



2/3 aprile 2022 - Foligno

VI edizione Convegno Internazionale



**CIRCO SOCIALE: UN'ALTRA RISORSA**

**ContaminArti**

il circo come incontro

## Presentations and bio

### Saturday morning

#### Opening with:

AltroCirco and Teatro Zut

#### **Presentation of the project Circus as Intercultural Encounter (CIE)**

**Ilaria Bessone and Ophélie Mercier, CIE Research Coordination Team**

The project Circus as Intercultural Encounter, funded by Anefore, the Luxembourg National Agency for Erasmus +, gathered circus schools in Luxembourg, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Palestine, Slovenia, the University College Dublin and Caravan Circus Network, with the goal of exploring circus practices in relation to complex themes such as encounter, diversity, interculturality, through a qualitative research process and the publication of a handbook to develop the intercultural competences of circus trainers and organisations. As part of the Research Coordination Team (together with Olga Sorzano, independent researcher and Alice Feldman, UCD), Ilaria Bessone and Ophélie Mercier will present the process activated, the outcomes and the challenges encountered by the project from its beginning in 2019.

#### **Weak ties made strong. Building social support through circus**

**Karine Lavoie, Elise Leblac, Cirque Hors Piste, Montréal**

Why is social circus a powerful tool to encounter others? How, through the practice of circus arts, communities can be built and favor social inclusion? Through the seven pillars of social circus, we will explore how circus can act as invaluable social support by creating safe spaces where expression, creativity and diversity are celebrated. We will also share how the development of our social circus network Cirkaskina helped build a strong community in Canada amongst youth, practitioners and organizations from different cultural backgrounds.

The feeling of being part of a big family that goes beyond the usual community; the pleasure of feeling less alone; the love and solidarity felt (Cirkaskina 2020)

\*all presentations on saturday morning will be translated from Italian to English and vice versa



# Saturday afternoon

## Un corpo da favola / a Fairytale Body

**Daniele Giangreco**

A fairytale body is a body that tells a story. It doesn't need any words, it doesn't matter how it is. It just needs to be alive. We'll play with our body trying to transform it or going through conflicts to find new and original stories. A workshop to build together a body that surprises and facilitates the encounter.

\*language: all languages

## Feeling part. Observation and self-observation of the relationship between space and nature towards a hypothesis of aware encounters with the environment and the species

**Luca Spitoni**

We will walk together a path through considerations and scenarios of possible worlds. We will discuss the environment, landscape and architecture with the common denominator of sustainability, cohabitation and collaboration between species. We will draw to represent spaces and analyse the ways we inhabit them, how and if we own them and why, how they mark our lives.

We will try to broaden our look on the need to reorganise cohabitation with the other species of this planet starting from rethinking spaces, redefining material and immaterial heritage, and keeping in mind all the opportunities opened up by a different approach, more respectful and ethical in relation to the "other" species.

\*language: ITA

## Circus as Intercultural Encounter - Values

**Julian Cottenie and Hanne Kauppinen**

The goal of this workshop is to increase diversity of views and representativeness in discussion and introduction of key values emerging from the fieldwork and steer away from uncritical terms and definitions. A 'speed dating' format will be applied, where participants can exchange their different meanings, definitions and views.

\*language: ITA/ENG

## Circus as Intercultural Encounter – Stories, Reflexivity & Relevant Tools, Exercises

**Nadine Innocenzi and Mohammad Abusakha**

Participants will be engaged in art-based social research practice exercises in order to explore key themes such as **communication, connection & inclusion**. Participants will be invited to share stories about the difficulties they have in these 3 areas.

