

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
H.S.H. PRINCESS STEPHANIE OF MONACO



5 AVENUE DES LIGURES 98000 MONACO
WWW.CIRCUSFEDERATION.ORG

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The Fédération Mondiale du Cirque is a non-profit organisation established in 2008 under the patronage of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie of Monaco. The Federation brings together professional circus organisations from around the world for the promotion and preservation of Circus arts and culture. The Federation uses the capitalized form of the word “Circus” to emphasize its commitment to inclusiveness and the importance and universality of Circus arts regardless of the varied ways in which they are presented. The Federation welcomes, celebrates, endorses and supports Circus in its various formats, including classical, contemporary, theatrical, nouveau, fusion, street performance, youth and social circus.

HONORARY PRESIDENT

The Federation is established under the patronage of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie of Monaco. She serves in an advisory capacity and is the Honorary President of the Federation. H.S.H. Princess Stephanie also serves as the President of the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo, which, for 36 years, has systematically included acts representing all forms of Circus in its annual competition.

In the words of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie:

Circus inspires and amazes. It builds cooperation, trust and confidence. Circus makes the impossible possible, the ordinary magical. Circus is the best of art, music, drama, comedy and athletics in one extraordinary experience. It reminds of us of our past, it is part of our present and I, along with many others, look forward to its vibrant future.

Circus has the power to make our world a better place. It always has brought local communities together. But it also builds bridges between cultures and links people even without a common language. It unites while celebrating diversity, bringing children of all ages hope, happiness and laughter. Circus is the only live entertainment for the whole family.

H.S.H. Princess Stephanie of Monaco, Greetings on Second World Circus Day, 16 April 2011.

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MISSION AND VALUES

The Federation's mission is to promote and preserve all forms of Circus arts and culture by ensuring that its historical contributions to world culture are recorded and preserved while, at the same time, increasing public awareness about Circus as a modern medium for artistic expression that also contributes to improving societal cohesion in the midst of diversity.

To achieve its mission, the Federation:

- Harnesses the prestigious platform created for Circus in Monte-Carlo to increase and broaden positive public awareness of Circus as a performing art;
- Serves as a virtual "meeting place" for the exchange of information and ideas about the past, present and future of Circus and related developments;
- Seeks further formal recognition of Circus as intangible cultural heritage;
- Promotes the preservation of Circus artefacts and memories through collaboration with public and private collections;
- Promotes the scholarly study of the artistic, historical and cultural impact of Circus through the development of research databases and networks;
- Provides a voice for Circus at the global level with respect to international organisations; and
- Facilitates collaborative projects and activities that contribute to a better understanding of and appreciation for Circus.

The Federation's core values include:

- Respect for all forms of Circus and complete artistic freedom for Circus producers and directors; and
- Recognition of the right to present well-cared-for animals as part of a Circus production.

MEMBERS

The Federation was established by the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo and individuals of standing in Monaco including the following:

- Mr. Maurice Crovetto
- Mr. Jean-Joseph Pastor
- Mr. Patrick Hourdequin

In addition to the Festival, its Founding Members were:

- European Circus Association, pan-Europe;
- En Piste, Canada;
- Outdoor Amusement Business Association, United States;
- Circus Federation of Australia, Australia; and
- Animal Interest Alliance, South Africa.

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Since its inception, six additional organisations joined as Members of the Federation:

- Asociación Mexicana de Empresarios de Circo;
- Japan Circus & Entertainment Association;
- Acrobatics Association of Korea;
- Unión Nacional de Empresarios y Artistas de Circos Mexicanos;
- Mobile Mini Circus for Children International, Afghanistan; and
- China Acrobats Association.

