ARTS

Alongside circus discipline training, students will study other areas that contribute to them graduating as rounded circus practitioners, such as:

Movement and composition

Theatre and devising

Group acrobatics

Anatomy, physiology & conditioning

Theories of performance and practice

Contemporary circus in the 21st Century

Ensemble work

Circus from the technical / production perspective

Preparing for the performance industry

Facilitating workshops and the practice of circus teaching



SPECIALISATION PROCESS

Specialisation happens during the first term of the BA (Hons) Degree as part of the Circus Discipline module. It is a collaborative process between the student and staff, leading to a decision about which circus discipline is suited both physically and creatively to that person. Those who audition with a good level of competence in a specific discipline may have the option to specialise early. All discipline choices are based on the availability of teachers, space restrictions and ability.

Students are only taught in one discipline, however, they can explore other disciplines as part of their own independent learning.

The National Centre offers the following disciplines:

Big Space*

Cyr wheel

Teeterboard

**Big Space discipline options will be by specific invitation only.*

Acrobatics

Hand to hand

Chinese pole

Acro dance

Hand balancing

Banquine



Juggling and Manipulation

Ball, club and ring juggling

Hula hoop

Hats, cigar boxes, ball spinning and
'gentleman juggling'

Aerial

Single point trapeze

Doubles trapeze

Hoop

Rope

Silks

Straps

Multi cord (basic level of rope
and silks required)

Net/loop (basic level of rope
and silks required)

Aerial pole (basic level of
Chinese pole required)



“

*The ensemble production process was magical.
Making something with all my friends and
colleagues was a life-changing experience.*

”



Adam Havsky
2024 graduate

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

PART 1: APPLY AND SUBMIT VIDEO

- Fill out our online degree application form. Applications open on our website in October and close the following March each year. Deadlines will be confirmed on our website.
- Submit your video link within the application.

[SEE PART 1 VIDEO GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA HERE](#)

- Once we have received your application form and video, we will invite you to a one-day audition as long as you meet the entry requirements.

PART 2: ATTEND AN IN-PERSON AUDITION

- Auditions are held in London around March / April time each year. Specific dates will be confirmed on our website [here](#).
- Over the course of the day, candidates will follow working sessions similar to classes held on the course. The day will include a meet and greet, a theatre workshop, a movement workshop, and a short presentation. Selected candidates will be asked to stay for an individual discussion and group Q&A session.



VIDEO AUDITIONS

If you're based outside the UK, or can't attend one of our scheduled audition dates, you can choose to audition entirely by video.

Our video audition pathway is open year-round, giving you the flexibility to apply when the time feels right for you. To be considered for entry in the same academic year, please send your video audition by 15 August 2026. Submissions received after this point will be automatically carried forward for consideration the following year.

As we can only accept up to 30 students per year group, we strongly encourage you to apply as early as possible. This gives you the best chance of securing a place should you be successful. Our full video audition requirements and criteria can be found via the button below:

[FULL VIDEO AUDITION REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA](#)

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN AUDITIONS?

The audition panel are looking for your suitability to study on our degree course and potential for a career in circus arts. Having experience in circus skills is desirable but not essential and does not exclude you from getting on the course. The main areas the panel will be looking at are your:

- Technical potential
- Creative potential
- Willingness to collaborate and an open approach to learning

Panel scores and comments from both parts of the audition will be used to select candidates for individual discussions.

For further details about the admissions process and to read our audition criteria please:

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



“

It's incredible to see students develop their creative voices and then see this translated into their circus discipline in a unique and exciting way.

”

Michaela O'Connor
Director of *Monsters*, BA2 Ensemble Show 2025



FEES AND FUNDING

STUDENTS CLASSED AS 'HOME FEE' STATUS

Fees for new entrants classed as 'Home Fee' status in 2026/27 are £9,535* on entry.

STUDENTS CLASSED AS 'OVERSEAS FEE' (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS 'INTERNATIONAL') STATUS

Fees for new entrants classed as 'Overseas Fee' status in 2026/27 are £18,000* on entry.

You will be required to pay the full cost of your tuition fees. If necessary, Government loans, scholarships or sponsorship should be sought from your country of origin. All students classed as Overseas Fee status must have funding or, if self-funded, appropriate funds in place, prior to starting the programme.