\*language: ITA/ENG

## Panel on circus projects in the world

The following organisations and projects will be presented, with a specific focus on social



circus work with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and issues of periphery, identity, memory and conflict. Discussion will be facilitated by Will Borrell (Caravan Circus Network)

- Cirquenciel, Lebanon. Presentation by Rose Abou Elias
- Nablus Circus School, Palestine. Presentation by Mohammed Shafee.
- École de Cirque de Bruxelles. Presentation by Céline d'Urse
- Clowns without borders Belgium. Presentation by Serena Galante

\*language: ITA/ENG

## Sunday morning

### Encounters at the circus Tommaso Negri

Workshop about the participant-centered leading approach. Circus is a surprise and a wonder, and the first wonder of social circus are its participants. How can we enhance this wonder and implement a transfer of power from whoever leads to whoever is led? A path to discover together how to make the circus a truly inclusive and listening tool, to encourage an encounter with oneself and with others.

\*language: ITA/ENG

### Circus at Strike: mobilisation of circus artists around community pots and street festivals in Colombia Olga Lucia Sorzano and Angello Olaya

On 28 April 2021 a national strike was called in Colombia to protest against a tax reform in the middle of the pandemic crisis. The 28A, as the protest is called, is the largest social and political mobilisation in Colombia's recent times. Afro-Indigenous people, artists, LGBT activists, peasants, students, women, workers, and many more, came together to protest against violence and social injustice. The riot police responded with brutality, while violent episodes stained the majority of peaceful demonstrations. A discredit campaign was launched by the government and their associated media. Despite violence and the misrepresentation of the protest, people continued marching while artists and cultural expressions took over the streets.

Circus, a peripheral art form, massively demonstrated in the 28A. The main cities turned into circus stages; silk ropes with 'dead' bodies hanging from bridges, acrobatics, jumps of hope, hula-hoops, and camouflaged clowns adorned the public space. Collectives such as 'CircoAlParo' (CircusAtStrike) or 'Saltando por la Paz' (jumping for peace) emerged to embody peaceful protests.



This presentation offers the case of social protests as sites to perform and to come together. Sites that not only transform societies but demonstrate the existence of alternative forms of cultural production beyond neoliberalism and self promotion. It pays particular attention to CircoAlParo, a movement that gathered over 600 circus artists in Bogotá defying violence, the police, hunger and the mainstream media; supporting each other while covering the needs that governments and cultural authorities have been unable to provide.

\*language: ENG

### **Marketplace of local associations: presentations, workshops, informal exchanges.**

The marketplace will include the “unexpected livingroom” created by Miguel Manzano: different people will be invited to have a conversation about their projects.

## Sunday afternoon

### **Panel progetti di circo sociale**

Strani Vari project (Italy -Bosnia): **providing recreational and educational services to children and adolescents, during the summer, in Zavidovici, Bosnia Erzegovina.**

Presentation by Lara Miglietti, Luca Rabellino, Dino Sinanovic

La cultura bosniaca è geograficamente vicina a noi, ma mediaticamente esclusa dai nostri dialoghi. Quello che è successo in Bosnia Erzegovina durante gli anni Novanta è storia contemporanea e difficilmente si studia a scuola. Crediamo sia fondamentale che i giovani conoscano, attraverso l’esperienza, luoghi e persone per “scavalcare” il luogo comune e il pregiudizio. Conoscere la guerra dei Balcani significa creare consapevolezza che la costruzione del pregiudizio e dell’odio sono state possibili nella nostra Europa, come i fatti recenti ci ricordano tristemente. Ciò significa prendere atto del fatto che non siamo immuni. I percorsi proposti mirano a lavorare approfonditamente: si vogliono promuovere la presa di coscienza del proprio posizionamento e del valore delle proprie azioni. Saper guardare alla complessità del passato, significa implementare gli strumenti culturali finalizzati a costruire e diffondere una cultura fondata sulla pace, sulla partecipazione e sulla convivenza.