CIRCUS AMBASSADORS

The Federation honours persons who have or are contributing in very important ways to the promotion and preservation of Circus arts and culture by periodically naming Circus Ambassadors. To date, five Ambassadors have been named:

- *Mr. Alexander Alexandrovitch Volkov*, President of the Republic of Udmurtia, Russian Federation, who has greatly contributed to supporting and perpetuating Circus across Udmurtia;
- *Mr. Franz Czeisler*, a one-time stowaway orphan who became the creator of the famous touring Circus Tihany Spectacular;
- *Mrs. Xia Juhua*, famed for her unique contributions to Circus as an artist and for her dedicated, long-term service as president of the Acrobatic Association of China;
- *Mrs. Cristel Sembach-Krone*, proprietor of Europe's largest circus, Circus Krone, which continues the tradition of the classical touring circus; and
- *Mr. Kenneth Feld*, owner of the world's largest live family entertainment company, Feld Entertainment, Inc., producers of *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®*, also known as "*The Greatest Show On Earth®*", the *Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation®*, *Disney on Ice* and *Feld Motorsports*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first full term Board of Directors was elected at the General Assembly meeting of the Federation held 16 January 2009 in Monaco. It was agreed that each of the Founding Members should have a seat on the Board; the representative of each is decided by the Members itself. Under the Federation statutes, the Board decides on the offices of the Directors. The initial Board of Directors (2009-2010) was renewed in January 2011 for a further two-year term with Mr. Frans Cuijpers replacing Mr. Martin Hanson upon his retirement from the ECA. The present Board of Directors comprises:

President: Mr. Urs Pilz, representing the Monte-Carlo Festival (2009-2014)
 Vice-President: Mr. Wayne McCary, representing OABA (2009-2014)
 Treasurer: Mr. Frans Cuijpers, representing ECA (2011-2014)
 Secretary: Mr. John Le Mare, representing CFA (2009-2014)
 Director-at-large: Mr. Brian Boswell, representing AIA (2009-2014)

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A formal Board of Directors meeting takes place annually in Monaco (in English only from 2012). On exception, the Board may convene elsewhere. In June 2010, at the invitation of En Piste, the Board held its first formal meeting outside of Monaco. A second exceptional meeting of the Board of Directors took place in Sarasota, Florida in January 2013. Informal meetings of the Board are held monthly or as needed by teleconference in English.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pursuant to its powers under its statutes, the Board has contracted with Mrs. Laura van der Meer, based in Belgium, to serve as Executive Director of the Federation on a part-time basis.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Federation is an association of associations. Accordingly, Members are national or regional (multi-national) associations that represent circus owners, directors, festivals, artists or animal trainers/presenters. Individual circuses, acts or organisations that are not representative organisations are not qualified for membership.

Members are entitled to seats in the General Assembly as follows:

- Associations with members based in one country have one seat/one vote;
- Associations with members based in 2-4 countries have two seats/two votes;
- Associations with members based in 5-9 countries have three seats/three votes; and
- Associations with members based in more than ten countries have five seats/five votes.

The General Assembly convenes once per year, typically in January in Monaco during the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo. As of 2011, General Assembly meetings are conducted as open meetings unless the Assembly wishes to operate in closed session for particular agenda items.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees must be paid for organisations to maintain their good standing in the Federation. As of 2013, the annual membership fee of the Founding Members is 2.000 EUR. The annual fee of other Members remains at 1.000 EUR as in previous years.

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Associated Members are organisations that form part of the broader circus community and contribute to the promotion and preservation of circus arts and culture. Associated Members work with the Federation to identify projects and/or undertakings of mutual interest and help to support Federation activities through an annual membership fee or in-kind donations. Memoranda of understanding may be created concerning certain projects based on mutual agreement as to the rights and obligations of the partners and the Federation.

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Associated Members may participate in Federation activities and have the right to participate (but not to vote) in the Federation's annual General Assembly meeting. Associated Members pay an annual fee of 1.000 EUR or make an agreed in-kind contribution of equal or greater value.

Associated Members include:

- Telmondis, France
- To the Moon Productions, United States
- Circus Verlag, Germany
- Roberto Fazzini - Italiana Produzioni, Italy
- Spotlight Graphics, United States
- International Pastoral Council for Circus and Carnival Workers, International
- Aladdin's Ticketing, Australia
- The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, United States
- Circus Producers Association

SUPPORTING CIRCUSES AND FESTIVALS

Recognising the desire of individual circuses also to support the promotion and preservation of Circus arts and culture at the global level, starting February 2013, the Federation will recognize individual companies and organisations as "Supporting Circuses and Festivals." To qualify, the circus or festival must either be a member in good standing of a Federation member or be located in a country that does not have a functioning professional circus association that would qualify for Federation membership. Supporting Circuses and Festivals contribute to the Federation's goals by providing funds to help carry out its work. To acknowledge their contribution, the logos of Supporting Circuses and Festivals will be placed on the Federation website. The annual fee for Supporting Circuses and Festivals is 100 EUR.

