RISK ASSESSMENT - FAUNA

FAUNA by FAUNA Circus
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General synopsis:

These risk assessments and method statement cover the activities of FAUNA - A theatre circus performance designed to play in theatres with a seated audience.

The following risk assessments and method statement is divided into the following sections:

- Description of risk assessment process.
- Get In/Out Procedure
- Performance with Trapeze
- Performance with Canes
- Description of Performance
- First aid provision and risk assessment

The theatre venues are responsible for their own risk assessments for the audience in public space and emergency procedures so we have not covered them in this document.

Rigging of the trapeze is also to be provided by the venue, as per our Tech Rider and as such has also not been included here.

Description of risk assessment process.

Each risk assessed will contain a description and a list of who is at risk.

It details the level of risk before precautions, describes the recommended precautions and how these limit the risk to an acceptable level.

Finally, there is a table that is used to calculate the level of risk (both without and with precautions).

This matrix is used in all subsequent risk assessments.

Example

Description: xxxx
Who is at risk? xxxx

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	xxxx	x	x	x	xxxx

Recommended precautions:

1. xxxx
2. xxxx

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	xxxx	x	x	x	xxxx

Below is the matrix used to work out overall risk factor:

Key:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Likelihood	Very unlikely	Unlikely	May occur	Likely	Very likely	Will occur
Severity	Very minor injury	Minor injury	Injury	Major injury	Single fatality	Multiple fatality

To obtain risk factor, multiply likelihood by severity

Risk factor 0-6 = low If above 6, improve if possible.	Risk factor 7-17 = medium If above 12, further action is required.	Risk factor 18-36 = High Immediate action required/cease activity.

Get In/Out Procedure

The members of the company are responsible for their own equipment, which consists of costume, specialist circus equipment, and necessary music equipment. Where applicable, a van is taken as close as possible to the performance area, usually to loading bay doors of the theatre, or the performers will bring them with them. All freight cases have been selected to be able to fly with and are therefore relatively easy to handle. At the end of the performance the process is reversed and the equipment is loaded back into the trailer and van, or taken with the performers.

After the van has been parked in a suitable location the equipment is unloaded from the van and taken inside the theatre to the stage to be assembled. These tasks are performed by the performers.

Description: Heavy lifting of equipment
Who is at risk? The company

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from heavy lifting	4	2	8	Medium

Recommended precautions:

1. Van is parked as close as possible to performance area to minimise carrying distance.
2. All equipment is as light as possible and easy to carry.

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from heavy lifting	2	2	4	low

Details of further action required:

- Ensure precautions are adhered to.

Performance with Trapeze

The trapeze consists of 2x3.6m long ropes made of cotton around a 4mm steel cable, and a 55cm long, 25mm thick steel bar and 2x3kg chrome weights (overall weight 12kg). The performance consists of 'static trapeze' that includes dynamic movement controlled by the performer. The trapeze is rigged using heavy duty slings with a minimum 1000kg working load and 42kN carabiners.

Description: Hazards due to trapeze performance
Who is at risk? The performer

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from performance	4	5	20	high

Recommended precautions:

1. Enni has undertaken 6 years of specific professional training in the use of this equipment
2. The Trapeze is checked regularly for any signs of wear

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from performance	2	4	10	low

Details of further action required:

- Ensure precautions are adhered to.

Performance with Canes

The canes are made from ply-wood and steel, and are welded and screwed together. They were constructed at the University of Dance and Circus (DOCH) in Stockholm in 2016. They are used for specific handstand sequences throughout the show.

Description: Hazards due to canes performance
Who is at risk? The performer

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from performance	4	5	16	high

Recommended precautions:

1. Imogen has undertaken 3 years of specific professional training in the use of this equipment
2. Screws and wood are checked regularly for any signs of wear

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from peformance	2	4	10	low

Details of further action required:

- Ensure precautions are adhered to.

Description of Performance

The performance takes place on a stage that is separate from the audience. The performance involves circus skills performed by professionally trained performers. The audience will be seated away from the action on the stage and are therefore not at risk from the performance. The theatre will have its own evacuation procedures in place. For a seated audience, the risk of injury from the performance is low. There are no identifiable risks to the audience.

Description: Hazards from performance
Who is at risk? The performers, the general public

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Hazards from performance to the audience	1	1	1	low
2	Hazards from performance to performers	5	4	20	high

Recommended precautions:

1. The performers must all be professional, well-rehearsed in their routines, and there must be no pressure on them to perform if they are injured or unwell.
4. The show is designed to be contained within the stage area so that nothing can fall onto audience
5. Stewards are in place to ensure the audience remain seated (this is the theatres responsibility)
6. The theatre has an evacuation plan in place

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
2	Hazards from performance to performers	1	5	10	low

Details of further action required:

- Ensure precautions are adhered to.

First aid provision and risk assessment

One of the performers is a qualified first aider. Each of the performers are responsible for their own health and wellbeing and body maintenance.

Description: Hazards from inadequate first aid provision
Who is at risk? The performers.

Identification of hazards and risks before precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Inadequate first aid	3	5	15	Medium

Recommended precautions:

1. A qualified first aider is present for all performances and get-ins/get-outs.

Identification of hazards and risks after precautions have been taken.

	Description of hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor	Risk
1	Inadequate first aid	2	4	8	Medium

Details of further action required:

- Ensure precautions are adhered to.

