



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FLYING HIGH CIRCUS

The Flying High Circus was founded in 1947 by Jack Haskin. An extracurricular activity under the Division of Student Affairs at Florida State University, the program was created to integrate men and women at the newly co-ed institution. Today, the only requirement for joining the Flying High Circus is that one be a degree-seeking student at FSU. With 18-22 circus acts taught on the ground and in the air, the Circus can find a place for everyone.

A one semester, one credit hour circus activities course (PEM1952) is offered through the College of Education and the Department of Physical Education. The class teaches students the basics of performance, rigging and safety. Enrollment is encouraged, but not mandatory, as many “walk-ons” prefer to participate on a strictly voluntary basis. After college, the majority of student performers pursue a career in the discipline from which they graduated. Only a small percentage go on to perform professionally.

Rivaling any professional troupe, the FSU Circus is primarily an aerial and stage presentation with three rings of spellbinding entertainment for everyone. Unlike professional circuses, Flying High has no animal acts. Additionally, student performers rig their own equipment and sew their own costumes.

The Florida State University Circus generates its own revenue in a number of ways. Each April, Flying High hosts its annual Homeshow performances under its own Big Top tent on the FSU campus. During the summer months, the troupe performs and directs summer recreation programs at Callaway Gardens Resort in Pine Mountain, Ga., as well as at Frank Brown Park in Panama City, Fla. The group also performs road shows throughout the academic year.

The FSU Circus is widely recognized. Throughout its 60 year history, the troupe has performed across the globe, in places like Europe, Canada, the Bahamas and the West Indies. Additionally, the group has been the subject of a number of national television programs, most recently the CSTV documentary *Flying High: the Florida State University Circus*.