For fee status eligibility, you can find information on the [UKCISA website](#) and our [Fees and Funding webpage](#)

*Home and Overseas Fees for subsequent years may be subject to increases year on year in line with inflation and government policy. This will be clearly communicated to applicants when they are offered a place, if not before.

STUDENT LOANS

Eligible Home Fee students that are new to higher education can apply for a tuition fee loan through the Student Loans Company. You will not have to pay anything up front and you will not have to repay anything until after you have graduated and are earning a minimum salary. For more information on the current repayment thresholds, please visit the government's student finance page [here](#).

Depending on your residency status you may also be able to apply for a maintenance loan for living expenses from the government. This is means tested and dependent on household income.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The National Centre for Circus Arts offers the following scholarships in the form of fee waivers or cash bursaries to eligible students each academic year.

- National Centre Household Income Assessed Scholarship
- Leverhulme Arts Scholarship
- National Centre Hardship Fund
- Care Leavers and Estranged Students

Further information can be found via the button below.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

STUDENT SUPPORT

National Centre students have access to:

- Counselling and guidance for mental health and wellbeing
- Academic and English Language support
- Physical health support
- Financial assistance

Further information on our student support services can be found below:

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We encourage applications from all backgrounds and offer places solely on the basis of potential and suitability for a career in circus. If you need access support for your audition, please get in touch with the [Admissions and Registry Manager](#)



LIVING IN LONDON

The National Centre for Circus Arts is located in the heart of East London, one of the world's leading performing arts capitals and one of the most diverse cities in the UK, with over 270 nationalities and 300 languages spoken. The National Centre is proud to call Hoxton our home – a bustling hub for creatives, birthplace of the 90s Brit Art scene and minutes away from Brick Lane, Columbia Road and Shoreditch High Street.

London hosts a regular bill of circus including performances at the Southbank Centre, Saddlers Wells, regular Underbelly pop-ups, Jacksons Lane, Shoreditch Town Hall, the Roundhouse and the Royal Albert Hall. There are also an array of circus-focussed cabaret venues across the capital, embedding circus at the very heart of the creative scene.

ACCOMMODATION

We appreciate that finding accommodation in London can be a daunting task, especially for international students. The National Centre for Circus Arts does not have its own student accommodation; however, we do help our new students find their own accommodation in flatshares with other National Centre students. We find it is beneficial for our students to live together due to the intensity of the degree programme and the mutual understanding of its challenges.

An information pack will be sent to successful applicants detailing helpful information on finding and securing accommodation.

Students representing the National Centre in the Pride London Parade



“
I love London. Ever since I was a child I wanted to live there. It's the perfect place to study as everything is on your doorstep or a quick bus or tube ride away.
”

Lucy Potter
2025 Graduate

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The National Centre for Circus Arts welcomes international students each academic year. We understand that studying in a new country is a big step and we endeavour to support our students as much as possible prior to and throughout their time studying with us. A full information pack tailored for international students will be sent to successful applicants.

VISAS AND IMMIGRATION (INCLUDING EU, EEA AND SWISS STUDENTS)

The National Centre is registered with UK Visas and Immigration, enabling us to sponsor international students. International applicants that are accepted onto a Higher Education course at the National Centre, including those coming from the EU, EEA and Switzerland, will be required to apply for a student visa online at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) through the new [Points-Based Immigration System](#). Further guidance and information can be found on our website [here](#).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

All students have access to English language support for assignments whilst on the course. Conditional offers may be given on the basis of applicants passing the Secure English Language Test (SELT). Please see entry requirements in the BA (Hons) section for more information.

Further information on visas and being an international student in London can be found at [ukcisa.org.uk](https://www.ukcisa.org.uk) and bia.homeoffice.gov.uk.



“

There is a big emphasis on student support and the HE team are always here to help with whatever difficulties we may encounter. They are always present and ready to respond to any questions. Joining the National Centre, I felt supported any time I needed it.

”



Lauriane Pradeau
BA3 Student

TEACHERS & STAFF



ADRIAN PORTER

Head of Higher Education Delivery

Adrian is a former national squad gymnast who has been teaching circus for over 25 years. He teaches floor-based and aerial disciplines, specialising in hand to hand, Russian swing, Chinese pole and Icarian Games. He oversaw acrobatic development for the Millennium Dome Show and went on to co-write the first iteration of the Foundation degree program at the National Centre.

