



les grandes cirques



Education and Culture DG

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OF HISTORIC CIRCUS TOWNS & CITIES

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Funded by the European Lifelong Learning Programme (Leonardo Da Vinci Partnerships), Les Grandes Cirques brings together three of Europe's historic circus towns and cities: Amiens in France, Madrid in Spain and Great Yarmouth in the UK.

The project forges links between these historic circus locations and, through the venues and circus schools located there, will develop an innovative training and career development programme to increase employability and adaptability of creative and administrative practitioners working in the circus sector, thereby ensuring the future development and sustainability of the circus sector.

The partners for this programme are:

- SeaChange Arts, Great Yarmouth
- Pôle National Cirque et Arts de la Rue, Amiens
- Asociación de Malabaristas de Madrid

Les Grandes Cirques will establish an on-going partnership between the three organisations based on joint working in:

- Professional development
- Building and sharing skills in training
- Opening up new employment possibilities across diverse territories, traditions and markets

Through a series of events and collaborations, the three partners will exchange teacher training, work to increase the employability of artists in the international marketplace, and create workshop and performance opportunities for students and emerging artists.



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amiens
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POLE NATIONAL CIRQUE ET ARTS DE LA RUE

Amiens' Pôle National of Circus and Street Arts was formed in a merger in 2011, with three elements:

- Cirque Jules Verne – one of France's premier circus venues
- The Hangar – Street Arts factory
- The Circus School of Amiens - supporting training and professional development

Formed in 1982 by Jean-Pierre Marcos, Jacques Vétillard and Annie Fratellini, Amiens' Circus School has become a fantastic breeding ground for young talent with many of their students having gone on to study at France's superior schools.

The school offers two training courses. The leisure course provides young people with a basic grounding in circus skills and athleticism while the second is aimed specifically at preparing students for the superior schools.

Amiens has become one of the leading locations on the circus and street arts map, attracting both students and trainers from across the world.

The school has benefitted from the close working of The Pôle National's three elements. Students meet, and learn from, professional artists visiting Cirque Jules Verne and work with The Hangar's annual street festival, La Rue est à Amiens.

ASOCIACION DE MALABARISTAS

The Asociación de Malabaristas was created in 1987 as a platform to meet and exchange ideas in the circus arts. In 1994, the association bought its first circus tent, started a circus training project and Carampa was formed. It has been at the heart of the professional training movement in Spain ever since.

Carampa's professional training programme offers practical and theoretical training in circus arts, as well as a full range of vocational experiences, aimed at preparing the performer for their integration into the circus field.

Each year they work with Madrid's Teatro Circo Price to host Creche, a creation laboratory for circus arts where circus graduates work together with professional directors to produce and present a show.

Carampa's tent, in the centre of Madrid's largest park, Casa de Campo, is a meeting point for artists and circus practitioners from all over the world. With staff and students from a dozen different countries, it preserves the cosmopolitan character so associated with circus.

Above and below: Casa de Campo welcomes 10,000 artists and students each year. Photos (L&R above): Daniel Baccheta.

madrid
carampa.com



seachange.arts.org.uk/grandescirques

SEACHANGE ARTS

SeaChange Arts is fast becoming one of UK's leading Circus and Streets Arts organisations. Based in Great Yarmouth, they share close ties with the town's historic Hippodrome, the country's last dedicated circus building.

Throughout the year, SeaChange work with communities, schools, artists, festivals, and local and international partners on many projects. Much of this work is showcased each year at the Out There Festival. Produced by SeaChange, Out There brings the finest acts from around the globe to the east of England, and is now the region's largest free festival of street arts and circus, attracting audiences in excess of 60,000.

With their work expanding, SeaChange recently re-located to the town's Drill Hall, an exciting development space where they begin the challenge of creating an international centre for Circus and Street Arts. Through Les Grandes Cirques, they will work collaboratively with associate partners, Circus Space, who will provide developmental advice and be involved in exchanges.

Legend - what goes here? Photo: Bertil Nilsson



Above, L to R: Great Yarmouth's Hippodrome (Photo: Adam Shawyer), Cirque Jules Verne in Amiens (Photo: Dito), Teatro Circo Price's circus ring (Photo: Paco Manzano).

The impetus behind Les Grandes Cirques comes from building bridges between some of Europe's grand circus towns and cities. Madrid, Amiens and Great Yarmouth are all home to some of the continent's last purpose built circus buildings.

THE HIPPODROME

Built in 1903 by legendary circus showman, George Gilbert, Great Yarmouth's Hippodrome is the UK's last purpose built circus building. Owned and operated by Peter Jay for the last thirty years, the venue has played host over the years to Houdini and it is even reputed that Charlie Chaplin performed there. Their regular circus programme features an amazing water feature, one of only four operating in the world.

CIRQUE JULES VERNE

Designed by Emile Ricquier, Amiens' municipal circus was opened by Jules Verne, then in charge of the town council's festivities programme, in 1889. Refurbished in 2002, it is one of France's last stone circuses. With a capacity of 1650, Cirque Jules Verne forms one part of The Pôle National of Circus and Street Arts, and hosts a year round programme of some of the finest circus shows on the continent.

TEATRO CIRCO PRICE

First founded by Irish horse trader and acrobat, Thomas Price, in 1868, Teatro Circo Price closed its doors in 1970. Thirty seven years later, it reopened in a new building, under the auspices of the Madrid city government, as Europe's most modern purpose built circus. The new venue offers a programme that blends traditional and contemporary circus with concerts and theatre and dance proposals for round scenic spaces.

CONTACT

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