Scoprire e analizzare la storia e le memorie di una comunità, permette di comprendere che non esiste una storia già scritta. Ciascun individuo, partecipando e facendo le proprie scelte, può determinare il corso della Storia. Questi obiettivi vengono realizzati attraverso lezioni frontali, visite ai luoghi della memoria, incontri con testimoni e riflessioni collettive. Si tende quindi ad una costruzione di un senso di appartenenza collettiva, inclusiva, che non identifica noi/loro come entità antagoniste, ma come appartenenti ad una comunità estesa, con l’arte come mezzo di riscatto sociale. La riflessione sulle esperienze vissute, tramite



attività dinamiche e attive, è il punto decisivo e conclusivo delle attività proposte: le arti, in ogni loro forma ma con un sguardo in più verso quelle circensi, vengono utilizzate come mezzo di introspezione ed espressione, con la realizzazione e la messa in scena di spettacoli, performance e video documentari.

Circo Sotto Sopra / APS Artelego (Bologna, IT): **Move up! wellbeing of minors and families living in Croce del Bianco** (Quartiere San Donato San Vitale). Presentation by Jorge Balbàs e Arianna Garulli.

Nel 2019 2020 Circo Sotto Sopra ha creato e realizzato un progetto di circo sociale chiamato "ALT! Circolare Arti Libera Tutti", collaborando con associazioni ed enti del territorio per il benessere dei minori e delle famiglie della zona periferica della Croce del Bianco (Quartiere San Donato San Vitale, Bologna). "ALT!" ha permesso all'associazione di misurarsi con un territorio ricco di potenzialità, ma ancora oggi visto come luogo di disagio e degrado. "MOVE UP!" rappresenta un andare avanti, un'elaborazione di quanto monitorato e appreso finora, con una visione più chiara sui bisogni del territorio e dei suoi abitanti, con l'obiettivo a lungo termine di creare sul territorio un polo culturale off e underground, in modo da riqualificare la zona dal basso, partendo dai suoi stessi abitanti e in particolar modo dai più piccoli.

\*language: ITA

**Pioneer women...we are irresponsible or brave. Is it still possible to create spaces of encounter?**

**Natalia Bavar e Daniele Giangreco**

"I travel a lot and observe a lot. When I come back I start from the voids I feel in the context I live in to fill them up with necessary contents. If the place I like does not exist, I create it".

Gaining insights into the visions of Natalia Bavar, anthropologist and cultural project manager, who funded festival "Cirk Fantastik", artistic space "Circo Instabile", literary café "la Cité", we will open up a discussion in order to give life, space and shape to our ideas. Daniele Giangreco will facilitate the debate.

\*language: ITA

**Non Violent Communication**

**Simone Scampoli**

Techniques of nonviolent language will be presented and applied to educational and community contexts. The impact of the nonviolent approach on relations and encounters will be discussed.

Nonviolent communication facilitates connection. It is a practical language which can be learnt to expand empathy, honesty, strength and compassion in our personal and professional relations. It can help us build bridges between individuals, couples, families, teams, organisations and communities.



Nonviolence acknowledges that all the people are part of a system and live in an interdependent way - what happens to a person, concerns and has an impact on the others, and viceversa. And this affects the future of all human beings.

\*language: ITA

### **Finding the game. Tools of gamification.**

#### **Jorge Luis Socorro Batista**

As a discipline, gamification comes from the academic field, as theoretical and structured study of games. Gamification is based on the potential of any human activity to become a game. It allows us to contaminate our daily experiences with the power of play, helping us to keep motivation and develop creativity. "Finding the game" will teach us to create and find ourselves, to be open to the unexpected, to celebrate failure and imagine other realities. In this presentation/workshop we will learn techniques and tools to apply gamification to our projects. We will work with symbols, made up words, examples and unexpected collaborations.

\*language: all languages

## Speakers' BIOs

### **Rose Abou Elias**

Chef de Programme Jeunesse at arcenciel, started my path in youth work since 2016 through volunteering local and international organizations. Grew experience in Sports for Social impact. Driven by my passion of playing the flower sticks I met with cirquenciel, a contemporary social circus school in Beirut back in 2018 and started working on youth projects in coordination with them in 2019. Today, I support cirquenciel's strategic development and management.