As a circus performer, he has shown versatility as a trampolinist at the Royal Festival Hall; troupe maison acrobat in several UK corporate shows; and several projects as an aerialist, notably John-Paul Zaccarini's Hyperactive. Adrian has toured with Cirque du Soleil as head coach, as well as acting as choreographer/dramaturge. His freelance work includes collaborations with the youth circus program at the Roundhouse London and the 2012 Paralympics closing ceremony.

He is a Board member of FEDEC and part of the Erasmus+ drive considering mobility around riggers and technicians across the world. He also sits on the board of Jacksons Lane Theatre in Highgate as well as on the steering committee for the Healthy Conservatoires Network.



AMY WELBOURN

Higher Education Strand Manager (Circus Discipline)

Amy has over 20 years' experience working in the performing arts and education sector. She teaches several disciplines at the National Centre, including cyr wheel, acrobatics, trampoline and handstands. Amy has worked internationally as an acrobat, circus performer and teacher and is also a qualified Personal Trainer and Sports Massage Therapist.

Her educational work includes a PGCHE, teaching at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Italia Conti and many other dance, drama and youth centres. Her private work includes coaching those of all levels in circus and acrobatic disciplines on a one-to-one basis for TV and West End theatre. Amy also trained as a gymnast at an international level for 15 years and coached those in the sport.



MAXWELL SLY

Academic Administrator

Maxwell Sly has worked in arts academia as a senior lecturer and an administrator since 2019. He has taught a mix of movement, devising, and arts theory and research to students at drama schools across the UK, and was awarded a Teaching Excellence Award in 2022 for playful and inclusive practices. Outside of teaching, Max completed a BA (Hons) in Physical

Theatre at St Mary's University in Twickenham, and an MA in Creative Practice from Leeds Arts University where he developed an arts-based-research practice in mime and ontology. He is one half of The Ordinary People, an art duo that has performed experimental clown, puppet and mime pieces internationally. Beyond this Max has done everything under the sun from running a hotel in the mountains of Japan, to being a barman in a country pub, to setting up festivals in rural Iceland. He loves old horror films, overeating, D&D and lots of karaoke.

TEACHERS & STAFF



IRAD TIMBERLAKE

Admissions and Registry Manager (Maternity Cover)

Irada is a dynamic arts professional whose career bridges creativity, performance, education, and wellbeing. Irad spent two seasons with the National Youth Dance Company, performing and also creating original choreographic works for the company.

He went on to tour internationally with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures in Swan Lake and The Nutcracker, and modelled for Alexander McQueen at Paris Fashion Week, collaborating on diverse artistic projects that celebrated his creativity.

With 25 years' teaching experience, Irad combines artistry with leadership and student support. For six years he was Assistant Manager of the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) at The Place, leading admissions, wellbeing, and safeguarding under the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme. A certified Mental Health & Physical First Aider and Deputy Safeguarding Officer, he ensures safe, inclusive environments for young artists.

He also lectures at Central School of Speech and Drama, delivers child safeguarding workshops for Rambert Grades, and leads soundbaths.



SARA OWERS

Higher Education Administration Officer

Sara recently joined the Higher Education team at the National Centre for Circus Arts in August 2025, bringing a wealth of arts administration experience from her previous role at the Centre for Advanced Training at The Place in London. She holds a First-Class BSc in Marketing & Management and a Distinction in MSc Project Management from the University of Sussex.

With a genuine commitment to supporting young people in the arts, Sara has also volunteered at Brighton Women's Centre, providing communications

and fundraising support. Sara's professional background spans a variety of roles, including positions at a tech start-up, primary and secondary schools across Sussex, and as a freelance nanny.

Outside of work, Sara enjoys a variety of sports and fitness activities, including dance, yoga, bouldering, netball, barre, and anything that encourages movement, self-expression, and nurtures both her physical health and mental well-being.



ANTIGONE EXTON-WHITE

Student Support Manager

Antigone has extensive experience of both pastoral and academic support of students in vocational training, having worked for 20 years at

London Contemporary Dance School before joining the National Centre in 2019. She is a dyslexia specialist, with a postgraduate qualification in supporting students with specific learning through higher education. Antigone is also an English language teacher and has a Degree in English Literature from the University of London.



