

# ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE DE CIRQUE ADAPTÉ (AFCA)

Association Française  
de Cirque Adapté

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**LOCATION:** France, Aire sur l'Adour

**TARGET GROUP:** Everyone

The Association Française de Cirque Adapté (AFCA) is an innovative and inclusive organization that integrates circus arts into personal development and social inclusion programs. Founded in 1992 in Aire-sur-l'Adour, France, the AFCA is committed to using circus activities as a medium for educational, therapeutic, and recreational purposes. Their key focus is on making circus arts accessible to everyone, regardless of ability or background, and they actively promote social inclusion, diversity, and community engagement. They own a permanent circus tent in Aire-sur-l'Adour, a wooden and canvas structure that serves as a creative and welcoming space for learning and performing.



Photo : AFCA

AFCA offers an adapted circus program designed to make circus arts accessible to individuals with disabilities. This initiative is rooted in the belief that circus activities can foster personal growth, creativity, and social integration, regardless of physical or intellectual challenges.

AFCA's program tailor circus techniques such as juggling, acrobatics, balance, and clowning to meet the needs and abilities of participants. The goal is to create a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals can explore their potential, build self-confidence, and develop physical coordination. By participating in these activities, people with disabilities experience both the therapeutic and recreational benefits of circus arts, enhancing their motor skills, teamwork, and emotional expression.

The program also places a strong emphasis on social interaction and collective work, promoting cooperation among participants and creating a sense of belonging. It is delivered by trained professionals who specialize in both circus arts and working with people with diverse needs. AFCA's adapted circus not only enriches the lives of participants but also raises public awareness about the abilities of people with disabilities, challenging stereotypes and promoting inclusion.

For those interested in becoming circus instructors, AFCA offers professional training programs. These programs are aimed at people who are passionate about circus arts and wish to acquire the necessary skills to teach and lead circus activities. The training focuses on pedagogy, physical training, and the ethical and practical aspects of working with diverse populations. Graduates of these programs often go on to work as educators or social workers, using circus arts as a tool for inclusion and personal development.



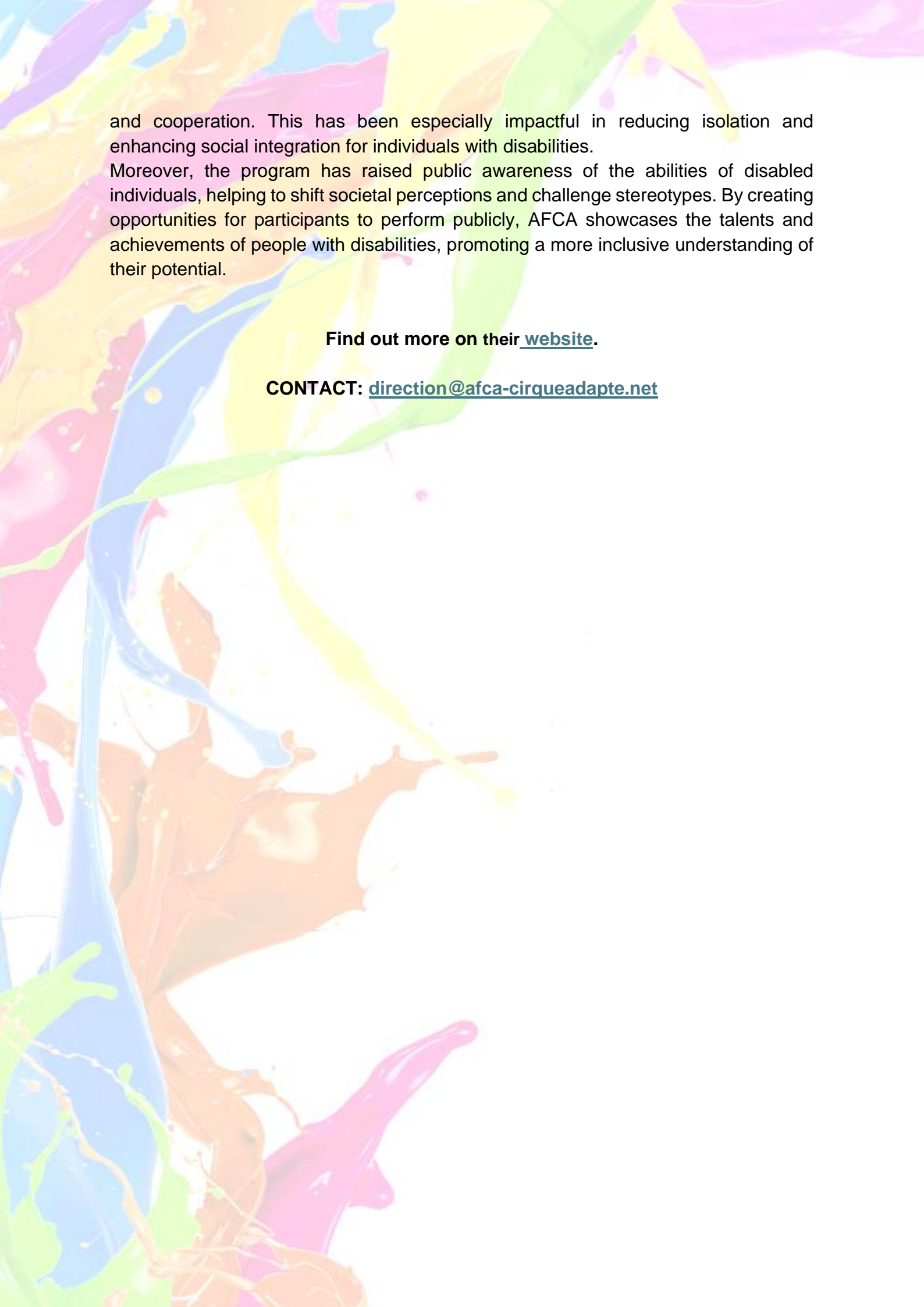
Throughout the year, AFCA organizes and hosts various performances that showcase both professional and amateur circus artists. These shows often include participants from their adapted circus programs, providing a platform for individuals with disabilities or special needs to demonstrate their talents in front of an audience. These performances highlight the inclusive nature of the association and aim to challenge societal perceptions of disability and ability.

AFCA actively collaborates with local schools, community centres, and other organizations to bring the benefits of circus arts to a wider audience. Through workshops and demonstrations, they aim to introduce more people to the physical and creative benefits of circus arts, while also promoting inclusion and social cohesion. The outreach programs are a crucial part of AFCA's mission to break down barriers and make circus arts accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, age, or physical ability.

AFCA also focuses on engaging the local community through open events, such as festivals and public performances, where the general public can enjoy circus shows and interact with the performers. These events help raise awareness about the association's work and the value of inclusive, adapted circus arts. By bringing together people from different walks of life, these community events foster a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity.

AFCA has seen significant positive outcomes from its adapted circus program. The program has empowered individuals with disabilities by enhancing their physical abilities, particularly in terms of motor skills, balance, and coordination. Participants also report increased self-confidence, as circus arts encourage self-expression and creativity, helping them break through personal barriers.

Socially, the program fosters a strong sense of community and inclusion. Participants develop teamwork skills and engage in collective activities that promote mutual trust



and cooperation. This has been especially impactful in reducing isolation and enhancing social integration for individuals with disabilities.

Moreover, the program has raised public awareness of the abilities of disabled individuals, helping to shift societal perceptions and challenge stereotypes. By creating opportunities for participants to perform publicly, AFCA showcases the talents and achievements of people with disabilities, promoting a more inclusive understanding of their potential.

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

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