

Amanda Crockett

1635 E 53rd St. #3 • Chicago, IL 60615
505-577-3499 • amandacrock@yahoo.com
www.amandacrockett.com

Summary of Skills

Talented performer with over 25 years of experience working in the visual and performing arts industry. Significant expertise in performing, teaching, one-on-one/group coaching and building stage presence for every level from novice to experienced performers. Highly trained in physical theater, circus arts techniques, mobility, conditioning, flexibility, injury prevention and circus rigging. Extremely adaptable professional who is amenable to a variety of work environments, accommodating to any work style, and a true team player.

Objectives

- Seeking to channel the resourcefulness, creativity and drive that has sustained me as a freelance artist into helping students gain physical skill, a sense of invention and the ability to do more creatively and physically than they previously thought possible.
- Work in a setting that allows for teaching, coaching and building on the performing skill set honed over 28 years.
- Support new work and develop the next generation of professionals in the performing arts
- Utilize circus arts as a tool to help students develop creativity, teamwork, communication skills and a spirit of play
- Make significant contributions to the field of education in performing arts and work with colleagues that support my own professional development.

Coaching Experience, Circus Arts

For over 20 years, I have taught circus arts to all ages and all levels of experience across North and South America. Notably, my teaching ability is not restricted to one genre of circus discipline; I teach aerials, ground acrobatics, tumbling, juggling, stilt walking, clown and equilibratics.

Actors Gymnasium, Chicago, IL

2016-present

- Instruct Professional Training Program Students in static trapeze, tumbling, hand stands, partner acrobatics, mime, juggling, body mechanics, conditioning and flexibility. Classes aimed at launching a career in circus and physical performance.

Aloft Loft, Chicago, IL	2009-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert trainer for both Full Time Training Program and recreational students, including one-on-one and group sessions for novice, intermediary-level and professional-level performers. • Master trainer in hat manipulation, static trapeze, swinging trapeze, tumbling, hand balancing, juggling, act development, acrobatics, swinging trapeze, body mechanics, conditioning and flexibility • Consulted for coaching throughout the school's instructors • Coach and consultant for Teacher Training Program, a required course for all prospective teachers and coaches at Aloft Loft. 	
Sky Candy, Austin, TX	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead intermediate and advanced level static trapeze workshops 	
Barrow Circus, Barrow, AK	2011, '12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught static trapeze, balance, juggling and acrobatics in the Arctic Circle 	
CircEsteem, Chicago, IL	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught juggling, static trapeze and acrobatics to youth ages 5-18 from Chicago and surrounding suburbs 	
Le Studio, Los Angeles, CA	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained youth troupe in static trapeze 	
Wise Fool New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM	2003-'09
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught recreational classes in static trapeze, juggling and acrobatics 	
Versatile Arts, Seattle, WA	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead a special workshop in comedy trapeze for students from around Washington state 	
San Francisco School of Circus Arts	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained students in static trapeze 	
The Clown Conservatory, San Francisco, CA	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed Conservatory students seeking a career in circus in juggling and acrobatics 	
Española Valley Public Schools, Española, NM	2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught tumbling and acrobatics as a means to promote physical fitness in elementary school students 	

- Miami Performing Arts Center**, Miami, FL 2004, '05
- Developed and implemented curriculum
 - Taught six week residencies at local schools, community centers and homeless shelters
 - Instructed students in juggling, clown and acrobatics
 - Co-directed final show, bringing together hundreds of youth from all around Miami to perform together
- The Learning Center for the Deaf**, Framingham, MA 2002
- Taught circus arts to deaf students
- Circus Smirkus Touring Troupe**, Greensboro, VT 2001
- Trained touring artist in juggling

Teaching Experience, Clown & Physical Theater

Teaching in different parts of the world with different languages and cultures while simultaneously creating and performing, I have developed a unique style of teaching physical theater, physical comedy and clown.