ALICE JACKSON

Head of Learning and Access

A trained gymnast, Alice also has a BA Hons Degree in Dance and Cultures Studies, during which she studied Contemporary and African

Dance. Previously a full-time teacher at the National Circus, her role now manages the Learning and Participation team and activities. This includes oversight of the London Youth Circus, Centre for Advanced Training scheme and outreach work in communities and schools. Alice occasionally teaches, but has a larger focus on overseeing and supporting Teacher Development work.

OTHER SPECIALIST STAFF

As well as our core Higher Education team, the National Centre works with over 35 teachers who teach across a range of circus disciplines, movement, theatre, acrobatics, contextual studies and circus health practice. Additionally, we invite guest artists to work on projects with the students each year.

FIND OUT MORE INFO ABOUT THE NATIONAL CENTRE TEACHERS

Our Technical and Rigging department not only ensure the safety of the students, but also teach invaluable rigging and production related skills.

Other departments include: Learning and Participation, Professional Artist Development, Venue Hire, Operations, Public Programmes, Marketing, Fundraising, Finance and HR.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

The University of Kent validates our BA (Hons) degree. Kent work with us to assure that the quality of our programme meets the expectations of Higher Education courses in England. On completion of the course, you will receive your award from the University of Kent and will be invited to attend graduation at Rochester Cathedral.

As a Higher Education student at the National Centre you are subject to the regulations of the University of Kent, and the National Centre ensures that its assessment procedures are in line with Kent's regulations.

University of Kent regulations:
kent.ac.uk/regulations

University of
Kent



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When our students graduate from National Centre for Circus Arts, we actively continue to engage with them as artists and support their work.

Our Open Training for professional circus artists, allows students, graduates and circus artists to access independent training in our building. Through access to our space, graduates are able to continue to train and grow, seeking inspiration and collaborating with other circus professionals.

Our Open Training members also receive our weekly newsletter that details any circus opportunities and the timetable of availability in our building. After graduating, students are eligible for one year free training at National Centre.

If teaching circus is a passion of yours, assistant teacher and teacher roles are available here regularly and we encourage both students and graduates to apply.



“

The National Centre's degree course gave me permission to explore parts of my creative curiosity that other artistic organisations have left me feeling alienated or devalued for.

”

Alex Morton Graduate
2022 Graduate

(Pictured)



WHERE WILL IT TAKE YOU?

Our graduates go on to various routes of employment such as performance, directing, teaching, postgraduate study and more. Many remain closely linked to the organisation as professional members, accessing training and networking opportunities. Some graduates take on teaching roles at the National Centre, particularly with our youth and recreational programmes. Those who perform around the world often return to train in the space whenever they are back in the UK.



LUKE HALLGARTON
BA 2015

Luke is a circus practitioner, a director, writer and producer. After graduating from the National Centre, Luke went on to study at Le Lido Centre des Arts du Cirque de Toulouse (France). Following graduation from Le Lido, Luke went on to tour as a performer with NoFit State Circus and Gandini Juggling, alongside developing and producing his own work. Luke is the artistic director of The Revel Puck Circus, a London based circus company that focuses on producing and developing circus works for temporary structures

and unconventional spaces. Alongside the Revel Pucks professional productions, the company has a strong passion and belief in supporting emerging artists and developing training opportunities as pathways into the creative industries. Through their tours the company offers training in event crewing, front of house staffing, producing and production management. The Local Pucks Series is a platforming and development opportunity for local artists and creatives.



TARA TALLAND
BA, 2021

Tara Talland is an aerial hoop and hair hanging artist working in a variety of performance genres and venues. After graduating at the end of the Covid lockdowns and the dry spell of shuttered venues, she was thrilled to join Troupe Vertigo's US and Canadian tours of *A Cirque*

Holiday in 2021 and 2022. Under the direction of Ockham's Razor's Alex Harvey & Charlotte Mooney, she reprised her aerial hoop devised piece *Ode to the Party Girl* for the 2022 National Centre for Circus Arts Gala. She performs regularly in London cabarets, while also joining The Revel Puck Circus' *Wing Scuffle Spectacular* in the summer of 2023, and the 2023 Christmas presentation of *The Ruckus*. From 2024 - 2025, she toured with NoFit State Circus in *Sabotage*, directed by Firenza Guidi across the UK, as well as international festivals Winterfest (Salzburg), Biennale Internationale des Arts du Cirque (Marseille), and Galway International Arts Festival (Galway). In the Fall of 2025, she joined the cast of *Come Alive! The Greatest Showman Circus Spectacular* in London's West End. In creating new work, Tara continues to seek inspiration from literature, visual arts, music, and her peers and mentors – particularly those from her time at the National Centre.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE YOU?



