



MIKE HIRSCHBACH

has been a circus artist for 35 years. He performed from 2001-2003 with the Cirque du Soleil's touring show "Dralion." From 2003 – 2005 he was a Master Trainer with the Cirque's social outreach program, Cirque du Monde. As such, he trained the trainers in the existing Cirque du Monde programs, upgrading their circus, social and teaching skills in Orlando, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, South Africa and Burkina Faso. Since 2005 his full time work has been directing the Halifax Circus school and the outreach programs of Circus Circle, working with youth in difficulty; incarcerated youth, youth with addictions, with mobility or mental health issues, and those from a background of abuse. Before performing with the Cirque du Soleil, he toured his solo theatrical-circus shows for many years. These performances were seen across Canada, the continental U.S., Europe, Asia, India, the Yukon and Alaska in venues such as the Calgary Olympic Games, the Canada Summer Games, the International Mime Festival in Montreal, the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris, the Singapore River Festival and the International Clown Festival in Mumbai and Goa, India.



TROY GREENCORN

is the founding Artistic Director of the Stan Rogers Folk Festival, now into its 25th year. "Stanfest", as it has come to be known, is an international songwriter's festival that presents over 40 accomplished songwriters/acts from a wide range of genres. The event, hosted in Canso, Nova Scotia is a 4 day, 5 stage festival. Troy is also the Creative Director of the deCoste Performing Arts Centre in Pictou, Nova Scotia, a 400 seat facility that presents 100+ events each year. The deCoste's presents a rich mix of shows, predominantly music, but also including dance, theatre, comedy, film and variety. Troy will discuss the work he and his team at the deCoste have done to make the facility more accessible, both physically and from a programming and inclusion perspective.