



## **Circus Spire Youth Troupe Program Description Audition Packet - Season 2012/13**

**Thank you for your interest in Kinetic Arts Center's Circus Spire Youth Troupe. The following will provide you with a complete description of our program. If you are interested in applying to Oakland School for the Arts (OSA) with a Circus Arts Emphasis, you must also meet the OSA Admission requirements and deadlines as described on [www.OakArts.org](http://www.OakArts.org). Your audition will, however, be with Kinetic Arts Center on the date listed below.**

**Please complete and return the following items at the deadlines listed below:**

- 1. OSA Circus Arts/Circus Spire Youth Troupe General Auditions Form - Fall 2012,**
- 2. Kinetic Arts Center's Release and Waiver, Medical Information,**
- 3. Act Music/Equipment Needs List.**

### **Audition Dates**

- **Sun Feb 12, 2012 11am (materials due Feb 1, 2012),**
- **Sun May 20, 2012 11am (materials due May 7, 2012).**

**Audition Location: Kinetic Arts Center, 785 7<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland, CA 94607**

### **Program Description**

Kinetic Arts Center's Circus Spire Youth Performance Troupe (8 – 18 years) is a pre-professional, multi-disciplinary circus youth troupe committed to excellence in circus arts training and performance. Circus Spire provides as many formal and informal performance opportunities in as many circus arts skills available to us. These opportunities include (but not limited to): multi-week, full-length productions, individual act development, local off-site festivals and events, on-site special events (i.e., birthday parties), showcases/cabarets.

Although Kinetic Arts Center knows not everyone participating in the Circus Spire program dreams of running away to the circus as a life-choice, we provide training and focus as if they do. This way everyone can have a choice AND all participants are trained at the highest level of expertise. We know that by providing this training opportunity to each Circus Spire member in a safe and enriching environment, each child will be a better and more empowered individual than they were before. Although many of our students go on to enroll in professional circus training programs in other places as well as tour with other circuses around the country, most important is that every child in Circus Spire will know throughout their lives they can reach personal goals because they have already done so in circus.

### **Training Levels**

Circus Spire Youth Performance Troupe is a commitment. Currently, the program is separated out into three training levels: Circus Spire 1, Circus Spire 2, Circus Spire 3 with Level 1 beginning or entry level troupers and Level 3 the oldest and/or most advanced. Please review the **Description of Circus Spire Training Levels**

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(2011/12) for the hourly commitment and basic skills required for each level. Generally, every new Circus Spire trouper will enter as a Level 1 regardless of age and experience to assure a consistent foundation in strength and conditioning within the troupe.

### Acceptance

Circus Spire Youth Performance Troupe is a commitment for both the student and the parents/guardians. Some troupers will join the troupe at the beginning of the summer and some will join the troupe at the end of the summer. We will notify you and your child within the week regarding acceptance, schedule a planning meeting with you and your child and formulate a training plan for the next year. Often we ask students to work on two or three goals during the summer and then re-evaluate acceptance in early September. All incoming Troupers enter at the Level 1 training program.

Once you and your child agree to participate in the troupe, we will expect that you understand the commitment and are supportive of your child's choice to pursue circus arts with us. We have lots of opportunities for your child to grow and become confident in their abilities to thrive here. We have a great group of parents and their children and we encourage you to take advantage of any of the outside or additional group activities. Sometimes we go as a group to see other performances; sometimes we just go to someone's house for dinner. We will always have plenty of things to do around the facilities to help us keep up with things and try to make 'work parties' and performance chores as playful as possible.

### Rehearsals and Performances

Circus Spire is a performance-based program in addition to developing individual stand-alone acts. Attendance is expected that during any rehearsal process for any production or performance. A position in the ensemble in the March show is guaranteed (provided your child is present for all rehearsals) for every Circus Spire trouper. **A solo is never guaranteed in any performance** and is determined based on a number of factors (i.e., strength, readiness, artistic balance, etc.). We also try to add as many performance opportunities as we can throughout the year i.e., Oakland's Art and Soul, Out and About Rockridge, on-site birthdays and special events.

It is expected that every trouper will be in attendance for every rehearsal scheduled for any production or performance. If your child is not present at rehearsals, the integrity of the production is jeopardized for everyone and your child is left out of critical act development. A production calendar is posted on the Circus Spire Parent Google Group and is updated regularly. **Attendance is mandatory during all rehearsals and subject to change throughout the rehearsal process.**

### Communication Tools

Every trouper parent is added to the Google Parent Group and critical information is communicated through this list serve vehicle in addition to using the Circus Spire Events calendar. OSA-Circus Arts parents have a separate Google Group (in addition to the general OSA groups). Regular email address are used to create a gmail account which will give you access to the group. **Finding ways to effectively communicate with everyone in a timely and efficient manner is a constant challenge.** We appreciate your patience, especially around rehearsal times.