- Aloft Loft**, Chicago, IL 2014-present
- Lead weekly physical theater and clown classes to recreational students aimed at providing base-level experience for those interested in the field
 - Developed and ran nine month, bi-weekly physical theater class to Full-Time Training Program students aimed at launching a career in circus and physical performance. Responsible for managing ten staff schedules and setting education trajectory for 15 students.
- Madison Circus Space**, Madison, WI 2016
- Taught clown and physical comedy workshop
- Second City**, Chicago, IL 2012, 2016
- Lead physical comedy workshop for Conservatory students seeking a career in comedy and improvisation.
 - Instructed ongoing clown classes in youth program
- American Youth Circus Organization Annual Festival**, Portland, Maine 2016
- Lead mime and physical comedy workshops for youth circus students and circus coaches from around the US.

Sitka Residency, Sitka, AK	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught a two week residency in storytelling and physical theater in Sitka elementary and middle schools • Taught a professional development workshop for local teachers aimed at providing alternative ways to teach storytelling, communication and teamwork in the classroom. • Developed curriculum for the residency • Created and performed two shows for the students 	
Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Sitka, AK	2011, '12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught mime, clown and acrobatics to middle school students • Conducted adults classes in static trapeze and acrobatics 	
Kendall Elementary Residency, Naperville, IL	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed a two day residency teaching teamwork, movement and spatial awareness to 600 elementary school students • Developed residency curriculum • Performed a twenty minute solo show 	
Festival Mímame, Medellin, Colombia	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited to lead an intensive, five day master class in physical theater focused on linking circus technique with story and character 	
Anjos do Picadiero, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited as master teacher to lead a three day, intensive physical theater workshop for students from around South America, Central America, North America and Europe. 	
Flying Actors Studio, San Francisco, CA	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught physical theater, mime and acrobatics to physical theater students seeking a career in physical theater 	

Directing and Choreography

With almost 30 years of performance experience, I have developed an instinctual sense of what works onstage, and what can be adjusted to make for a more memorable moment with an audience. My fascination with and study of human movement has allowed me to dissect technique to give specific cues to students to help them succeed.

Act Development , Private Students	2010-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directed, choreographed and detailed circus acts Worked with students to hone character, musicality, theatricality, technique, sequencing and performance preparation 	
Director , Actors Gymnasium	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directed and curated <i>Circus in Progress</i> 	
Choreography , Cirque du Soleil	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-choreographed hat juggling sequence that was subsequently added into <i>Michael Jackson ONE</i> 	
Director of Circus Acts , Wise Fool New Mexico	2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversaw all circus acts for <i>Circus Luminous</i> 	

Productions

My great fortune has been to perform around the world. Whether it be for children in Juarez, Mexico with Clowns Without Borders, for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas, or for the Count and Countess of Vienna in Venice, Italy, each experience has been unique, educational and noteworthy.

Actors Gymnasium , <i>Quest</i> , Evanston, IL	2017
Directed by Leslie Buxbaum Danzig	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting, hat juggling, static trapeze and acrobatics 	
Circus Flora , <i>Pastime</i> , St. Louis, MO	2016
Directed by Cecil Mackinnon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clown, comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling 	
International Juggler's Association Festival , <i>Cascade of Stars</i> , El Paso, TX	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headlined show with my comedy hat juggling act 	
Circus Flora , <i>A Winter Fable</i> , St. Louis, MO	2015
Directed by Cecil Mackinnon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clown, comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling 	
Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival , <i>Third Coast Cabaret</i> , Chicago, IL	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comedy hat juggling 	
Cirque du Soleil , <i>Michael Jackson ONE</i> , Las Vegas, NV	2012-'14
Directed by Jamie King	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Character and hat juggling 	

