

Name: Jonathan Guy Priest
Born: 1st October, 1966.
Nationality: British.
Language: English, French.
Main skill: I am a versatile performer, specializing in aerial circus. vertical rope, tissue, trapeze, theatre, dance.
Other skills: Chinese pole, walking ladder, I am a circus teacher within these disciplines.

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I am a circus performer currently involved in Fan-atticks latest production, “Cage”.

I have been performing in theatre since age ten. From there I pursued an education in the fine arts. I went on to work in the comedy and cabaret circuit in London, later discovering circus in other parts of the country. I have been a professional circus performer for many years, and have extensive experience of teaching and rigging. I have performed in theatres, big tops, the street, all kinds of indoor and outdoor festivals/events including site-specific works and performance based installations.

I have been teaching high-level circus for the last seven years; first in the UK and then in Sweden, at “Cirkus Piloterna”, “Cirkus Gymnasiet”, and most recently at Danshögskolan’s circus education.

I have won awards for performance and directing and have been for the last five years a member of my own contemporary circus company Fan-atticks, who have made three shows to date, “Lost and Found”, “I Will Run Away” and “Cage”; performed in Sweden, France, Finland, Denmark, Senegal.

I am a committed performer with Fan-atticks new work, at home on a rope and on a stage. I divide my time between my performance and teaching work and being a father.

I am inspired by putting two things together. By the confusing and the unheard of. I like physicality and emotional punch. I love jokes, but only if there is no punch line. I can be moved in equal measure by a graceful flying trapeze artist or a drunk staggering down an empty street at midnight.

Work experience:

Since 2004: Devised, produced and toured three high quality shows together with Fan-atticks; “Lost and Found”, “I will run away” and “CAGE”. Toured in Sweden, Denmark, France, Finland and Senegal with amongst others Riks Teatern’s Kulturtaget, playing in theatres, at festivals and corporate events.

Since 2006: Involved with Senegal outreach project funded by “Svenska Institutet”.

Since 2003: Teaching aerial skills at “Cirkuspiloterna” and Danshögskolan’s circus education.

Since 1993: working professionally with Circus and theatre performance: street theatre, festival, corporate performance circuit, Circomedia’s resident circus troupe, ‘Dark Horse’ a circus/ theatre show touring U.K. France, Spain, Edinburgh Festival (Herald Angel Award 2000), Mike Wright Flying Trapeze Show, Zin Lit circus, touring ‘Norsken’ in U.K. and Sweden. Forkbeard Fantasy production of ‘Frankenstein’, theatre, film and circus show, touring U.K., NoFitState Circus tour. ‘Science Circus’, seven months in a big top tent. Forkbeard Fantasy/Company FZ collaboration, ‘L’Abattoir’, Chalon sur Mer ‘Dans la Rue’ festival, Company FZ in circus and physical theatre show ‘Loser’, directed by John Paul Zacharini. Time vine fiasco comedy show, Perrier Newcomer Award ’95. Co-director of the Magical Animal Dream Factory Cabaret ’90 – ’93.

Education/Research:

2003: Attended “Autopiloterna” post graduate scheme, at Cirkus Cirkör’s education.

1997: Monthelon training and performance space, France; vertical rope research/performance creation.

1996-’97: Attended “Circomedia”, Academy of Circus Arts, and Physical Theatre in the U.K.

1984-’89: Slade school of Fine Art, London. Performance art, first degree.