

## **INFORMATION & APPLICATION**

### **A COMPREHENSIVE VOCATIONAL COURSE**

Active since 2003, our course is designed to give an all-around training in Circus Arts. It includes intense practice of the main Circus disciplines, Acting, modern Dance, and personnel project development. We follow the guidelines and actively participate in both the Swiss Federation of circus Schools and the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC).

### **FIVE MAIN GOALS**

- 1) Achieve a high level of technical and artistic skills in one or two chosen disciplines.
- 2) Define and develop personal artistic competencies through various group/individual projects
- 3) Develop adequate teaching skills as Circus Arts trainers for 3 hours per week.
- 4) Develop a complete personal project that will evolve into a full Circus Act.
- 5) Develop the technical/artistic abilities needed to EITHER integrate the job market as Circus Artists or as teachers in Circus Arts, OR to prepare for entrance into higher international Diploma Schools.

### **OUR PROGRAM**

This course aims at acquiring an all-around training as a Circus Artist. It covers the main Circus disciplines, Circus Arts teaching techniques, Acting, Modern Dance, Project development techniques, and finally, a personalized teaching in a chosen discipline, according to the individual project and needs of each student. The artistic dimension is present during the entire course, and there are several opportunities for public performances throughout each year. Workshops with Circus Arts professionals or external performing opportunities will be scheduled whenever possible, and students will be designing and creating 2 annual shows as group projects, in December and June. The end of year show in June should not only integrate all acquired physical and artistic skills, but also develop and clarify their individual artistic approach. At the end of the course, students obtain a School Certificate.

- Candidates will teach Circus Arts to junior students of the school for 3 hours/week as part of their training.
- Any additional teaching beyond 3 hours to external groups will be paid according to current rates or deducted from fees.

Our teachers are all qualified Circus or Performing Arts professionals, and benefit from regular continuing education. External workshops are organized with other Living Arts professionals whenever possible.

## OUR TEACHERS

**Sophie Albasini**

Artistic Director and Administrator.  
Teaches Contorsion, Acting and staging ,  
Tight wire, and all Aerial disciplines.

**Zygmunt Biegaj**

Technical Director. Teaches hand to hand,  
balancing, Cyr wheel, russian swing, teeter  
board and hungarian board

**Valérie Renault**

Modern dance teacher  
and choreographer

**Simon Progin**

Teaches conditioning, Acrobatics,  
Trampoline, teeter board and  
hungarian board.

**David Widmer**

Teaches conditioning, Juggling,  
hand to hand, monocycle,  
acrobatics, teeter board and  
hungarian board

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS & BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

- You must be 16 years old or over, and hold an End of mandatory School Certificate or equivalent paper.
- You must have a solid previous experience in Circus Arts or in another acrobatic/artistic activity such as dance, gymnastics, trampoline, ice skating etc...
- You must demonstrate high physical and artistic abilities, as well as motivation and autonomy.
- Applicants must participate in a two-day audition process. (Dates are scheduled for April) and send fully completed forms as listed further down.

- In Spring, 2 selection days.
- Course starts at the end of August.
- Course ends at the end of June.
- 30 hours per week attendance.
- 3 hours per week teaching.
- Occasional contracts as performers or teachers.

## **DISCIPLINES**

### **Fitness :**

Compulsory : General and specific.

### **Acrobatics :**

Compulsory : Tumbling, Trampolining, teeter and hungarian board.

Optional : Russian swing/bar, Chinese Pole, Icarian games, Cyr wheel.

### **Equilibristics:**

Compulsory : Balancing on floor/sticks/chair. Hand-to-hand.

Optional : Banquine, Unicycle, Stilts, free-standing ladder, Tightwire.

### **Aerial :**

Optional : Silks, straps, cradle, hoop, rope, static/swinging trapeze.

### **Object Manipulation:**

Optional : juggling, contact juggling, diabolo, hula-hoop.

### **Acting:**

Compulsory : Theater and Comedy Play - Character creation.