### Fees and Payment Policy

To help us keep the business moving in a smooth manner, we have developed payment options to fit your lifestyle. Regardless of the option choice, please note that all payments are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and late on the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you can not do this, call us to make alternative payment arrangements. A \$25 late fee will be added to each account with late payments. Please don't make us do this. We don't want to charge you more money and we know you don't want to pay it. We'd rather see you use that towards a really nice dinner with

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your family. Fees for the 2011/12 season are currently: Level 1-\$2,700; Level 2-\$3,600; Level 3-\$4,080 plus additional specialty classes offered at a deep discount. As of February 2012, fees for the 2012-13 year (September – August) have not been set. Please be assured that we work very hard to keep these fees as low as we possibly can. The first and last month of each season is required by September 30th. The last month from one season is carried over to the next. The difference between one year and the next will adjust the last month amount accordingly.

### **Cancellation and Vacations**

The tuition for Circus Spire is based on a 12 month, year-long commitment (Sept – Aug) to the program and includes coach fees, costumes (with the exception of some leotards, stage makeup, undergarments, AND the general performance ‘uniform’, etc), sets, lights and other production expenses (we will also need volunteer help from parents all along the way). *If your child is not attending classes due to vacations or school obligations, your commitment financially and your child’s placement does not go on vacation with you.* All payments must continue based on the Payment Option you choose. If you plan to leave the troupe, please give KAC a month notice prior to assure the necessary actions to replace your child in acts that affect the whole troupe. Your last month will be applied at this time.

### **Participation in OSA Circus Arts program**

Enrollment in Oakland School for the Arts through the Circus Spire program is contingent on several factors:

- 1) each student must meet OSA admission requirements – space is limited,
- 2) each student must be enrolled in the Circus Spire program at KAC,
- 3) OSA does not FINANCIALLY SUPPORT fees for Circus Spire or student participation in the OSA Circus Arts program – fees are the responsibility of parent(s) or guardian(s) of each student,
- 4) approval into the Circus Arts program at OSA is made by KAC’s Artistic Director and is contingent on acceptance into the Circus Spire program.

**Attachment A: Description of Circus Spire Training Levels (2011/12)**

Although the tables indicate specific requirements which need to be met to advance in Circus Spire, these are general skills. Each child is considered an individual in their training. *Training levels and advancement requirements are subject to change.*

<b>Circus Spire Youth Troupe</b>	<b>Basic Skills Required for Enrollment (1)</b>	<b>Weekly Hour Commitment (2)</b>	<b>Circus Spire Level Meeting Days &amp; Times</b>	<b>Add On Classes (3)</b>
<b>Level 1</b>	Show up on time for all classes and rehearsals Serious about training and reaching goals Can stay focused No specific skills necessary Artistic Director Approval	4 + hrs/week 1-2 Add On Classes Additional 10 hours/ week during rehearsal periods	Thurs 4:30 – 6:30pm Sats 1:30 – 3:30pm	1+ Add On Classes - TBD
Aerial				
Contortion				
Acro				
Clown				
Juggle				
Push Ups				
Pull Ups				
Hand Stands				
<b>Level 2</b>	Core strength, hold body alignment Commitment to a chosen focus Demonstrated ability Artistic Director Approval	6+ hrs/week 2+ Add On classes in their focus Plus 10 hours/ week during rehearsal periods	Weds 4:00 – 6:00 Fri 5:30 – 7:30pm Sats 1:30 – 3:30pm	2+ Add On Classes - TBD
Aerial	3-minutes of choreography			
Contortion	TBD with Coach			
Acro				
Clown	Push self outside comfort zone			
Juggle	3 – ball cascade, Club Passing			
Push Ups	20			
Pull Ups	5			
Hand Stands	One (1) minute assisted			
<b>Level 3</b>	Higher level of performance capabilities Ability to self-train Willingness to coach/learn to coach Professional attitude and/or Artistic Director Approval	6+ hrs/week ~ 2hrs in Self Training 2 or more add on classes 1 hr Weekly Semi-Private Training Plus 10 hrs/ wk during rehearsal periods PR Material Development	Weds 4:00 – 6:00 Fri 5:30 – 7:30pm Sats 1:30 – 3:30pm Independent Training and Private Lessons TBD ~3hrs	2 - 3 Add On Classes - TBD
Aerialist	3 - 5 minute completed act			
Contortion	3 - 5 minute completed act			
Acro	3 - 5 minute completed act			
Clown	3 - 5 minute completed act			
Juggle	3 - 5 minute Juggling act			
Push Ups	40			
Pull Ups	10			
Hand Stands	Free Standing – all the time			

1. These requirements are general. Graduation from one level to the next is also determined by reaching goals or objectives set with student and Artistic Director.
2. Add on classes are separate from Circus Spire classes and are not included in the monthly fees. It is expected that 6 weeks prior to the opening of any major show – all Spire time is considered rehearsal time and inexcusable as are all additional rehearsals. You are not charged extra for additional rehearsals.
3. It is expected that each Trouper will take add on classes in addition to the Spire time as determined by individual training goals and expectations.