

Circus Unique

The Children's Theatrical Circus

(established 1997)

A LITTLE ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS . . .

Circus Unique has some of Sydney's most talented and dedicated instructors whose skill level ranges from recreational to elite encompassing gymnastics to traditional big top circus to new circus including Cirque du Soleil. Instructors are Pixie Williams, Linda Coupland, Nat Harris, Andra and Ilyan Keay, Dmitri Zorin, John Williams, Vincent Parfitt and John Hosie.

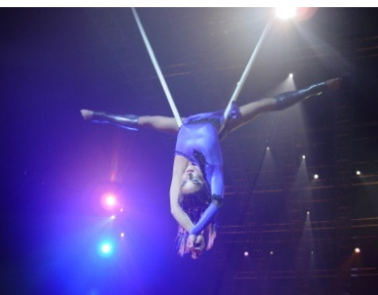


PIXIE WILLIAMS – instructor for Circus Unique programs

Pixie co-founded Performance Extra P/L & Circus Unique in 1997. She has a background in children's entertainment and administration. She has had private tuition and attended master workshops with ACAPTA (Australian Circus and Physical Theatre Assn) in various circus skill disciplines. Pixie's specialty is working on programs to allow all children to enjoy and be challenged by a circus experience with the assistance of professional instructors who share the same passion. She delights in assisting children in their development and building confidence and trust in a non-competitive atmosphere. Pixie has produced several children's circus shows for Circus Unique. She also runs programs for the Active After-School Communities, disadvantaged and indigenous children.

LINDA COUPLAND – instructor for after school program at Glebe

Linda competed at State gymnastics competitions as a level 7 competitor. She became an accredited coach with the Australian Gymnastics Federation and a judge for Level 1 to 7 State competitions at the age of 16. She has a traditional 'big top' circus background and has been performing since she was 7. Her first act was a double aerial act with her mother. Linda performs Spanish web and flying trapeze with the travelling big top circuses, Stardust Circus and Webers Circus. She has been teaching students for Circus Unique since 2007.



NAT HARRIS – instructor for after school & holiday programs at Glebe

Nat Harris has a colourful background as a gymnast and an aerialist. She has performed with many international companies including Cirque du Soleil and more recently with Le Grand Cirque at the Sydney Opera House. Nat swung so high above the audience to perform her famous 'death dive' cloud swing act. She runs private classes for adults and performs on tissu and swinging trapeze as well. Nat has been teaching students for Circus Unique since 2006.

VINCENT PARFITT – instructor for Circus Unique programs

For over 16 years Vincent has been a professional actor, magician and circus performer. His career has taken him from London's theatres to Australian television. Since 2002 Vincent has been a teacher of acting and circus techniques in schools such as Screenwise, Circus Unique and Mad Cow Theatre Company. He has directed numerous plays from Shakespeare to Neil Simon. He wrote and directed "The Transition" for Circus Unique students in 2006. Vincent is currently finishing his novel and continues to entertain the crowds with his amazing magic tricks. Vincent has been teaching with Circus Unique since 2005.

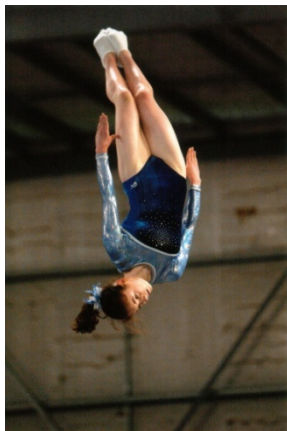


ANDRA KEAY – instructor for after school at Leichhardt

Andra fell in love with gymnastics and trampoline as a child but at the time there weren't many opportunities in Australia. She loved doing somersaults (and occasionally still does). She has been coaching for many years and her daughter became the National Junior Trampoline champion in 2003. Andra also coaches a variety of other sports. She is passionate about encouraging students in every way and finds that coaching gives her the opportunity to open doors for others, to help them explore their own potential. Andra and her daughter Ilyan have played a major role in establishing Circus Unique's new trampoline and tumbling after school classes in Leichhardt during 2009.

ILYAN KEAY – instructor for after school at Leichhardt

Ilyan attended Newtown High School for the Performing Arts and majored in dance. She trained at Australian Institute of Sport and NSW Institute of Sport. Ilyan was a national competitor in acrobatics, artistic gymnastics and trampoline. She was an Australian Youth Olympic team member and became the National Junior Trampoline champion, individual and synchronized and was the highest ranked Australian at World Age Games in 2003. Ilyan has considered running away to join the circus but decided that the circus was already right here!



JOHN WILLIAMS – instructor for Circus Unique programs

Over the last 20 years of performing and teaching acrobatics and circus arts John constantly reminds us that one is only as old as they think! He continues to complete and win medals at the Australian Masters Gymnastic competitions as well as performing as a variety circus artiste. John's approach to incorporating laughter with learning has evolved through many years of putting smiles on the faces of seriously ill children as a Clown Doctor from 2000-2007 and having the opportunity to train and work with circus artists from all over the world. He was a trainer with Cirkids in Adelaide in 1991-92 and co-founded Circus Unique in 1997. He is an accredited Level 1 coach with the Australian Gymnastic Federation. John continues to be a valuable member of this truly unique group.



DMITRI ZORIN – instructor for after school program at Glebe

Dmitri graduated from Moscow's Institute of Physical Education and has a Master of Sport of USSR/Russia for Gymnastics. He was a USSR (Russia) Olympic team coach and is now a member of the Australian Gymnastics Federation and also an accredited level 3 coach with the Australian Coaching Council. Dmitri runs private and group coaching sessions at the State Sports Centre at Homebush. During 2008 he assisted the acrobatic dancers on Channel 10's "So You Think You Can Dance" show. He is currently working with The Wiggles and assisted in creating and performing in their circus show out now on DVD with Kylie Minogue – the pink Wiggle! Dmitri has been teaching for Circus Unique since 2005.

JOHN HOSIE – instructor for after school at Glebe

John Hosie is an accredited NSW Gymnastics coach and teaches a full range of gymnastic skills, in particular acrobatic circus tumbling and partner balance sports acrobatics to adults and children. He has been teaching for over 10 years particularly in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. John also teaches flying & static trapeze, tissu, corde lisse, juggling, unicycling, hoops, stilts, slackwire, poi and contact-staff spinning. He juggles 5, 6 & 7 balls – WOW . . . John has been teaching with Circus Unique since 2009.

