

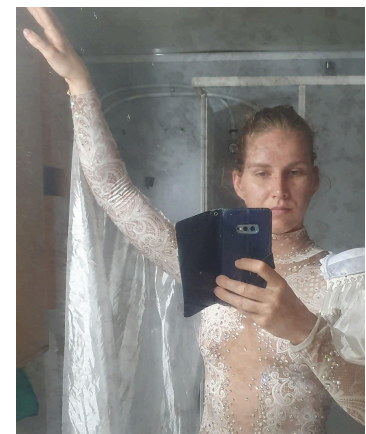
Circo Rolando Orfei - Erasmus Traineeship Part 2 - August 2025



I arrived at the circus by train on Saturday night and the second show of the day had just started. I watched it from the audience perspective and really liked to observe the details in each performance. The next day I already performed in the show. I was dancing in the opening choreography, did my aerial act in my VerticalDancingNet, took part in an interactive part with the clowns and the audience and came in for the finale. One day a photographer came to take pictures during the show and the results looked amazing.



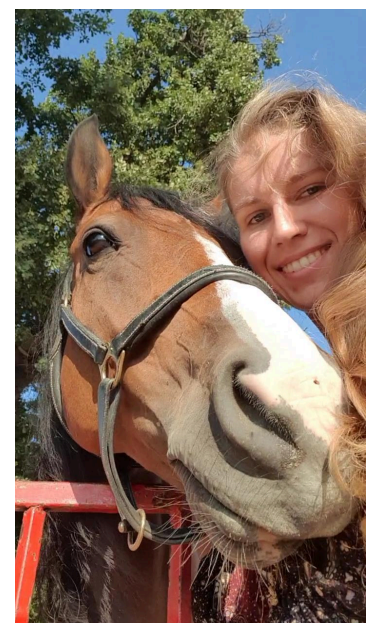
In the mornings we continued the horse training with Max and put together my act. For one week I experimented to find the best order of tricks. I didn't have a barrel (artificial practice horse) so I used a rolled up acrobatic floor to rehearse the choreography together with music several times to fix the details and order. Then I practiced everything on the real horse. The first part of the choreography in trot and the second part in gallop. My aim was to match everything with the music. We had ideas on how to start and end the act with some wings on my costume, so I started to sew on my costume. I wanted to have one pair of wings in the beginning of my act so I bought a silk coat with integrated led lights. We introduced Max to the new fabric, at first he was sceptical about my wings but soon he accepted me getting closer and got more curious. We practiced until he was fully comfortable to let me wear the wing coat while riding on him. After the introduction of my act I have to take off the coat so it would not bother my acrobatics. But for my final trick in gallop I want to have wings again, so I came up with another idea. I sewed a pair of wings from white silk directly onto the sleeves of my costume but I made secret pockets on my shoulders to hide them. This way they are not in my way for acrobatics but I can use a little quick change magic to let them appear as a special effect in the end. It was a bit tricky to create but I spent a lot of time sewing and the result is quite good I think.



Max was very good behaving and willing to work with us. He was already used to the surroundings so the practice was less distracted.

Although the heat was less strong than in my first Erasmus period, it was a heavy schedule to work hard daily. Every early morning practice on the horse for two hours, every night shows with my aerial performance. After one week it was already time again to travel to the next location.

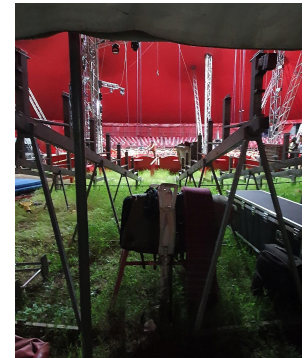
Hektor and Max could observe the whole pull down of the tents from their stables and seemed very curious about everything going to be packed. I think the other travel-routined animals were a good mental support for our two. Also I tried to spend enough time near them



during the process of travelling to comfort them. At the end of the day when the main tent was already down, all the animals were brought into their trailers. Then the tents of the stables were demounted and packed. The next very early morning the trucks with loads and the transport of the animals left to the new venue. Of course I came with the vehicle which tied Hektor and Max and prepared to give them my company until their stables are set up again. I brought myself some lunch and water because I already knew from the previous travel

days that it would take the whole day to wait.