BENEFACTORS

Benefactors are organisations or persons that contribute in cash or in kind to the realisation of the objectives of the Federation. Upon invitation by the Board of Directors, they may take part in the activities of the Federation and/or the meetings of the General Assembly but shall have no right to vote. Their contributions shall be recognized on the website of the Federation and in other ways as appropriate at the discretion of the Board.

ADVISORS

Advisors bring long-standing and extensive expertise to the Federation on various matters relating to Circus. They provide the Board of Directors with input, proposals, and help to carry out the work of the Federation. Advisors include:

- *Ms. Joan Galvin*, Washington DC-based lawyer and lobbyist, who brings twenty-five years of experience in government relations as well legislative and regulatory matters concerning the public exhibition of animals.

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- *Mr. Rodney Huey*, principle of RAH PR Strategies and a circus historian, who offers the Federation widespread experience in media and public relations.
- *Mr. Robert Johnson*, President & CEO of the Outdoor Amusement and Business Association since 1995, brings more than thirty years of experience in the amusement industry representing approximately 10,000 predominately family owned businesses in the United States and Canada including circuses, circus artists, and animal acts.
- *Mr. Sebastian Huchtebrock* serves as assistant to the Artistic Director of the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo and is director of casting at the renowned German show theatre Friedrichstadt Palast. He offers the Federation support on various operational matters.
- *Ms. Agathe Alie*, currently Director of Public Affairs and Assistant Vice-President - Citizenship at Cirque du Soleil, which she joined in 2002, who brings extensive experience in the live show and media fields.
- *Mrs. Zsuzsanna Mata*, Director of the European Circus Association (ECA) and representative of the Hungarian State Circus (MACIVA) from 2003-2011 and author of several books and articles about circus.
- *Ms. Jessica Hentoff*, Director of Circus Harmony, a circus school and social circus in St. Louis, Missouri, bringing 35 years of experience as an artist and circus teacher to the Federation.
- *Mrs. Cookie Bataillard*, member of the Organising Committee of the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo.
- *Ms. Betty Butler*, Vice President and Co-Founder of Circus Juventas, a performing arts youth circus school in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- *Mr. Joseph Ashton*, Circus Joseph Ashton, Australia.

FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

Friends of the Federation are organisations that wish to be associated with the Federation and who support it through the donation of items for the annual Silent Auction or by selling the Federation's annual circus photography wall calendar. Friends of the Federation are recognised on the Federation website and will be welcome to participate in all Federation activities and projects.

ACTIVITIES

World Circus Day: World Circus Day was celebrated for the first time in 2010 with events held in 36 countries. In 2011, celebrations spread to 39 countries. The Fourth World Circus Day was celebrated on 20 April 2013, with activities in 47 countries. The Fifth World Circus Day is planned for the days on and around Saturday, 19 April 2014.

World Circus Day is held on and around the third Saturday of each April, bringing well-deserved recognition to circus artists, proprietors and organisations. World Circus Day also helps spread a positive message about Circus among the public, politicians, government officials and the press. Starting in 2011, a high quality publication of World Circus Day events is published in July each year by Associated Member Planet Circus.

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Photograph Contest: The Federation's annual Photography Contest has attracted great interest from both professional and amateur photographers. A different theme is announced each year and the winning photographs are published in a Federation wall calendar. The winners are selected by an international panel of circus historians with the overall winner personally selected by H.S.H. Princess Stephanie. The winning photographs are exhibited in Monaco each year in connection with the Federation's annual General Assembly meeting and the Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo.

PROJECTS

Projects are undertaken by the Federation based on proposals made by Members. Projects are subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine which projects are undertaken using Federation core funds and which must be funded by proponents. Projects agreed to date include:

UNESCO

Preparatory work and networking with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to promote Circus, to facilitate participation in relevant activities, and, in future, to seek formal recognition of Circus as a cultural element within the UN Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (the "2003 Convention").

