

Leisha Knight

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Performing Arts is a tremendous passion of mine. I love working with artists, developing training plans for individuals and studios, setting goals, challenging limits, and being part of a fantastic team. Being part of creating, sustaining, and spreading the magic of modern circus to the world is an incredible gift.

Skills

- I am dedicated and hardworking
- I excel at seeing the big picture
- I am project oriented and work hard to complete tasks
- I am self-motivated
- I love working in culturally diverse environments
- I can quickly adjust to the needs of a situation
- I have good computer skills
- I am positive, energetic, and generally happy
- I am a team player and leader
- I have an extensive network of Circus Schools, Instructors, and Artists
- I have experience organizing projects, events, and leading teams

Experience

12/2005 - 7/2013

Cirque du Soleil “Love”/Las Vegas, NV

House Troupe Artist, Yoga Teacher, Safety Committee, First Response Team, Acrobatic Captain

8/2019 - Present

Circus Instructor/Trapeze Las Vegas/Las Vegas, NV

Teach Aerial Straps, Hammock, Hoop, Silks, Slings, Partner Acrobatics, Handstands, Tumbling, Group Acrobatics, Dance, and Acting, Choreograph acts, Co-direct shows and Performances.

6/2019 - Present

Circus Festival Director/HangTime Minifest/Birmingham, AL

Festival Director, Producer, Instructor, and Performer. Led a team of 9 volunteer Instructors and 11 performers to teach and perform for 80 participants in an effort to raise money for Hurricane Michael victims.

2015-present

Yoga Trekking International/ International

Owner, Founder, Manager, Internet manager, Public Relations Manager, Instructor, Guide.

10/2018

Aerial Instructor/ACE/AYCO Conference/Atlanta, GA

Taught silk workshops

8/2018

West Coast Aerial Arts Festival/Costa Mesa, CA

Taught Fabric Puzzles to festival participants and competitors

12/2018 -4/2019

Dance Teacher/Vail Valley Academy of Dance/Vail, CO

Taught Acrodance, Aerial, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Ballet, and Tap to students age 7-18

5/2018 - 4/2019

Gymnastics Coach/Mountain Recreation/Vail, Co

Coached Team Gymnastics, Aerial Acrobatics, Trampoline, Tumbling, and Rock Climbing

10/2017 - 11/2018

Yoga Supervisor/Aria Fitness Club/ Vail, CO

Managed a team of 20 Yoga Instructors as a part of the Aria Fitness Team; Created interesting yoga offerings, instructed classes, acted as liaison between the Yoga Team and Aria Executive Management

6/2017 - Present

Program Developer and Instructor/PLAY/ Minturn, CO

Develop and instruct aerial, acrobatic, and circus programs for adults and kids. Train instructors to teach the programs.

8/2018 - 12/2018

Aerial Choreographer/Peter Pan at VPAC/Vail, Co

Choreographed Aerial acts and cues for Peter Pan on Aerial silks and Hammock

7/1/2015 - 9/30/2016

Office Manager/Morgan Dentistry/Birmingham, AL

Oversaw all aspects of Dental office operations including managing the team, budgeting, financial reports, quarterly and annual tax preparations, Post and Ledgers in Quickbooks, supply purchasing, external communications with patients, referrals, insurance, and billing, marketing, hiring and firing.

10/2015 - Present

Freelance Artist, Coach, and Director/Global Positions

Direct Shows, Develop artists, Create and Perform Aerial and Acrobatic Acts; 2018 Vail Library Circus Day, 2018 First Friday Minturn, CO, 2015 - 2018 Library Summer Kick Off Show, 2017 Maccabi Games, 2017 Elements Fashion Show, 2016 Galleria Holiday Lighting Ceremony, 2016 Ross Bridge Holiday Lighting Ceremony, 2015-2016 Uncorked on the Green, 2015 -2016 The Happening, 2015 - 2016 TrimTab Aerial Mondays, 2016 Atlanta Aerial Arts Festival, Esh Aerial Arts Instructor, Simply Circus Aerial Instructor, Sky Gym Instructor, The Muse NYC Instructor, Aerial Dance PC Instructor

8/2014 - 6/2015

Circus Kathmandu/Kathmandu, Nepal

Lead Trainer and onsite Artistic Director of Circus Kathmandu. Created training plans, developed Acts and Shows, managed artistic troupe of 12, liaison between Kathmandu and the UK team, organized social outreach, managed public relations, managed the budget, handled payroll, and worked with artists to create long term sustainable life goals.

8/2013 - 3/2014

Cirque Borsberg/Normandy, France

Aerialist, Acrobat, Magician's Assistant, and Aerial Coach.

2010 - 2012

A Choreographer's Showcase/Las Vegas, NV

Dancer and Choreographer

9/2001 - 12/2005

Jackie O'Neal School of Dance/Birmingham, AL

Acrobatics Instructor, Dance Teacher, Miss Alabama Performer 2002 - 2005

9/2001 - 6/2004

ACE All-Stars/Birmingham, AL

Coached Tumbling, Trampoline, Stunts, and Cheer Teams.

9/2000 - 6/2001

UAA Gymnastics Coach/Anchorage, AK

Coached the University of Alaska Anchorage's Gymnastics Team. Choreographed floor and beam routines, developed training plans, led conditioning, and spotted gymnasts.

10/1996 - 8/2001

Anchorage Gymnastics Association/Anchorage, AK

Coached Compulsory, Optional Team, and Recreation classes.

Education

2000

B.A. English Literature/ UAA, Anchorage, Alaska

NCAA Woman of the Year, Academic All-American, 3.8 GPA, Minor in Addictive Studies and Psychology 2010 - 2015

RYT 500 / Samudra School of Yoga Certification Program

Activities

I enjoy organizing and contributing to events, circus shows, fundraisers, and outreach camps. I regularly volunteer for organizations that work with at risk, vulnerable, and abused people groups such as Circus Kathmandu, Snowshoe for Peru, LoveLadies, and SafeNest. I currently operate teacher training programs that I personally developed for Aerial Instructors, Acrobatics Teachers, Dance Teachers, Yoga Teachers, and more. I also listen to webinars and take online classes for developing teachers and management skills. I spend a great deal of time working on the computer, building websites, managing social media, and working with artists and teacher trainees via the virtual world. I love taking Aerial and Acrobatic classes to continue to develop my skills. **I really enjoy taking people into undiscovered territory!**

References

Kathy Merachnik: kathy.merachnik@cirquedusoleil.com

Dan Niehaus: (702) 205-1277 dan.niehaus@cirquedusoleil.com

Tracy Long: (970) 977-0317 healthforwardyoga@gmail.com

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