### **Mohammad Abusakha**

Pedagogical coordinator, Palestinian Circus School

### **Natalia Bavar**

Author of 4 publications on the multicultural city, artistic director of contemporary circus, music and theatre festivals, educator, trainer in social arts projects, author of illustrated tales on inclusion and multiculturalism, reports on nomadic lifestyle, independent spaces, social arts in Brasil, Ethiopia, Iran.

### **Ilaria Bessone**

Holds a PhD in Sociology and Methodology of Social Research at the Graduate School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan. Her project explores the contemporary circus movement in Turin in relation to the current changing configurations of art, work and the body. She holds an MSc in International Migration and Social Cohesion (University of Amsterdam, Deusto and University College Dublin), and a Master's in Development Studies (University of Turin). She is also a circus teacher and performer and collaborates with



different organisations and networks in Italy and abroad. She is a trainer and the research coordinator of AltroCirco – project for the development of social circus in Italy.

### **Julian Cottenie**

### **Caterina Gentili**

Studied arts didactics at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome. Over the years, she has created ways to approach the arts and theatre in collaboration with schools and associations in Umbria, including Circo Corsaro.

### **Daniele Giangreco**

Performer, actor and trainer in Italy, Belgium, Spain, Finland, UK, Kenya, Japan, Palestine, Israel. Co-founder of AltroCirco

### **Nadine Innocenzi**

Researcher and professional in the field of human mobility, migration and asylum, is specialized on migration politics, refugee's rights and protection of vulnerable groups. In the CIE project she works on the elaboration and management of the research based on the Mondi Possibili project, in Foligno, with Lamine Kidiera, cultural mediator.

### **Hanne Kauppinen**

Hanne Kauppinen is a circus educator who has been teaching circus in various contexts outside the traditional art field for the last decade. In the recent years she has also been facilitating inclusion trainings for circus trainers and youth workers. She holds an MA in Contemporary Contexts of Arts from Turku Arts Academy. In the CIE project Hanne has been working as a field researcher for Sirkus Magenta (Fin) studying Magenta's suburb circus.

### **Malamine Kidiera**

Cultural mediator and researcher in the project Circus as Intercultural Encounter within the project Mondi Possibili (Circo Corsaro) in Foligno. Presidente dell'associazione Nocera e Africa insieme.

### ***Karine Lavoie- Executive director Cirque Hors Piste***

Karine Lavoie has more than 20 years of experience in social circus, first as a trainer in various countries around the world, as a training advisor at Cirque du Soleil, as a speaker and today with Cirque Hors Piste. She also accumulated a solid expertise in community intervention, having worked for more than 10 years with people experiencing homelessness or living in precarious situations. In addition to her involvement in the social intervention milieu, Karine has worked as a circus artist in various events and festivals. After traveling many countries in the world spreading her passion for social circus, she is now fully dedicated to the development of the approach here in Canada with the solid conviction that circus is a strong vector of social transformation in communities.

### ***Élise Leblanc- Social circus trainer- Cirque Hors Piste***

As a multidisciplinary circus artist who has perfected and performed her art for 9 years in Latin America, Élise returned to Montreal in 2012 and has since been particularly interested in social circus and alternative circus performances.



Graduated from the National Circus School as an instructor she has, over the years, developed an expertise in social circus. His vast career, both in Canada and internationally, includes the establishment of a small aerials and movement school with adapted classes (Venezuela), the start of a circus space for children in conflict zones (Colombia), the creation of shows with groups of young people living with an intellectual disability and, for several years now, various social circus projects in collaboration with Cirque Hors Piste, with marginalized populations.