ALEX MORTON
BA 2022

In 2022 Alex was a part of Ockham's Razors show *PUBLIC*, which toured around the UK and Europe for 2 years. He then co created a disco and archery themed juggling show with Ed Stephens and Dani Rejano of Nearly There Yet. In the spring of 2024, he joined the English National Ballet as a juggler in their re-staging of *Swan Lake* at the Royal Albert Hall. Most recently he has been working alongside Neus Gil Cortes in the R&D phase of her new work *Bending Reality*. Working with close friends on his own collaborative projects has been a highlight of Alex's career since graduating.



KORRI AULAKH
BA 2012

Since graduating from the National Centre, Korri's career has taken him to some of the world's most remarkable stages. He has worked with Cirque du Soleil Events, the Finnish National Opera, Disney, and Celebrity Cruises, and performed at The BRIT Awards alongside Dua Lipa and Ed Sheeran. His versatile artistry has also led to projects across television, cabaret, stunt performance, live shows, and major international events. Korri is currently performing in Cirque du Soleil's *O* in Las Vegas—a role he describes as a dream come true.



IMANI VITAL
BA 2019

Since graduating from the National Centre, Imani has worked with different companies around the UK such as Private Drama Events, Anorak Productions, Fool's Delight and UpSwing performing aerial straps. For the past 2 years Imani has been touring with the amazing Revel Puck Circus.

Alongside performing, Imani models for multiple brands, magazines & music videos (Adidas, Luncheon Magazine, WHN magazine).



HELGA EHRENBUSCH
BA 2024

After graduating from the National Centre, Helga moved straight to Brisbane to begin working with renowned Australian contemporary circus company CIRCA. She was part of the creation of *Wolf*, which premiered in 2024 at the Chamäleon Theatre in Berlin, where the company performed 138 shows across a five-month season. Since then, Helga has toured internationally with CIRCA, performing in acclaimed productions including *Humans 2.0*, *En Masse*, *Sacre*, *Urlicht / Primal Light*, and more.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE YOU?



LYDIA HARPER
BA, 2013

Lydia is currently working as an Artistic Director for Cirque du Soleil. She is responsible for the show *OVO*, with which she is touring Europe. After graduating Lydia was a founding member of Silver Lining, a contemporary circus company formed with other National Centre graduates as a performer and creative before embarking on the creation and 4-year tour of Cirque Du Soleil's *TORUK*. Lydia then moved into directing, setting up her own company LEAP and directing

FATcrobat, Measure Up, To A Cummulus and *Birdwatching*. Lydia Harper also has a MFA in Theatre Directing from East 15 acting school. Recently Lydia worked as Circus Director for *Extraordinary Bodies* and returned to the National Centre to direct the 2023 ensemble show *Relativity*.



