



PERFORMANCE, TRAINING, OUTREACH, LEGACY

Dolly Jacobs, Co-Founder of The Circus Arts Conservatory, Aerialist Extraordinaire

Dolly Jacobs is the daughter of the legendary master clown, Lou Jacobs, and one of the world's foremost aerialists. She started her career as an aerialist in 1976, at Ringling Bros. where for eight seasons, Dolly thrilled Ringling audiences with the wonderful Roman Rings act that garnered her the title of "Queen of the Air".

Ms. Jacobs was invited twice to participate in the International Circus Festival of Monaco (1977 & 1988) - each time winning the Dame du Cirque (Lady of the Circus) award and in 1988, the coveted Silver Clown award. Dolly has been inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame at St. Armand's Circle and the Circus Hall of Fame at the John & Mable Ringling Museum. She has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia and is always an audience favorite when she performs at The Circus Arts Conservatory annual productions. Florida's Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning recognized the accomplishments of Ms. Jacobs, co-founder of at the Florida Heritage Awards where Dolly was the recipient of the prestigious 2012 Florida Folk Heritage Award. The Florida Department of State presents Folk Heritage Awards annually to citizens whose lifelong devotion to folk-life has enriched the state's cultural legacy.

Pedro Reis, Co-Founder of The Circus Arts Conservatory

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Pedro Reis began circus training at the age of 12 at a local YMCA, developing his skills on the flying trapeze. Later he went on to help found the first circus school in South Africa.

As an artist, in 1982, Pedro established *The Survivors*, a thrilling aerialist act that toured Europe and made its American debut with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1984. In 1987, Pedro became a solo artist, performing with The Big Apple Circus at Busch Gardens and The International Circus Festival of Monaco.

In 2004, Reis, received the Sarasota County Arts Council's prestigious Arts Leadership Award. Recognized for its leadership in both artistic programming and sound management and fiscal practice, Circus Sarasota received the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Award in the Arts Organization of the Year category, 2005. In 2009, Reis was inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame on St. Armand's Circle.

In 2014, Pedro was appointed to serve on the Florida Council of Arts and Culture. The Florida Council on Arts and Culture is the 15-member advisory council appointed to advise the Secretary of State regarding cultural grant funding and on matters pertaining to culture in Florida. Appointments to the Council are determined by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, in consultation with the Secretary of State and are based on geographic representation, as well as demonstrated history of community service in the arts and culture.

About The Circus Arts Conservatory

In 1997, Pedro and Dolly combined their experience, passion, and dreams and created Circus Sarasota, a one-ring European style circus. It is the only professional, not-for-profit circus in the State of Florida. Each year in February, Circus Sarasota brings local, national and international artists of the highest level to perform under the Big Top.

In 2013 Circus Sarasota rebranded its organizational identity and became The Circus Arts Conservatory with the mission to preserve and expand at an international level, the extraordinary culture and tradition of the circus arts. Today The CAC is home to world class performances and utilizes the circus arts to improve lives through its three accomplished community outreach programs: Sailor Circus Academy, Humor Therapy and Education Program.

Both Founders are inducted into the John and Mable Ringling Circus Museum Hall of Fame and recently into the Sarasota Video Archives.