

Philip Solomon



Philip Solomon is a highly regarded producer and creator of theatrical, circus, and musical entertainment with nearly 30 years of professional experience. He is President and Creative Director of Way 2 Much Entertainment; a premier award-winning live event production company based in Los Angeles, a keynote speaker, and a coordinator and international Master Trainer for Cirque Du Soleil.

Philip began his professional performing career in his teens with a circus-skilled based juggling and comedy duo. He began creating entertainment that integrated music, comedy, acrobatics, audience interaction and thrilling stunts with fire, knives, balance boards, stilt walking and wire walking. Simultaneously, Philip began performing as drummer for the pioneering punk rock band **Anti-Heros**, with whom he recorded multiple albums (on Link and Taang Records) and toured extensively. He remained with the band for over 10 years.

Philip attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM) and earned a BFA in Dramatic Performance. Through a desire to find the words to express the emotions stirred by music and other influential forms of art, Philip found CCM and flourished in a conservatory environment. He is a noted *Distinguished Alumnus* and the 2010 recipient of the **Julia Winter Cohen Career Excellence Award**. After graduating, Philip continued his theatrical training working with the **Alliance Theater** in Atlanta and **The National Theater** in London.

Way 2 Much Entertainment (www.way2much.com)

Philip is currently the President and Creative Director of Way 2 Much Entertainment, a premier live event production company established in 2002. Way 2 Much specializes in the creation of inventive entertainment concepts, motivational programs, and customized performance designs and décor utilizing world-class talent and designers. Way 2 Much Entertainment was a finalist for the prestigious Event Solutions' Entertainment Company of the Year Award in 2011.

Show Director/ Event producer:

- Private Events for: **President and Mrs. Obama** (2009, 2013, 2014), **Royal Family of Jakarta, Prime Minister of Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, Joan Dangerfield, Megan Mulally and Nick Offerman, and P. Diddy.**
- Entertainment direction and production with talent such as **Prince, The Eagles, Black Eyed Peas, Jane's Addiction, OK GO, Mastodon, Etta James, Queen Latifah, Macy Gray, Alice Cooper, and Kiwi-Time.**
- Directed performances with Broadway luminaries such as **Terri Dale-Hansen, Titus Burgess, and Sarah Uriarte-Berry.**
- Creative Direction for **Long Center of the Performing Arts** in Austin Texas: gala grand opening and anniversary events.
- Creative Director and Producer for holiday events and special events at **Danbury Fair Mall** and for numerous **Macerich/Westfield** malls nationwide.
- VIP events for **Peppermill Casino**, Reno, NV and **Stratosphere Casino**, Las Vegas, NV.
- Grand Opening event for **Halls Crown Center Plaza**, Kansas City, KS

- Show Director and Associate Producer for the largest collection of variety and circus artists in the 100-year history of the **Santa Monica Pier** for their centennial celebration, 2009.
- Show Director and Producer for **Carnevil 2013**, an acclaimed variety performance experience and benefit for the Encore Foundation.
- Customized performances and motivational programs for clients such as **the National Speaker's Association, NFL Super Bowl, Coca-Cola, Warner Brothers, Shaw Industries, Sciele, McDonald's, IBM, Citibank, America On-Line, Sony, Microsoft, AT&T, Disney, E-3, Amgen, Sikorsky Helicopters, US Bank, Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art, J.P. Morgan, Dell Children's Hospital, U.S. Troops and Families** serving in Honolulu Hawaii and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Motivational Speaking:

- Philip Solomon along with long time performing partner and Hall of Fame Speaker: Dan Thurmon C.S.P. (Motivation Works Inc., www.danthurmon.com) creates motivational programs and keynote speeches that utilize principles of entertainment to help others achieve greater awareness of trust, relationships, communication, balance, multi-tasking, and working in rhythm.

Cirque Du Soleil

From 2002-2012 Philip served as Coordinator for **Cirque Du Monde- Los Angeles**. This program is part of the Social Action and Global Citizenship division of Cirque Du Soleil, and is designed to positively intervene with at-risk and underprivileged youth worldwide by teaching circus skills to help build self-esteem, confidence, social interaction skills, and links with community. In Los Angeles, Philip led a team of coaches who conduct workshops with **The Los Angeles Youth Network, My Friend's Place, The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and Covenant House LA**.

International Trainer:

Philip is also one of a select few international Social Circus Master Trainers for **Cirque Du Soleil** that conducts intensive workshops for socially based artists and youth workers teaching program principals, ethics, and techniques. Recent Trainings include:

- **Zip Zap Circus School** in Cape Town, South Africa: 2007 and 2008
- **The National Institute for Circus Arts (NICA)** in Melbourne Australia: 2008
- **Cirque Du Monde**, Las Vegas 2009 and 2011
- **American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO)** 2006 and 2009
- **Circus Space London:** 2011, 2012, 2014
- **Cast of Totem**, Vancouver, B.C. 2014
- **Berlin:** 2014

Theater (partial listing)

- **Faust:** Atlanta Opera Company
- **Turandot:** KU NA' UKA Theater of Tokyo, Japan
- **Escape from Happiness:** Horizon Theater Company, Atlanta
- **La Serva Padrona** (The Maid as Mistress): Atlanta Opera Company
- **Journey to the West** (Originating the role of Tsunami) 37 Arts Plaza, New York
- **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** (Music Director/ Drums): Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati

- **The Hunchback of Notre Dame:** Fire instructor and segment choreographer- Drury Lane, Chicago
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Film and Television appearances (partial listing)

- **Guantanamo Circus**, 2013
- **The Muppets:** Disney, 2011
- **A Thousand Words:** with Eddie Murphy, 2012
- **Rush Hour 3:** Principal stunt performer
- **Austin Powers- The Spy Who Shagged Me:** Fire Breathing/ Stunt performer
- **Being John Malkovich:** Hand artist (for John Cusack)
- **In The Flesh:** leading role/ independent feature
- *Guest host and featured performer:*
 - **Late Show with David Letterman**
 - **TBS Movie Lounge** (with Fred Willard, Vince Vieluf and Kent Osbourne)
 - **American Music Awards** (with Jennifer Lopez)
 - **General Hospital**
- Stunt and special skills trainer for Sean Gunn on **Gilmore Girls** and Leonor Varela (**Cleopatra**) for the film *Les Infortunes de la beauté*
- National commercials include **Citibank, IHOP, Taco Bell, Tropicana** and **Radio Shack**.

Music and Compositions

- Philip composes and produces original music for live performances. His original compositions have been performed on stages around the world and on **HBO, MTV, CBS, ABC and FOX** networks.