

CiRCOMEDIA



WHAT'S ON SUMMER 2026

SHOWS | CLASSES | COURSES | EVENTS

The Curtain Calls by In a Pickle Circus. Image credit @flr.photography_

WELCOME

We're entering a vibrant summer season packed with shows that celebrate unique voices and showcase a wide range of contemporary circus. End-of-year shows bring you new work from our BTEC and Degree students, sharing their take on the artform and the world.

House of Bousse and Bristol Pride bring trans and LGBTQ+ performers and themes to centre

stage. Our *Summer Spectacular* in June is the rescheduled Spring Gala. It will be an evening of joy and entertainment and a vital fundraising event. All the money raised will be invested in the training of new and exciting talent in contemporary circus and physical theatre and will keep the artform thriving in the UK.

Zannah Chisholm, CEO



THE CIRCOMEDIA CIRCLE

Join the people who keep Circomedia moving

We are proud to have launched our new regular giving scheme, the **Circomedia Circle**. As a charity, regular giving is a great way for you to make an ongoing difference to Circomedia through a simple monthly donation. By giving regularly, you help us plan with confidence, take creative risks, and keep our work moving forward, on stage, in the rehearsal room, in our training spaces, and in the community.

When you become a regular giver, you'll be welcomed into the Circomedia Circle, where you'll receive special perks including VIP

invitations to selected events, Circle-only offers, exclusive surprises, and members-only newsletters, bringing you closer to our work and the people behind it.

Find out more and join the Circomedia Circle today at www.circomedia.com/regular-giving



Sign up here

Circomedia is a registered charity number 1056852.



FINAL MAJOR PROJECTS

CIRCOMEDIA'S GRADUATING DEGREE STUDENTS

Start: Fri 1 & Sat 2 May, 7:30pm
Thu 7 & Fri 8 May, 7:30pm

Tickets: £12, £8 concessions

Age Guide: Please see website for each show's age guide

Join us over four nights to experience a mini-festival of new works presented by the graduating students of Circomedia's degree programme. With a selection of different pieces each night, this is a fantastic opportunity to support and celebrate the circus artists of the future as they showcase their creativity, circus and performance skills.

CIRCUS IN ST. PAUL'S IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRISTOL DIASPORA! FESTIVAL

Start: Sat 2 May, 10am – 4pm

Location: Portland Square, BS2 8SJ

Tickets: Entry is free, no tickets required

Age Guide: Ages 3 – 12 and their grown-ups

Join us in Portland Square this Early May Bank Holiday weekend for a fantastic, Diaspora-led day of free, family-friendly circus and activities.

We'll be filling the square outside our St. Paul's Church venue with creativity. With participatory circus workshops, performances, Caribbean food and music, everyone is welcome to come along, take part, and enjoy a lively, celebratory atmosphere.

Circus in St. Paul's is presented as part of Diverse Artist Network's DIASPORA! Festival. The day will be organised with local charity Aid Box and led by, with and for people from Bristol's wider Diaspora community.


With thanks to the John James Bristol Foundation and Quartet Community Foundation for their support.








ENSEMBLES

CIRCOMEDIA'S SECOND YEAR DEGREE STUDENTS

-  **Start:** Fri 15 & 16 May, 7:30pm

-  **Tickets:** £12, £8 concessions

-  **Age Guide:** 15+

-  **Running Time:** Approx. 1 hour 50 mins


"Theatre can be a means of transforming society. It can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it." Augusto Boal


Ensembles, devised by Circomedia's second year degree students, celebrates the idea of working collaboratively to create a performance about complicity. The performance reveals themes of synchronicity, discovery and commonality. The process of devising combines contemporary trends in circus and physical theatre with whimsy, ingenuity and daring.




DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

CIRCOMEDIA'S SECOND YEAR BTEC STUDENTS

-  **Start:** Thu 21 & Fri 22 May, 7:30pm

-  **Tickets:** £12, £8 concessions

-  **Age Guide:** 8+

Step into Wonderland in this bold reimagining of *Alice in Wonderland*, brought to life with a circus twist.


Down the Rabbit Hole is a graduating BTEC student showcase blending aerial, acrobatics and storytelling, brought to life through a cast of unforgettable characters. From the formidable Queen of Hearts to the chaotic Mad Hatter, Wonderland has never looked like this before.


Don't be late for this very important date and join us for a journey down the rabbit hole!




TRANS/Form

PRESENTED BY HOUSE OF BOUSSE

-  **Start:** Thu 28 & Fri 29 May, 7:30pm

-  **Tickets:** See headfirstbristol.co.uk for tickets and prices

-  **Age Guide:** 13+


Look inside us, we know you want to. You're curious; what makes us tick? What is it that makes us... human?