JACK HORNER
BA 2006

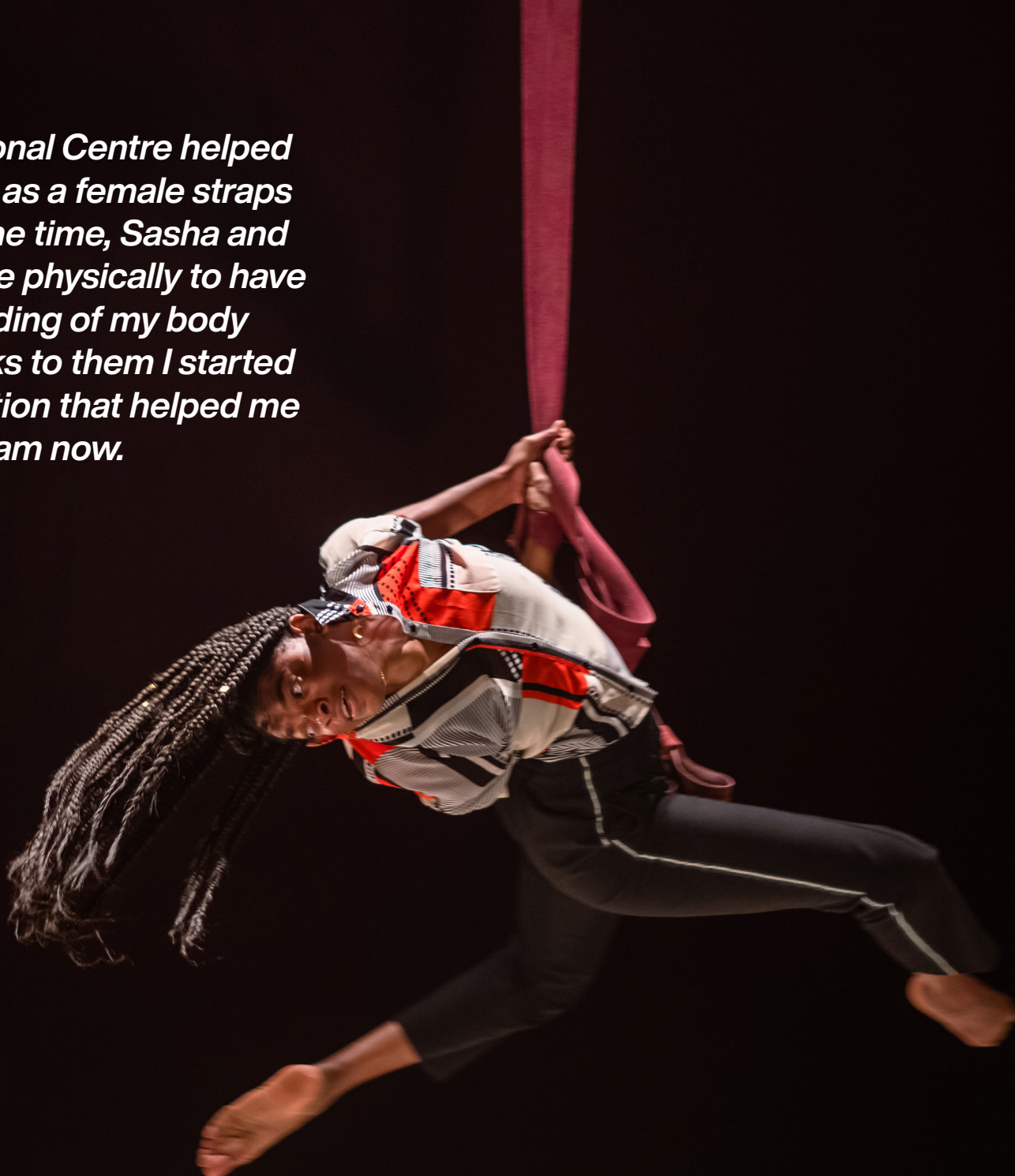
Jack is a theatre director, movement specialist, and creative leader with over 20 years' experience across theatre, film, and live entertainment. A graduate of the pioneering BA (Hons) in Circus Arts, he achieved a 1st-class honours before building a career defined by bold vision, dynamic stagecraft, and inventive physical storytelling. His credits include *Moulin Rouge!* (Piccadilly Theatre), *MJ the Musical* (Prince Edward Theatre), Disney's *Frozen*, *Wicked* (Universal Pictures),

Antony & Cleopatra (Shakespeare's Globe), the RSC, the RBO, and Cirque du Soleil. Founder and Senior Creative Director of Acrobatic Arts Circus Entertainment, Jack crafts visually striking, emotionally resonant, and politically charged productions that captivate audiences worldwide.

“

The degree at the National Centre helped me to have confidence as a female straps artist. My teachers at the time, Sasha and Felipe, really pushed me physically to have the skill and understanding of my body that I have today. Thanks to them I started off with a good foundation that helped me flourish into the artist I am now.

”



**THE
REVEL
PUCK
CIRCUS**

Imani Vital
2019 Graduate

(Pictured – Photo courtesy of Revel Puck Circus)

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions and Registry Managers.

Irad Timberlake and Joanna Young
admissions@nationalcircus.org.uk

[FAQs page](#)

National Centre for Circus Arts
Coronet Street, London, N1 6HD
020 7613 4141
info@nationalcircus.org.uk

Old Street tube
5 mins

Shoreditch High Street Overground
10 mins

Hoxton Overground
10 mins

Liverpool Street
15 mins

St Pancras International
2 stops, Northern Line



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