Working and Performing at Height Policy

We differentiates from working at height (erecting big top, rigging circus equipment, rigging lights/sound) and performing at height. However we are committed to following the general principles and approach of the Work at Height Regulations (as amended) 2005.

1. Risk assessments

   A risk assessment should be carried out for work at height activities adopting the height hierarchical approach of Avoidance, Prevention and Mitigation.

   Avoidance – Every effort should first be made to avoid work at height by exploring other means to perform the tasks

   Prevention of falls – Where avoiding work at height is not reasonably practicable, suitable measures should be taken to prevent workers and equipment falling, e.g. work platforms with handrails.

   Mitigation – In the event that the risk of falling still exists, steps should be taken to minimise the distance and consequence of the fall. Where no other safer means are reasonably practicable, e.g. collective fall protection, fall arrest PPE should be selected as a last resort.

2. Access, egress and places of work

   Adequate platforms and access routes should be provided where necessary. Where there is still a risk of falling fall arrest PPE should be utilised.

   Ladders should only be used where no other reasonably practicable means is suitable. They must be stable, secure and strong enough to support the required loads. They should be either secured to a sound structure or footed by a second person if necessary.

   Where work at height entails climbing and working directly on frames and structures they should be stable, secure and strong enough to support the required loads. Fall protection equipment should be provided, if necessary, including, PPE.

   Carrying objects and tools should be minimised and consideration given to the use of lanyards.

   It is the responsibility of the company safety officer to ensure that these policies are adhered to.

3. Danger areas

   Where there is a risk of objects or personnel falling from a height it is the responsibility of both the company producer and the chief rigger to ensure exclusion zones should be established below and hard should worn .

4. Selection of work equipment

   It is the responsibility of the rigger to ensure that all work equipment used for working at heights must satisfy all relevant safety requirements.

5. Assessment of personnel

   The company producer should assess all staff working at height, including levels of fitness, competence and health conditions, which may endanger them or other persons while working at height.

6. Training and competence of personnel

   To work safely at height, it is essential that staff are adequately trained and deemed competent both in the use of all work equipment and in the work tasks. This requires

continued supervision by both the company producer and the rigger to assess staff competence levels.

7. Inspection of workplace and conditions

   Inspections should be made of the workplace environment and prevailing conditions to determine whether working at height is safe. This should include weather conditions. This is the responsibility of both the company producer and the rigger.

8. Inspection of work equipment before use

   All work equipment should be inspected before use by a competent person in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This is the responsibility of the chief rigger.

9. Management system

   It is the responsibility of the producer to ensure that a management system is established to organise, plan and control all work at heights. The management system should assess risks, establish work procedures and retain records and documentation.

10. Work procedures

    Work procedures should be established to ensure effective management and control of safe working at heights.

    It is the responsibility of the producer and rigger to identify hazards and assess risks

    It is the responsibility of the rigger to select, procure and oversee the installation of work equipment

    It is the responsibility of the rigger to identify and control work equipment

    It is the responsibility of the rigger to inspect, maintain and care for company work equipment (including PPE). It is also his/her responsibility to ensure all equipment is tested and certificated as necessary. The chief rigger is responsible for ensuring that individual performers are responsible for their own personal safety equipment. Equally it is the responsibility of everyone to ensure the safety of their own personal equipment.

    It is the responsibility of the rigger to supervise specific working and performing at height activities.

    It is the responsibility of the rigger to devise emergency rescue/evacuation plans for accidents at height. However, it is the responsibility of the company producer to ensure that these are known to the relevant members of the company and are effective.

11. Record keeping

    It is the responsibility of the company producer to ensure that records and documentation be maintained and retained covering:

    Risk assessments
    Work procedures
    Equipment certification and documentation
    Workplace inspection records
    Staff training and competence records

12. Personal Protective Equipment

    All PPE must be approved by the rigger and where applicable conform to relevant EN standards

13. Performing at height

We are committed to following the general principles and approach of the Work at Height Regulations (as amended) 2005 for both performing and training at height. However, the nature of circus dictates that different safety procedures are adhered to.

Risk assessments are written for all activities. This is the responsibility of the company producer

Performers are trained and aware of all risks. It is the performer's responsibility to recognise their own limits. It is responsibility of the company producer to ensure performers work within their own limits

It is the responsibility of the rigger to ensure that necessary exclusion zones are established below performers.

It is the responsibility of the rigger to ensure all PPE and aerial equipment is fit for purpose.

It is the responsibility of the company producer to assess all staff working at height, including levels of fitness, competence and health conditions, which may endanger them or other persons while working at height. Equally it is the responsibility of all performers to continually assess their own ability to perform at height.

To perform safely at height, it is essential that performers are adequately trained and deemed competent both in the use of all equipment and in their performance. This requires continued supervision by both the company producer and to assess performer's competence levels.

It is the responsibility of the company producer and the individual performers to evaluate whether any extra safety measures are needed for aerial performances. These may include the use of lunge lines, lanyards, crash mats, etc.

It is the responsibility of the company producer to ensure that risk/danger is never promoted for its own sake.

It is the responsibility of all performers to ensure that they do not train alone, that all suitable safety equipment is used, and that where learning new routines relevant supervision/advice is followed.

All professional performers must take responsibility for their own safety, the safety of their equipment and the safety of everyone who might be affected by their actions. It is the responsibility of the company producer to inform them of this and to ensure that this does not conflict with any Company policy.