

ACADÉMIE FRATELLINI

CIRQUE ET HANDICAP



LOCATION: France, La Plaine Saint-Denis

TARGET GROUP: Young people with disability

The Fratellini family is one of the most famous circus families in France, with a long tradition in circus arts dating back to the 19th century. They became internationally renowned for their performances, particularly the comedic acts of the Fratellini brothers—Paul, François, and Albert—who revolutionized clowning with their artistry and humor, cementing the family's legacy in circus history.



Photo : Académie Fratellini

Today, the “Académie Fratellini” is a circus arts center unlike any other in the world. It is built around its internationally renowned circus arts college, its leisure school for children and adults and its center for creating and presenting shows that is continuing the adventure begun 40 years ago by the famous clowning duo Annie Fratellini and Pierre Etaix. Throughout the year, the “Académie Fratellini” offers an original programme based on the

discovery of new circus forms and is helping to spread the circus spirit and its values. Even though, the roots of the Fratellini circus are in the traditional circus, nowadays, the center is a school, a “Centre de Formation des Apprentis-es” (CFA). The school awards the “Diplôme national supérieur professionnel d'artiste de cirque” (bachelor's degree), which is the culmination of a three-year course. It is the only one of its kind in France to offer apprentices so many opportunities to experience the realities of the profession by performing under the direction of recognized artists in their discipline, in a variety of conditions and in front of a variety of audiences.

The amateur school focuses on the discovery or advanced practice of amateur circus. Children from the age of five, teenagers, adults and families come together around the circus values of sharing, responsibility and solidarity.

In addition to its professional and amateur courses, the Académie Fratellini is involved in a wide range of social and educational initiatives for all kinds of audiences, including an initiative called “cirque et handicap” (Circus and handicap). This program is aimed

at integrating people with disabilities into the world of circus arts. This initiative involves collaboration with various medical and educational institutions and is designed to help participants develop both physical and social skills through engaging in circus activities. The workshops focus on enhancing motor skills, communication, and self-confidence by providing a safe, creative space where people with disabilities can explore and express themselves artistically.

The program works closely with specialized educators and professionals to tailor activities to each participant's needs. Through exercises like juggling, balance work, and acrobatics, participants gain physical benefits, such as improved coordination and flexibility, while also fostering social connections and personal growth. This inclusive approach highlights the positive impact of circus arts on communication, mobility, and overall well-being for people with disabilities.

The initiative also reflects the broader mission of the "Académie Fratellini" to democratize circus arts and make them accessible to all audiences. By offering this program, they contribute to a more inclusive cultural landscape while promoting therapeutic and artistic benefits for participants.



Find out more on their [website](#).

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