Are we everything you've read about? This is a retaliation against the social dissection of trans bodies, where our emotions and experiences are played on a cold operating table.


You're invited to bite our nails and peel our skin tags, in an interactive journey merging cabaret, drag and performance art.


THE CURTAIN CALLS

IN A PICKLE CIRCUS & CIRCOMEDIA

-  **Start:** Fri 5 Jun, 7:30pm

-  **Tickets:** £12, £8 concessions

-  **Age Guide:** 8+

-  **Running Time:** 1 hour 20 mins

Have you heard the nattering and clattering? The circus is in town!

Created by a company of our talented graduating BA degree students, *The Curtain Calls* is a joyful, high-energy show that celebrates the extraordinary spirit of circus life. Follow a cast of unforgettable characters as friendships are tested, romances blossom, and the whole show lands in quite a pickle.

Packed with breathtaking aerial, daredevil acrobatics, mesmerising juggling, laughter, heart, and plenty of surprises, this spectacular adventure is perfect for families who love a bit of silliness with a lot of skill!



Image credit @flr.photography_



END OF YEAR SHOW

CIRCOMEDIA'S FIRST YEAR DEGREE STUDENTS

Start: Fri 19 & Sat 20 Jun, 7:30pm

Tickets: £12, £8 concessions

Age Guide: 8+

Join us for an evening of energy, elegance, and playful sophistication by Circomedia's first year degree students.

Taking inspiration from the vibrant performance culture of the 1930s, when vaudeville ruled the stage, this show reimagines the past through the lens of contemporary circus. We invite you to glimpse the mischievous charm and graceful spectacle that came before us and that continues to inspire performers today.



CIRCOMEDIA SUMMER SPECTACULAR

Start: Sat 27 Jun, 7:30pm

Tickets: Pay what you can – £50, £35 or £25

Age Guide: 14+

Prepare for a dazzling, feel-good evening of circus and performance!

This joyful fundraising event will showcase a line-up of world-class acts from our fabulous community of creatives, including a world-record breaking juggling attempt from your host for the evening, our own Rod Laver!

Expect awe-inspiring aerial artistry, astonishing acrobatics and jaw-dropping juggling, all with a sprinkle of summer time sparkle. With walk-about performances from our students, a raffle of exclusive prizes, and a delicious selection of drinks from our bar, our *Summer Spectacular* promises to be an evening you don't want to miss!



Image credit Vonalina Cake Photography

PRIDE CIRCUS NIGHT

PRESENTED BY BRISTOL PRIDE

Start: Thu 2 Jul, 7:30pm
(doors & bar from 6:30pm)

Tickets: £27, £22 concs, £145 table of 4, purchased via bristolpride.co.uk/events

Age Guide: 16+

Celebrating LGBT+ Circus with Pride.

Roll up, roll up – the Pride Circus is back in town! Join us for a spectacular evening with Bristol Pride as they put on a show celebrating Pride, community, and circus.

This spellbinding event has been specially curated by Pride, showcasing incredible circus performers from around the globe. Prepare to be dazzled by thought-provoking contemporary circus from talented and inspiring LGBTQ+ performers who dare to challenge and amuse you with their exceptional skills.

ALSO ON SALE NOW



VARIETY BUNGALOW

BY JON UDRY

Start: Fri 18 & Sat 19 Sep, 7:30pm

Back by popular demand, Jon Udry brings us a fresh line-up of incredible circus acts in the latest *Variety Bungalow!*

Expect a night of high-quality cabaret, dazzling circus, a pinch of burlesque, and much more, all tied together by your host for the evening, Jon Udry himself.



SAND

BY KOOK ENSEMBLE

Start: Thu 24 & Fri 25 Sep, 7:30pm

Set against Devon's dramatic coastline, *Sand* is a non-verbal circus theatre show. Kook Ensemble combines exceptional acrobatics with inventive, emotionally resonant storytelling, exploring dementia, love, and resilience.

Visually striking and emotionally resonant, it is a profoundly moving, must-see theatrical experience.

Visit www.circomedia.com/whats-on to book tickets for our upcoming shows.



YOUTH CIRCUS

Our popular Youth Circus offers young people aged 5 – 18 an entry into the extraordinary world of contemporary circus and physical theatre.

Each term, our students learn aerial hoop, silks, trapeze, acrobatics, handstands, juggling and more, all under the guidance of our specialist instructors.

Youth Circus is designed to build confidence, develop physical skills and spark imagination, while having fun and making friends.

