

Circus arts education and employment in Finland

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Basic facts of the research

- Main questions:
 - How do Finnish graduated circus artists find work?
 - How well does the professional circus schools' teaching content fit to the needs of the employers?
- Methodology:
 - Questionnaires to all Finnish circus arts graduates (sent to 170 graduates), 48% replied.
 - Interviews with six big circus artist employers in Finland

MAIN FINDINGS IN NUMBERS

Type of employment circus artists have

- 50% of the graduated circus artists work as freelancers
- 30% has a temporary contract
- 13% has a fixed contract
- 6% has own company
- *25% of the circus graduates have been living on unemployment benefits at some point during the last year*

MAIN FINDINGS IN NUMBERS

Type of work circus artists do

- 19 % work only as circus artists
(38% would want to work only as circus artists)
- 39% work both as circus artists and circus teachers
(34% want to do teaching as part of their work)
- 13% work only as circus teachers
(less than 2% want to work only as teachers)
- 20% is working partly and 10% completely outside of the circus field
(main reason for working outside of circus field is economical)

How should circus education be developed to better prepare artists for circus work?

According to the circus artist graduates:

- More practical work in real environment outside of school
- Better possibilities to learn to teach
- More performing opportunities
- Developing better technical skills in circus disciplines
- Better networking to circus field and employers
- More studies in marketing and producing

How should circus education be developed to better prepare artists for circus work?

According to the employers:

- Give students a better understanding of real work environment
- Develop better skills to do creative artistic processes in a group
- More technical training in their own circus discipline
- *Less students to schools → more resources to “top” students*

- More circus teacher training is needed
- More networking between circus schools both inside Finland and Europe is needed
- Most graduates (70%) have positive expectations about their own employment in the circus field in the future
- Overall employment situation in circus field in the future is seen more negatively
- Employers fear that only the top ones will “survive”
- Finnish circus field is offering more and more opportunities for artists, but international contacts are essential for full employment

THANK YOU.

QUESTIONS:

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