Zany Umbrella Circus , Cleveland, OH & Pittsburg, PA	2012
Directed by Ben Sota	
• Comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling	
Magic, Mischief and Mayhem , Tracy, CA	2012
Directed by Greg Frisbee	
• Comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling	
Austin Juggling Festival	2012
• Comedy hat juggling	
Nanjing Acrobatic Clown Festival , Nanjing, China	2011
• Comedy trapeze	
Festival Míname , <i>Going Up</i> , Medellin, Colombia	2011
• Solo show encompassing comedy, hat manipulation, mime, audience participation and trapeze	
Medora Musical , <i>The Circus Princess</i> , Medora, ND	2011
• Clown and comedy trapeze	
Anjos do Picadiero , Rio de Janiero, Brazil	2010
• Comedy trapeze	
Krystallpalast Variete , <i>Je T'aime</i> , Leipzig, Germany	2010
Directed by Maxim Bauer	
• Comedy trapeze and character	
Celebration Barn Theater , South Paris, ME	2010
• Comedy trapeze, comedy hat juggling and mime	
Mary Bijou Cabaret , Cardiff, Wales	2010
• Comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling	
El Circo Cheapo Cabaret , US tour	2010
• Comedy hat juggling, comedy trapeze and duo aerial frame	
Moisture Festival , Seattle, WA	2009, '10
• Comedy trapeze, comedy hat juggling and duo aerial frame	
Stonington Opera House	2009
• Comedy trapeze, comedy hat juggling and mime	
Wise Fool New Mexico , <i>Flexion</i> , US tour	2008
Directed by David Clarkson	
• Stilt acrobatics and aerials	

AEMI International Clown Festival , Hangzhou, China	2008
• Clown and comedy hat juggling	
Moscow International Circus , US tour	2008
• Aerial silks	
Phyzig Festival of Physical Comedy , Portland, ME	2007, '08
Directed by Avner Eisenberg	
• Comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling	
The Lensic , <i>Circus Luminous</i> , Santa Fe, NM	2006, '07, '08
• Duo trapeze, swinging trapeze, acrobatics, pin passing, hat juggling, clown and character	
Kimtom International Clown Festival , Shanghai, China	2007
• Comedy trapeze and comedy hat juggling	
Clowns Without Borders , Juarez, Mexico	2005
• Hat juggling, stilt dancing, clown and puppetry	
• Taught workshop to local kids in conjunction with performance	
Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet , <i>The Nutcracker</i> , Aspen, CO	2005
• Acting, rolling globe and stilt walking	
Angel Exit Theater Company , <i>Master Shuttlefate</i> , Santa Fe, NM	2005
• Acting	
Gentse Feesten , Ghent, Belgium	2004
• Partner acrobatics, pin passing and fire juggling	
Edinburgh Fringe Festival , Edinburgh, Scotland	2004
• Partner acrobatics, pin passing and fire juggling	
National Circus Festival , Tasmania, Australia	2003
• Character trapeze	
Midnight Circus , <i>Haunted Hijinks</i> , Chicago, IL	2000, '01, '02
• Swinging trapeze, pin passing, acrobatics, duo trapeze and character	
Midnight Circus , <i>Flower Thieves</i> , Chicago, IL	2001
Company member from 1999-'02	
• Acting, swinging trapeze, acrobatics and pin passing	
La Bauta , <i>Song of the Road</i> , Venice, Italy	2001
• Static trapeze	

Circus Smirkus, US tours	1997, '98, '99
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juggling, acrobatics, pin passing, aerial cradle, hat manipulation, Chinese Pole and stilt dancing 	

TV and Commercials

Dastardly, Dirtnap	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featured 	
WGN-TV, The Bozo Show	2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self, Trapeze 	
The Disney Channel, Totally Circus	1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self (reality) 	

Related Experience

Outside of teaching and performing, I have had the opportunity to take on managerial roles. This breadth of experience has helped me communicate with students, producers, directors and colleagues around the world, and broadened my knowledge of the arts industry, thereby strengthening my ability to work within it.

