

**The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA)
is Australia's Centre of Excellence in contemporary circus arts training**

Since 2001 the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) has been developing professional circus artists and producing innovative new circus works. It is a national organisation with a strong international reputation for training multi-talented artists. NICA is one of eight national arts training institutes and offers Australia's only Bachelor of Circus Arts.

About NICA

NICA delivers the only Bachelor degree in circus arts in Australia and recruits from around Australia and the world. NICA also delivers a foundation year (Certificate IV in Circus Arts) for those wanting to develop their skills to audition for the degree program and a Certificate III in Circus Arts program for those students wishing to combine NICA training with year 11 and 12 studies.

NICA has achieved international recognition as a circus school providing high-level training to prospective circus artists. NICA was accepted as a member of the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC) and has international relationships with companies in Canada, England, New Zealand, China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

As well as providing accredited training for professional circus artists, NICA also offers recreational courses for children, teenagers and adults, and supports the circus industry with professional development and master classes.

NICA believes in the many benefits of circus as a tool for social change and through its Social Circus projects aims to make a difference to the lives of Indigenous people and young Australians living in regional and remote communities. NICA has trained over 200 trainers in social circus instructor training to support the youth and community circus sector in Australia and South East Asia. NICA has also supported Indigenous Australians through social circus activities across Australia and has encouraged pathways for Indigenous circus artists to gain access to NICA and its programs.

NICA Vision

NICA will be an internationally renowned Australian Centre of Excellence in education, training, performance and research in contemporary circus.

NICA Mission

Excellence

NICA will foster passion, creativity, and a high level of skill in its graduates who will be recognised as inspiring circus artists.

Innovation

NICA will deliver innovative training programs to talented students, whose work will re-imagine circus and provide stimulating, evocative and sometimes challenging performances.

Leadership

NICA graduates and staff will take a leadership role in shaping the Australian circus arts industry.

Access

NICA will provide opportunities for a wide range of participants in its courses, workshops and performance program.

NICA Graduates

Graduates and selected professionals are represented by CircaNICA, a commercial arm of NICA and Australia's leading booking agency for professional circus performers.

Formal training in circus arts opens up exciting opportunities for a future career. Graduates are highly employable, knowledgeable and creative. They have found careers nationally and internationally. NICA training can lead to work in contemporary circus, traditional circus, social circus, stunt work, corporate entertainment, festivals, teaching and other sectors of the arts industry. A number of graduate artists are employed nationally and internationally by companies such as Cirque du Soleil; Dragone, China; Carnival Australia; Circa; Circus Oz; Cavalia and NoFit State Circus, UK. Many other NICA trained performers establish companies that tour festival circuits.

Awards

NICA artists have performed in the opening and closing Commonwealth Games ceremonies; won awards for Australia at the Wuhan International Acrobatic Arts Festival, China, in 2006 and 2008; won gold at the 30th and 34th Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain (Worldwide Festival of the Circus of Tomorrow), France, in 2009 and 2013; received Bronze at the 4th World Festival of Circus Arts in Moscow in 2009; and most recently won awards at the 2016 Australian Circus Festival.

In 2008 NICA was recognised for its collaboration with Cox Architects & Planners and Arup by winning the award for best Architectural Steel Design in the category of large projects for the \$10 million National Circus Centre. Cox Architects & Planners also won the National Architectural Steel Industry Awards for their design of the facility.

In 2015, Mr Guang Rong Lu NICA's Director (International Engagement) and inaugural Head of Circus Studies was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his services to the performing arts as a director, performer and aerial designer.

Funding

NICA is a national not-for-profit arts training organisation registered as a cultural organisation. It is auspiced by Swinburne University of Technology and primarily funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications and the Arts.

NICA has Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR) and donations to NICA are tax deductible.