

# Social Circus Yangon

Report: Dry-Season Project Dec 2015 – March 2016

Jules Howarth



The Day of Fun, Grand Toss-up!

## Project Description and Aims

Serious Fun Social Circus trainer Jules Howarth returned to Yangon in early December 2015, just in time to get to the International Day of Disabled People event held in Kandawgyi Park and meet with Julien Ariza (Circus4All) and see their presentation and also meet our partners from Eden Centre for Disabled Children.

Our plan for this dry season was to continue working with the groups we worked with in dry season 2014-15 and to find new partners and groups to work with.

Our plan was to concentrate on workshops and training and not deliver an international juggling festival, which was a one-off event in 2014-15 and acted as a catalyst to kick-start juggling and circus arts in Myanmar.

**Social Circus Yangon** delivers outreach workshops to several groups – most of whom we met and worked with in the initial project 2014-15. This work consists of training for young people held at their school or venue or in their community. Social Circus Yangon also delivers one-off workshops and shows – in return for a donation, in order to support the main project costs – in order to spread the word of what we do and so that everyone has the opportunity to have fun.

**Social Circus Yangon also works hand-in-hand with Circus4All** which is a project developed out of our first season. Circus4All tries to meet every week to train and share-skills; it is a group of Myanmar people and ex-pats, some with disability some without, working together with an agenda

of Inclusion and Play and Fun. Circus4All and Social Circus Yangon train together to develop capacity to deliver workshops and shows to the public, to groups working with disabled people, to groups working with disadvantaged, marginalised or at-risk people.

During this dry-season project we made shows and workshops where Myanmar people from the Circus4All group and young people from our regular workshop groups performed in public and taught the workshops.



**Our longer-term aim is to train local Myanmar people in the circus arts and support them** so that they can deliver the workshops and training program and get paid to do this. In the long-term we plan to found a regular circus arts training space run by Myanmar people. Alongside the circus arts training we intend to support Myanmar trainers, and in turn the participants, with personal development programmes to support their skills in healthy living, gender equality, civil/human rights, child-protection, health & safety.





### How do we cover our costs?

Serious Fun Yangon had some funds left over from the initial project 2014-15 and we used this to fund this season's project. Our Social Circus Trainer is not paid a fee but flight cost, accommodation (provided for more-or-less free), local activity costs and food are covered.

### How we work with our local participants

We pay our local Myanmar 'volunteers' and 'facilitators' a fee and/or transport costs. We pay at or above a respectable local rate. E.g. 15/20,000kyat for shows, 6,000kyat for transport plus food costs. We cover the transport for the young people to attend events and provide food for them. For certain workshops we provide a 'family allowance' to the young people so that they can attend workshops without losing income from the jobs that they have to do to support their families.

**Our motto is 'Everyone Needs to Have Fun'**, which means everyone regardless of ability, gender, social class, ethnic origin or social status.



### The key organisational persons in this project are

Jude Smith – Serious Fun Committee leader, based in New Zealand and London, UK.

Jules Howarth – Social Circus trainer, Juggler and Performer and working with Circus 4All.

Virginia Henderson – Yangon-based local co-ordinator for Serious Fun Committee and the lead on Circus4All.

Julien Ariza – Yangon-based freelance circus tutor and educationalist, working with Circus4All





## Groups and Organisations 2015-16

Regular, weekly workshops

- Thanlyin Boys Training Centre, Department of Social Welfare (Thanlyin)
- Taw Mae Phar hostel, Taung Thu Gone Karen Baptist Church (Insein)
- Eden Centre for Disabled Children (Insein)
- Scholarships for Street Kids, Myanmar programme (Mingaladon)

Additional workshops were held with:

- Helping Hands
- Mary Chapman School for Deaf people
- International School Myanmar
- Thayar College, Yangon
- Third Story Project

We delivered Shows and Workshops at:

- Great Britain Fair, Junction Square, Yangon
- Great Britain Day Out, British Ambassador's residence, Yangon

And we produced The Day of Fun at the Head of the British Council's residence when we brought together all the young people and adults we work with in a day of fun, celebration and shows – a chance to meet each other – and an opportunity for Social Circus Yangon to 'showcase' its project.

Circus4All also delivered shows and workshops at Yangon Gallery for the International Social Circus Day.

## Supporters and Partners

Smile Education and Development Foundation – providing work visas and contacts.

British Council Civil Society Initiative – supporting work with their CSI programme in Thanlyin Boys Training Centre and connecting us with translators – and supporting the Day of Fun directly.

British Council – Great Britain events – booking us at Great Britain Fair and the Great Britain Day Out. Also support from the Head of British Council to use the residence garden for the Day of Fun.





### **Sponsors**

City Mart  
100 Plus  
Yangon Gallery

### **Donations**

Silvia's Elemental Yoga Class – donation from this group  
Sandy – Personal donation  
Zinmar Win – Birthday Party  
International School Yangon – community event day  
Thayar College – workshop and training with college students  
Crowdfunding via StartSomethingGood – 67 personal donations  
Jane Davies' family – accommodation and support  
Clare Lyons – accommodation support



## **Workshops delivered Dec 2015 – March 2016**

Regular weekly workshops – 47 workshops

One-off workshops - 7

## **Number of young people participating**

Regular participants – 76

Single participants - 250

## **Number of Adults participating**

Regular – 10 (Circus4All)

One-off - 60

## **Main Events – Shows and Workshops**

International Day of Disabled people - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015

Great Britain Fair – Junction Square 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016

Great Britain Day Out - 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

Day of Fun – 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

International Social Circus Day – 2/3 April 2016

## **Budget Summary**

### **2015-16 Serious Fun in Yangon**

### **November 2015 – March 2016**

Total Income: \$5100.

Details -

Earned Income: \$1475

Donations: \$900

from 2014-15: \$2700

Total Expenditure: \$ 4300.

Details -

International costs (flights, visas, insurance, travel) \$1200

Project Costs in Yangon: \$3100

Other costs - International Social Circus Day and extra workshops: \$200

Funds held for following year: \$600

