

In the Spotlight...

BERKCIRQUE

CIRCUS SCHOOL OF THE BERKSHIRES

Our Mission – Our mission is to create a circus community that enhances the physical and emotional well being of our students regardless of age or ability, through freedom of mindful movement and artistic expression. There is something for everyone in the circus!

Our Background – Jill Fleming grew up in the competitive world of gymnastics. Although she enjoyed the challenges and discipline of this sport it was very hard on her growing body. As an Education major at NYU, Jill found yoga as a way to heal her physical body and settle her mind. While teaching Physical Education in private and public schools, it became apparent that many children weren't being served by the standard sports curriculum. It was disappointing to witness many students struggling to be part of the game and not feeling included or good about themselves.

As a Movement Educator, it was Jill's goal to help people find joy in their body. While studying to become a movement therapist, Jill was introduced to circus arts as a means to teach balance, coordination, perseverance, improve self-esteem and build strength! Jill felt that she found exactly what was needed in the PE system.

After establishing and teaching a circus arts curriculum for elementary students, Jill created and produced several community youth circus events in the Berkshire/Taconic Region. She continued her training with NECCA (New England Center for Circus Arts) www.necenterforcircusarts.org and then began working for Circus Smirkus (<http://www.smirkus.org/>) as an artist in residence and traveled throughout New England. She met many wonderful circus artists and performers along the way.

As a longtime resident of the Berkshires, Jill received her professional level yoga teacher certification at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. She imagined the health benefits of combining circus arts with the healing nature of yoga. Out of this dream, Berkcirque was born. At Berkcirque, each skilled instructor brings their unique teaching style to their area of expertise. Everyone learns to appreciate one another and the satisfaction that comes with creating something special together in a non-competitive environment.

Our Blueprint for Success – Berkcirque invites people of all ages to share in the joy of circus arts and aerial yoga. We offer a variety of weekly classes in juggling, tumbling, aerial arts, clowning, and aerial yoga flow. Our skilled instructors also provide private instruction, weekend workshops, vacation camps, open house events, performances, music, drumming and birthday parties. We also rent our fabulous venue for celebrations of all types.

Contact Information –



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