THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY enterprise M3 Delivering prosperity through innovation

Job Title: Circus performer

Occupational Sector: Entertainment and the Arts

Required qualifications/entry route: Most circus performers do not have formal qualifications in their chosen act/skill. Their act is the result of years of practice and experience.

Whilst many performers are born into the circus and come from circus families, it is possible to enter as a result of achieving high-level skills in dance, comic performance, gymnastics, tumbling, ariel hoop or pole work etc.
In the UK, there are several degree courses and colleges offering part and full-time courses – including evenings and weekend short and long term opportunities from beginner level up.
For more information contact:

- The Circus Space, London https://www.nationalcircus.org.uk/
- Circomedia, Bristol https://www.circomedia.com/
- Greentop Circus, Sheffield https://www.greentop.org/
- No Fit State Circus, Cardiff https://www.nofitstate.org/en/

Skills needed:

- Determination to succeed
- Physical strength and flexibility
- High levels of energy
- Communication
- Team-work
- Resilience
- Willingness to travel and work alongside people from different cultures/countries
- Patience to learn new ways to improve your act

Salary scale:
As with other areas of entertainment earnings are dependent on the act level of skills and reputation of the individual or act.
Someone starting out may earn £50 a day and be expected to fill in with other jobs such as ticket booking or litter picking after performances.
Someone with a good reputation and unique show can expect to earn £200+ a day.
The most successful and internationally known performers in shows such as Cirque de Soleil can earn £500+ a day – so earnings of £100,00 a year are not unusual.

Current demand for this job:
As with all other areas of entertainment and performance, the pandemic has had a terrible impact upon those who work and perform in circuses across the world. Many have found alternative work and are busily maintaining and practicing their skills for when the entertainment sector reopens.

Future demand for this job:
When things improve across entertainment and hospitality, the expectation is that opportunities will again appear. To begin with, it's likely that performers who are well known are more likely to get the initial contracts and those looking to enter the sector will have to be patient. Some work will be 'word of mouth' but jobs are advertised in 'The Stage'

Alongside traditional travelling circuses, there will be opportunities in other places and venues such as:
TV, live shows, cruise ships, theme and amusement parks, music concerts and festivals.

For further information about this job:

https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs/job-profile/circus-performer

https://www.vault.com/industries-professions/professions/c/circus-performers

https://www.circomedia.com/what-is-circus/

Other similar jobs to consider:

- Dancer
- Gymnast
- Entertainment manager
- Stage assistant
- Festival organiser
- Theatre performer
- Theatre technician

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