

NEWS FROM:

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Kinetic Arts Center's Senior Circus Spire Trouper (and Berkeley High School Senior) is College-Bound to Circus School in Quebec City

(Oakland) May 10, 2010 - Although we do not expect every child to grow up and run away to the circus, some of them do. Kinetic Arts Center is proud to announce senior Circus Spire Youth Performance trouper, Frances Tiffin, was accepted into the prestigious circus professional training program at *École de cirque de Québec* (www.ecoledecirque.com). In addition, Frances is a cast member of the highly competitive and rigorous touring company Circus Smirkus (www.smirkus.org) and doesn't come home before going off to college in the fall. She keeps going north to Quebec City where she will start a professional training program with the intention to making circus arts a career.

"Frances also went the traditional university application route as a back up and was accepted to over eight universities around the country. All along her heart was set on circus school instead of the university track but she had to get through auditions first. She auditioned for *École de cirque de Québec* in Canada in April and got notified about her acceptance as the enrollment letters were coming in for the other colleges." says her father Steven Tiffin. "It was all very exciting at the time but *École de cirque de Québec* is her college choice and her mother and I support her desire to pursue her circus passion. But . . . Quebec City is a long way away – she won't get to come home at every school holiday. We will miss her." So will Kinetic Arts Center.

Frances has been training in circus arts since she was 11 years old (she is now 18). She is the senior member of Circus Spire Youth Performance Troupe at Kinetic Arts Center and as an older trouper part of her job is to take an active role in training the younger Troupers. In addition to her own 15 hours of circus training and hours of homework late into the evening (she has a full load at Berkeley High School including three Advanced Placement classes), she has been training the Level 1 Troupers every Thursday since September. This gives Frances experience in teaching as well as sharing her Circus Smirkus performance experiences with everyone.

Her favorite circus skills include: trapeze (static), clowning, hand-to-hand and acrobatics. "Training never stops," says Frances, "There is always something I am trying to learn. Last week I finally got my round-off back handspring. I was so excited. I had to keep doing it over and over. I've been working on it for a couple of years now."

"Kinetic Arts would like to think we had a little bit to do with Frances getting accepted into *École de cirque de Québec*," says Jaron Hollander (Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Kinetic Arts Center) with a chuckle, "But we know it is only due to Frances' commitment, discipline and sacrifice to training that earned her both a position in the cast at Circus Smirkus for the third year in a row as well as the professional track program at Quebec. Kinetic Arts was just a vehicle for helping her achieve her goals."

Photos and images can be downloaded via <http://www.kineticartscenter.com/about/press>.

Password is circuspress.