But as we arrived at the new venue soon the sun got stronger, the heat was back and the water we had on the trailer for the horses was not enough. I went for fresh water, but there was no water tub installed yet. Later I would realise that this searching for water would become a major struggle for me in this month. I managed to bring them a few liters of water from bottles, and gave them hay to keep them busy. Also I looked after Brigitta's dog Benjy while she went back to the previous location to transport her house. Until the afternoon the stables were ready and I could arrange my own housing.



The ground on this venue was very bumpy and my truck was driven straight through a massive hole. When I entered my room I saw the whole kitchen shattered on the floor. Also my luggage was across everywhere although I had put it in quite stable positions. However I had to get everything organized and cleaned up as the shaking transportation had no mercy on the old furniture. Yet it was frustrating to get things done without light and water. After someone came to install my electricity, the connection was still unstable and the hind area of my truck didn't have any windows. That's why I still found shatters of glass on the

kitchen floor after a few days although I tried my best to remove all. The water still didn't come after they installed it. It seemed I was the only one without water because every other truck had a water pump. But my pump didn't work. Anybody I asked could not fix the pump, sometimes it worked for a few liters and stopped. Not even enough for one shower which I needed so much. The current water came for a few hours, then again it stopped. This situation did not change until the end of the month so my days were ruled by the availability of water. I had to schedule my showers, house cleaning and cooking, but nobody could tell me at what time current water was available. It was estimation and luck. This was extremely stressful for me. I started to bottle up the water for the shower and tried to find strategies to handle it but I felt constantly uncomfortable inside my house and my skin.

The day before the premiere in Tortoreto Lido we went into the town to make a commercial parade. We handed out tons of flyers to the tourists on the streets and in the night cafes along the beach. Everybody got dressed up in costumes, the clowns played on their trumpets, music made noise from a speaker and the jugglers played with their clubs and hula hoops. And then on the next day the tent was very full for the first and only time. Maybe even close to sold out. It felt great to have so much audience but the following days and weeks we had as few people coming as always.



We continued to practice on the horse. As I mentioned the bumpy ground before, also the ring had big holes and was very uneven. I tried to fix it somehow with my handcraft but without extra sand we wouldn't be able to make it even. For Max, it was very difficult to keep his rhythm and balance, he could not run in a round circle and that made it also much harder for me to work on him. We planned to get the act ready to perform before the end of August.

The new wings for my costume were almost done and the choreography and music was ready, but I didn't feel safe on the uneven floor. Also, we didn't have a chance to practice with lights and music from the loud speakers. This is a very important aspect to prepare Max to perform this new act with confidence. He is very sensitive to new noises and the speakers might make some unexpected interfering noise sometimes that would scare him. Also we could not find a chance to see how he reacts in front of an audience because he is still nervous about sounds or movement from the gradin. Facing these challenging conditions and the fact that I already felt stressed because of my accommodation problems, it was not the right time yet to present the new act.

Anyway, somehow I got used to the limited access to water and took my time to enjoy the beach sometimes.

I spent so much time near the animals, I am really going to miss their presence.

The heat was for the most part gone at the end of august and the climate was finally very comfortable for me.

Shortly before I had to leave it was my birthday and Brigitta surprised me with a huge bouquet of flowers at the finale of the show. I felt so blessed and grateful, also she is always a great support in any matter. I feel honoured to be her student and am thankful for her support also these days. Now we are looking forward, because although I didn't get to perform with my new horse act yet, there are many new perspectives to reach out for back in Budapest.

