



FREE FAMILY CIRCUS ARTS WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 5

VANDERHOEF STUDIO THEATRE

MONDAVI CENTER

If you've ever dreamed of running off to join the circus, now's your chance with two family-friendly circus arts workshops offered by the UC Davis Institute for Exploration in Theatre, Dance and Performance. The ninety-minute workshops are free and open to the public at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 5 at Mondavi Center's Vanderhoef Studio Theatre. Reservations are encouraged as participation is limited.

The workshops are open to all ages including families with youngsters and grandparents. Instruction will be in climbing and swinging on aerial rope, juggling, creating pyramids and other acro-partnering skills, basic acrobatic moves and group improvisation games. Platforms will be no more than one foot off the ground.

The event will foster a sense of the techniques and skills required to be a circus artist, as well as develop confidence, creativity and responsibility for the body. Participants will discover the discipline and fun of circus arts. Events center on physical participation and the exchange of expertise. The classes emphasize building strength, accomplishing circus actions safely, and deepening each individual's own set of personal best physical skills.

Given a maximum of 50 participants per each of the two sessions, reservations are recommended by emailing ucdavisdance@gmail.com.

The circus arts workshops are led by Department of Theatre & Dance Master of Fine Arts candidate Kevin O'Connor who has worked for ten years as a professional circus artist, choreographer, improviser and dancer. He has taught circus arts around the world including classes for professional artists, children and families. He trained for two years at the National Centre for Circus Arts in London and completed a 3-year diploma in circus arts (where he specialized in aerial rope) from the National Circus School of Montreal. Kevin has performed around the world and has received numerous commissions to create and develop his circus and dance pieces.

Kevin O'Connor is one of two artists presenting [MFA Thesis Choreographies](#) at Mondavi Center's Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, February 16-26. His interactive new work will fuse dance, circus arts, acrobatics, multimedia and improvised vocals in an examination of the "sensing" of community.

WHAT: Two circus arts workshops presented by UC Davis Institute for Exploration in Theatre, Dance and Performance and taught by MFA choreography candidate Kevin O'Connor. Event is free of charge and open to all ages of the public.

WHEN/WHERE: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday February 5 at Mondavi Center's Vanderhoef Studio Theatre.

RESERVATIONS: Please email your desired session time with number of participants to ucdavisdance@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation email in return. No more than seven participants per family/request.