Check availability and sign up for our Autumn term today at: youthcircus@circomedia.com.



YOUTH CIRCUS CAMPS

Not sure how to keep the kids busy over the school holidays? We've got it covered. Our holiday camps for ages 4 – 18 offer a fun, active and creative experience.

Packed with circus skills and high-energy activities, sessions are suitable for all experience levels. From juggling, tightwire and acrobatics to aerial hoop and trapeze, young people can explore a wide range of disciplines while building confidence and learning new skills.

Alongside our camps, we also have a fantastic opportunity for under-18s to take part in our indoor flying trapeze sessions at Portland Square this May! Keep an eye on our e-newsletter and socials for more activity announcements soon.

Find out more: www.circomedia.com/yc-camps

"My kids love it. They get excited weeks before and talk about it for the rest of the year."

Youth Circus Camp Parent 2025

Under-18's Flying Trapeze

Sat 23 May

St. Paul's Church, BS2 8SJ

Summer Holiday Camps

Mon 27 – 31 Jul

Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug

Kingswood Estate, BS15 8DB



ADULT CLASSES

Discover circus in a welcoming environment, whether you're trying something new or building on existing skills.

Our Adult Circus Skills Classes offer evening and weekend training in aerial silks, hoop, rope and trapeze, handstands, and acrobatics, with specialist sessions announced throughout the year.

Taking place at our St. Paul's and Kingswood sites, in small groups, our experienced instructors provide expert guidance that will help you build strength, confidence and technique at your own pace.

No experience needed. From complete beginners to more experienced enthusiasts, our classes are designed to support every stage of your journey.

Find out more and book at www.circomedia.com/adult-classes



WEDDINGS

Are you looking for a unique, Bristol-based venue for you wedding?

At our St. Paul's Church venue, traditional Georgian features are in abundance, with dramatic stained-glass windows, original tiling, and soaring pillars. Partnered with our theatre-quality lighting and sound rig, locally stocked bar, late licence, and our impressive list of world-class circus performers, your wedding here is sure to be unforgettable.

From our tiered package options, your dedicated Event Manager will help tailor your wedding to your own personal style, with unique touches to wow your guests and make your day extra memorable.

Get in touch at events@circomedia.com. We'd love to get to know you and help create your special day.

CIRCOMEDIA ACADEMY

The future of circus starts here! Apply today and join our Academy in September 2026.

TRAIN AT CIRCOMEDIA

Many of the shows in this summer programme have been created and performed by Circomedia students, offering a glimpse into the creativity, collaboration and ambition at the heart of our Academy.

For over thirty years, we've nurtured bold, versatile artists through training that combines studio practice with the creation and performance of new work. Training brings together circus, physical theatre, performance-making and professional practice. Students work closely with expert teachers to develop technical skill, artistic voice and the confidence to shape their own creative futures.

Circomedia graduates go on to careers in performance, directing, teaching, production, community arts and beyond.



"I have gained connections through Circomedia that have shaped my life as a professional. I have been hired by people I met though being a student and I belong to a broad network of alumni who all support each other in finding work."

Circomedia Graduate 2024

COURSES AT CIRCOMEDIA APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN



"I would recommend Circomedia to anybody wanting to become a professional circus artist. I don't think you will find a more supportive, welcoming and well-rounded course anywhere."

Circomedia Graduate 2024

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice (Circus)

For ages 16–18, this two-year course offers training in a range of circus disciplines alongside physical theatre, movement, devising and academic study. Equivalent to three A Levels, the course is delivered in partnership with City of Bristol College and accredited by Pearson.

Undergraduate courses

For ages 18+, our undergraduate training blends circus, physical theatre and contemporary performance. These courses are for emerging artists who want to broaden and strengthen their skills and develop their own distinctive practice. Our FdA and BA (Hons) courses are quality assured by Bath Spa University.

Diploma

Ideal for graduates and developing artists. A self-funded, flexible training route with three-month blocks, intensive studio practice and the freedom to build a pathway around your artistic development.

Find out more

Discover more about our courses, upcoming audition dates and how to apply at circomedia.com/academy

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM:



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



LEVERHULME TRUST



THE NISBET TRUST

Circomedia is a registered charity number 1056852.

ACADEMY OPEN DAYS AND AUDITION

Come along and discover more about our courses, explore our training spaces and meet some of our current students. Check www.circomedia.com/open-days for more.

BTEC Open Day – Saturday 25 April 2026

Undergraduate Audition – Friday 15 & Saturday 16 May 2026

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www.circomedia.com

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