Preservation Project

A series of meetings with experts from museums and libraries holding circus collections, circus historians, enthusiasts and private collectors has been convened to explore the role of the Federation in offering a platform to encourage the preservation of circus artefacts and memorabilia, as well as oral histories, and linguistic traditions. These meetings, spanning from January 2009 in Monaco, to Budapest in January 2010, and Montreal in 2010, laid the groundwork for the presentation of elements of a five-year plan of action to the Federation's Board of Directors in January 2011.

Under the 2011-2015 plan, work will continue on: (a) expanding the Federation's network and database of collections and collectors; and (b) creating a database of circus terms, including different terms for the same objects and acts, and links to the terms in other languages. The latter is envisioned as a tool for cataloguing public and private collections, as well as for educating journalists, and facilitating research and study of circus. The Federation will also continue to work on a pilot project with the Italian documentation center (CEDAC) on correlated research and to establish a database of researchers and publications on Circus.

The Federation decided to focus its initial work on terminology on the production of a Media Guide to the Circus. The Guide, which contains 100 primary circus terms and translations in numerous languages along with illustrative photos, was published in conjunction with World Circus Day in April 2012. Additional publications concerning circus terminology are envisioned.

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The ultimate goal of the five-year plan is the development of a complete Circus webportal to link circus collections and research online.

In April 2012, the Federation also announced that it had been recognized as a Partner of the World Digital Library under the auspices of UNESCO. The Federation's role is to work with libraries, museums and archives to facilitate their partnership with the World Digital Library and to achieve publication of circus content as part of the World Digital Library. Circus content was published starting in January 2013, effectively establishing circus history and artefacts as part of world heritage and culture.

Performing Animals

In line with its core values concerning the presentation of animals in the circus, the Federation's supports:

- Governmental legislation that preserves the option of including performing animals in the circus while at the same time providing appropriate conditions for the health and welfare of travelling and performing animals;
- Use of best practices in the training, care and husbandry of performing animals; and
- Participation in conservation education and/or *in situ* or *ex situ* research activities by all circuses working with animal species that are endangered or threatened in the wild.

The Federation believes that national and regional (multi-country) circus associations are best placed to identify and act upon specific legislative and regulatory issues that may impact their activities and defers to them to address such matters.

The Federation's work concerning performing animals focuses on representation of the Circus community working with animals in connection with international treaties and organisations. Its work began in 2009 with efforts under the auspices of the World Animal Health Organisation to study the development and application of objective animal welfare indicators to circus animals. The Federation also participates as a member of the Transportation Working Group of the Convention in Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). In 2010, a Performing Animals Committee, chaired by Mr. Tom Albert of Feld Entertainment, United States, was established to oversee this work.

Social Circus

The Federation took advantage of the opportunity to have Ms. Jessica Hentoff, Circus Harmony, USA, address the circus community at the annual Circus Directors' Luncheon in January 2012. The goal of the talk, which was accompanied by a booklet featuring 16 organisations around the world, was to inform directors about the purpose and potential of the social circus movement. The Federation continued its work to promote and support social circus by sponsoring Ms. Hentoff to attend a conference on this topic during the 9th International Circus

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Festival of Budapest in February 2012. The Federation's Social Circus booklet also was distributed free of charge to participants in the Educators' Conference of the American Youth Circus Organization at which Ms. Hentoff also spoke in August 2012.

FINANCES

The Federation's core funding is provided by Monte Carlo Festivals, the annual membership fees of Members and Associated Members, contributions made by Benefactors, and funds raised through the annual Silent Auction and sales of the annual calendar featuring the winning photographs from the Federation's annual contest. In future, it is anticipated that funding may be provided by the Principality of Monaco. The Federation also will seek funding through grants for specific projects.

WEBSITE

A completely revised website has been launched in 2012 to allow for improved on-line registration for World Circus Day and the photography contest, and to encourage interaction with the circus community, including researchers and historians and holders of public circus collections. Further improvements and new features are being added.

For more information about the Federation, please contact:

Laura van der Meer, Executive Director
Tel. (in Belgium) +32.2.633.1503 laura@circusfederation.org

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