### **Miguel Manzano Olmos**

Architect and circus trainer, gymnastic instructor, member of circus association "Donyet Ardit" (Alicante), and of the Spanish Federation of youth circus schools (FEECSE), former director and founder of the Latinoamerican Circus and Arts School in Jalisco (ELCIRCA). Currently works as circus educator for Circo Corsaro in Scampia (Naples)

### **Ophélie Mercier**

Ophelie is currently the Development Manager of Caravan Circus Network but she will leave that position in January 2020 to start a PhD in Anthropology in Ghent University in which she will focus on Egyptian artists in exile in Europe. She lived in Egypt for four years where she worked as a street clown in "Outa Hamra" collective where she performed street shows and facilitated theatre and circus workshops bringing together local Egyptian and refugee communities. She wrote an academic article analysing the various performing tools at stake to emphasise this cooperation between communities. She holds an MSc in Conflict Violence and Development (University of London, SOAS) during which she wrote a dissertation on theatre as a means of resistance in Palestine with a focus on the Freedom Theatre.

### **Lara Miglietti**

Aerial acrobatics teacher and social circus trainer, holds a degree in Social and Cultural Education and a circus degree from Flic circus school. Works in circus, social and youth projects in Italy and Bosnia. Since 2015 is the referent for social circus and trainer within the Strani Vari project.

### **Tommaso Negri**

Trainer for trainers and project manager of AltroCirco, project for social circus development and networking in Italy.

Graduated before in philosophy and later as pedagogical circus trainer at Ecole de Cirque de Brussels. He teaches circus as a socio-educative tool, specially in France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Ecuador and Italy, building a participative and inclusive methodology to facilitate participants personal development through circus arts. Since 2016 he's a trainer freelance for the Cirque du Soleil, specially working in South America.

Pedagogical director of various training proposal, such as: "LCL" Learner-Centered-Learning in circus education and "CATE", training for basic trainer in Europe, two European projects supported by E.Y.C.O., and "FiX", the Italian Social Circus Training Programme.

In 2021 he published the handbook "CIRCUS EDUCATION THROUGH LCL METHODOLOGY".



Today he's juggling between the direction of AltroCirco and the management of his circus school in Siena, Badabam.

### **Luca Rabellino**

Holds a degree in social work from the University of Turin. Since 2017 works as an educator with people with disabilities and collaborates with different associations in Alba (CN). Member and volunteer of Strani Vari.

### **Simone Scampoli**

Activist for the liberation of animals, currently collaborates with Santuario Capra Libera Tutti and Disobbedienza Animale. With non profit organisations Animal Rebellion and Extinction Rebellion, he trains as a trainer in nonviolent communication.

### **Mohammed Shafee**

Manager of Nablus Circus school, founding member of the Assirk Assaghir Association since 2004. He holds a Master's degree in business and administration, and is a trainer in Financial management in Palestine art incubator. "I believe in developing creative industry work in the circus to sustain our organization".

### **Dino Sinanovic**

Dino Sinanovic, born in 1987 in Brcko (Bosnia Erzegovina). He holds a degree in SOciology from the University of Sarajevo, since 2013 works for ALD and the Institute for youth development KULT in Sarajevo. He coordinates social and youth projects on decision making, regional cooperation, local democracy, promotion of tourism. He is the referent of trani vari in Bosnia.

### **Jorge Luis Socorro Batista**

Architect with a master degree in gamification and transmedial narration.

2013 Co-founder of collective Aplatanaq, develops participatory approaches to architectural planning.

2017 Researcher at the University of Alicante.

2019 Creates Ludicrous (<http://ludicrous.es/>), a platform for creative thinking through games.

### **Olga Lucia Sorzano**

Olga is an independent researcher working at the crossroads of cultural, performance and decolonial studies. She holds a PhD in Cultural Policy and Management from City University of London. Her work focuses on the analysis of (in)visible figures and undervalued art forms such as circus and Afro-Indigenous practices.

### **Luca Spitoni**

Former researcher at the Faculty of Architecture of Florence, teacher and former director of NGO Carretera Central. He collaborates with Menis Arquitectos, a multicultural collective. In Italy, he created multidisciplinary working spaces such as MAO STUDIO and MAO SCHOOL experimenting with architecture and arts, in order to create synergies between territories, school environment and artistic-professional contexts. Activist for Animal Save Movement.



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