Program Director, Aloft Circus Arts	2015-'16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created yearly plan for coaches and students Implemented core curriculum Oversaw teaching staff 	
Group Fitness Instructor, Rock Solid Health	2015-'16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead group fitness classes for adults focused on increased mobility, strength, coordination and cardio vascular conditioning 	
Professional Artist	1999-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toured nationally and internationally for 17 years Maintained peak physical condition (sustaining 10 shows/week with Cirque du Soleil) Created and distributed promotional material Acted as my own agent, negotiating contracts and schedules with companies on 5 continents 	

- Co-Founder**, National Circus Performer's Gathering 2004, '05
- Conceived of co-produced 2004 event
 - Co-sponsored 2005 gathering, attracting artists from around the country

Education

- Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater**, Blue Lake, CA Certificate, 1999
- A full-time, intensive training program focusing on acting, movement, mime, dance, improvisation, clown and Commedia Dell'Arte

- Barnard College**, New York, NY 1997-'98
- Studied theater and dance for one year before deciding to pursue more intensive theatrical training.

Training

- Keith Johnstone** 2010
- Week long, intensive improvisation workshop
- Helene Turcotte** 2009
- Trained one-on-one in static trapeze
- Avner Eisenberg and Julie Goell** 2007
- Ten day, intensive physical comedy workshop
- San Francisco Circus Center** 2006
- Trained full-time in tumbling, hand balancing, trampoline, static trapeze and flexibility
- Serenity Smith** 2003
- Intensive training in static and swinging trapeze
- Rodleigh Stevens** 2003-'04
- Intensive training in static, duo, swinging and flying trapeze
- Nyangar Batabataar** 2000-'02
- Training in swinging and static trapeze, tumbling, group acrobatics, teeterboard, hand balancing and aerial cradle
- Lakeshore Gymnastics Academy** 2000-'01
- Weekly tumbling classes with Arcadie Andrioushenko

Circus Smirkus 1997-'99

- Trained in juggling, tumbling, partner acrobatics, Chinese Pole, static trapeze, clown, hand balancing and cradle

Tony Montanaro 2005

- Five day, intensive mime workshop

Professional Development

National Academy of Sports Medicine 2014, '16

- Certified Personal Trainer
- Performance Enhancement Specialist certification

CPR/AED Certification 2014, '16

John Towsen 2015

- Physical Comedy Workshop

College of Southern Nevada 2013

- Nutrition for Sports Performance course

Asylum Stunts 2010

- Choreographed fights, high falls, kicks, hits and dives

David Clarkson 2003, '09

- Three day intensive stilt acrobatics workshop

American Youth Circus Organization Educators Conference on Social Circus 2006

- Five days of training in social circus with Cirque du Monde (Cirque du Soleil's social circus branch) and educators from around the US

American Youth Circus Organization, Teachers Gathering 2005

- Lecture by Reg Bolton: *The Six Essential Needs of Childhood and Circus*
- Lecture by Hovey Burgess and Judy Finelli: *Teaching Teachers How to Teach Juggling*
- Workshops with Carrie Heller: *Circus Arts Therapy, Aerial Spotting Techniques*
- Workshop with Warren Bacon: *Splicing and Terminations*
- Lecture by Donna Wood-Babcock: *Social Circus*

Santa Fe Community College 2005

- Voice

Moshe Cohen 2004, '05

- Three day, intensive clown workshop

- Elsie Smith** 2003
- *Injury Prevention*
 - *Trapeze Teachers Workshop*

Publications and Presentations

- Circus NOW** 2015
- Guest participant in a webinar entitled *Pros on Going Pro*
- Circus NOW** 2015
- Invited guest presenter on the *Queer Circus Panel* at the Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival
- Spectacle Magazine** 2004
- Contributed an article about Women's Circuses and all-female Circus Festivals around the world
- Spectacle Magazine** 2003
- Contributed an article about the first National Circus Gathering the US, which was inspired by the Australian National Circus Festival
- Spectacle Magazine** 2003
- Contributed an article about the National Circus Festival in Tasmania, Australia and the Australian circus community's distinct creative voice