### **Modern Dance:**

Compulsory : Contemporary dance Techniques, body expression.

### **Creative Process and Project Management**

Compulsory : Regular creation and review assignments, group or individual projects.

**External teaching:** Outings - occasional Festivals - Shows - external workshops.

## **FEES**

Fees have been reviewed to 350 Swiss Francs/month to match European prices.

- September to December: 1'400 CHF **due before the course starts.**
- January to March: 1'050 CHF **due at the beginning of January.**
- April to June: 1'050 CHF **due at the beginning of April.**

SIGNING UP TO THE ZOFY VOCATIONAL COURSE IMPLIES THAT YOU HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND ACCEPTED THE TUITION COSTS, PROGRAMME, CONDITIONS AND RULES. AFTER SIGNING YOUR ADMISSION CONTRACT, YOU WILL BE COMMITTED TO PAY FOR THE FULL YEAR TUITION (10 months). IN THE EVENT OF EARLY RESIGNATION FROM THE COURSE, FEES WILL REMAIN DUE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

## CONDITIONS

### **1. Age**

Minimum age is 16 at time of enrollment.

### **2. Enrollment**

Make sure you have fully read the course description, conditions and fees before applying.

### **3. Agenda**

Course dates and holidays follow the local schools' calendar.

### **4. Absences**

Absences without pre-warning will not be tolerated. Missed practises will not be replaced nor reimbursed except for serious illness or accidents, in approval with the school Director.

### **5. Safety**

While teaching juniors, students are responsible for respecting and applying all safety measures as described at the beginning of the course.

### **6. Clothing, accessories, hygiene**

Out of respect for all, students will dress in a non offensive comfortable manner for daily practice as well as teaching, and demonstrate good hygiene and general courtesy. Accessories, gadgets and mobile phones will be kept in your lockers.

### **7. Non Swiss nationals**

Non Swiss students must obtain a residency permit. Europeans do not need to apply for student permit until they get here. Non europeans must start this procedure in their own country. Conditions are strict and vary on age and nationalities.

### **8. Daily living**

There are no scholarships available. Students are responsible for their own accommodation, day to day maintenance, and health & living costs. We do keep a list of local hosting families for young applicants, and many students choose shared accomodation.

### **9. Circus related teaching**

Students will teach junior students of the school for 3 hours/week as part of their training. For liability reasons, students may only teach Circus Arts to juniors of our school.

### **10. External contracts**

- Earnings from external contracts obtained by Zofy (teaching or performing) will be deducted off the student's fees.

### **DOCUMENTS TO SEND FOR APPLICATION**

- Curriculum Vitae describing yourself, general and circus education and abilities.
- Video links of you performing or practising.
- Medical Certificate of good health (= Stating the absence of any medical conditions that are non compatible with intense practice of Circus Acrobatics), and up-to-date vaccinations. Applicants will be financially responsible for medical insurance and occasional medical expenses.
- Signed Application form
- 2 passport photos
- Copy of your ID documents
- Official proof of solvency (Bank statement, payslip...)
- CE /AELE questionnaire for Non Swiss Nationals : contact the School to ask for one

**Send to : ÉCOLE DE CIRQUE ZOFY  
Route du Simplon 31 - 1906 Charrat-Valais  
SWITZERLAND**



**APPLICATION TO THE 2020/2021 ZOFY VOCATIONAL COURSE**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I participate to the 2 days auditions scheduled on APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 from 9am to 5pm.

or

Selections are over / I am unable to participate to selection days, I am therefore sending you a video link demonstrating my abilities.

I DECLARE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND ACCEPT THE SCHEDULE, CONDITIONS, RULES AND FEES OF THE ZOFY CIRCUS SCHOOL. NEXT COURSE BEGINS ON AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 2020.

Place and date :

Signature :

*We will contact you shortly after auditions, and hopefully again in July, to send you your weekly schedule, your yearly contract, and the first trimester bill for school fees. Once you have signed and sent your yearly contract, the full year's fee will be due.*