

fekat circus
ANNUAL REPORT

16 + 17 = ?!?



INTRO

Dereje Dange, *Fekat Circus Director*

In the years 2016/2017, Fekat has mainly worked to resolve the disparate existence of several circus groups in Ethiopia and Africa, to create a shared platform for stimulating, promoting, and developing circus arts.

An exceptional milestone during these two years has been the EU grant Fekat received for the development of the circus sector in Ethiopia. This project became a gateway to establish a network among Ethiopian circuses and create new international collaborations.

As Fekat begins to operate as a spring board for the development of circus arts in Africa, creating and promoting uniquely Ethiopian/African contemporary circus for the global market, challenges arise on how to remain focused on the big picture of cultural and sectorial development while ensuring its self-sustainability. We now stand facing our biggest challenge yet, but remain confident in the victories... because we have no doubt circus will save the planet.



Remy Archer, 2017



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CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOP THEIR MOTOR, COGNITIVE, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

At Fekat we work with a premise in mind: the more people are involved in circus, the better the world becomes, as circus is a powerful platform for positive transformation.

The circus school included both free and paying circus classes. The number of students attending our free community classes unfortunately decreased due to recent dislocation of residents towards the peripheries. The good side of being in a central location is that we've been able to develop the paying circus classes. Toddler's classes and circus camps were launched. And the income generated from these services covered the costs for the free community circus school.

The outreach programmes were held both in private schools and children's institutions hosting some of the most vulnerable kids. Through hard work and patience the trainers have been able to develop their self-awareness, their ability to relate with others, and to bring out their inner talents.



Abenet Teshome, 2016

In 2016, Abbush, a 14 years old boy living in Mother Teresa centre attending Fekat weekly circus classes, was not able to hold objects in his hands. Today, he draws admirable paintings. Bamlak, used to stand silently in the corner during the same classes, and he now sings alone in front of the class with an incredible inner strength.

Our gratitude goes to the 11 committed trainers that involved on a permanent basis some **450 children per year** through Fekat circus school (200 kids) and outreach programmes (250 kids).

ART AND CULTURE ARE BLOOMING



Luca Dragone, 2016

In 2016-2017 Fekat circus troupe, constituting of 35 artists, has been rising both at national and international level. Some 53 shows were performed in Ethiopia and 250 across the globe.

A new brand of Fekat Circus – the Monthly show – was started in February 2016. This event gives Fekat’s young artists the opportunity to perform at home and gives Addis Ababa dwellers an opportunity to enjoy a unique monthly cultural experience. Another new venture is the Christmas show which took place each year in the city’s legendary theatres. These shows were aimed at raising funds for the [Smile Medicine](#) project.

The previous cooperation started with [Creatividad Solidaria](#) continued with new successful productions and tours in the summer and Christmas of 2017 in Spain. And new cooperation started with [Rimini Circo](#) (Italy) who organised tours mainly around Italy and France, Holland, Switzerland in the summer of 2016 and 2017.

The troupe also performed at the 2017 [World Cultures Festival](#) in Hong Kong and Karaban Festival in Nigeria. In 2016, three lucky artists also joined the adventurous Golden Peacock Circus in Yangon, Myanmar.

All these international exposures influenced and increased the desire to experiment artistically and strengthen the search for Fekat circus’ own identity.

Knowing that there's no future without cooperation, one of our priority has been widening and strengthening our relations with Ethiopian and foreign players in performing arts.

Since 2016, Fekat Circus hosted once a week the much admired contemporary dancer Mesert Yirga and her projects including, No Woman Behind into its compound for practice, creation, and performance. This collaboration was made in an effort to create an inclusive and multi disciplinary space, promoting new co operations and local art works.

As part of "**Circus, thrive!**" project financed by the EU commission (ProHeDev Programme), managers and artists from six of the most active Ethiopian circuses gathered in Fekat Circus with [Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde](#) (FR) and [Crying Out Loud](#) (UK) to share expertise, bring innovations, and overcome common challenges.



WE COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER

Rachel Clare, 2017

The output was the establishment of a country wide circus network called **ASHARA** (finger print in Amharic), committed to join efforts in creating new paths for Ethiopian circus.

With already some ties in Europe, Fekat Circus joined [Circostrada](#), the leading European network for circus and street arts. Fekat was also honoured to be invited to [Subcase](#) – a showcase of Nordic contemporary circus. These activities are fundamental to bring new needed perspectives and inputs for innovations and growth into our organisation.

ONE'S CULTURE OPENS TO OTHERS

Art has a power to bring people from different cultures together, breaking prejudices, facilitating dialogues, and exchanges. In 2016-2017 we had the chance to host, exchange skills, and crosspollinate with various international circus artists/companies: the vibrant [Circo Inzir](#) (Italy), the poetic [Circo Mandragora](#) (Argentina), the extravagant clown Dush (Israel), the militant [Clowns Sans Frontieres](#) (France), the fluid [Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde](#) (France), the unconventional puppeteer Teresa Aleari (Spain), and the coolest English teacher and costume maker Kevin Johnson (USA). We appreciate and are grateful for their curiosity and enthusiasm.

Another very enriching experience has been the trip to Cambodia, where three members of Fekat had the chance to study an exemplary model of a self-sustainable social circus: [Phare](#). Discovering a 20 old organisation with a very similar path has been like a travel in the future for us. It helped us to better see ourselves, and imagine how Fekat could become after 10 years. We are thankful for Phare ability and openness to share their incredibly inspiring experience.



a rondom passerby, 2016

We're aware "Medicine is not fun," but we believe ***"there's a lot of Medicine in the fun"***.

Smile medicine is one of our long standing projects. In 2016-2017, 11 animators/clown doctors, and 1 art teacher continued to ensure two hours of fun, play, and creativity every day (except Sunday) with the young patients of Black Lion Hospital. This has been an important activity for the children, parents, and staff working in the hospital who play key role in the children's recovery process.



Adriano Marzi, 2013

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF THE PATIENT IS PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS

Children always wait for the Smile Medicine team to pop up and once they do the atmosphere in the hospital completely transforms allowing everyone to be hopeful, focusing on the healthy and happy side of life.

Since our beloved donors, [Fondation Alta Mane](#) (Switzerland) and [Fondazione Alta Mane](#) (Italy), who had been supporting Smile Medicine from the beginning, started to slowly step out of the project, we have been exploring sustainable means of securing funds. Merchandises and performances were organised to generate income for the project constituting 30% of the full cost in 2017.

DREAMS BECOME REALITY

In July 2017, *Live the Circus*, a crowd funding campaign to bring the first circus tent to Ethiopia was launched. The dream to have a circus tent responds to the desire to involve more youth and previously unreachable audience into the power of circus. It also accomplishes Fekat's need of an alternative space since Fekat's current premises is at risk of being put for sale.

We have been really amazed by the generosity of our network. Although we didn't think we were going to make it, by the end of 2017 we raised 31,000 Euro (124% of our set goal) through crowdfunding and merchandise.

What did we learn? Solidarity and powerful causes make dreams become true. In December 2017, our newly purchased second hand circus tent left from the harbour of Marseille heading to Addis Ababa.



Geo Kaley, 2018

SUSTAINABILITY IS POSSIBLE OVER TIME



Giorgia Giunta, 2016

The greatest achievement Fekat is proud to announce is about the enhanced self-sustainability. The income generated in 2017 represents 39% of the total annual expenditures. A great conquest if we consider that this percentage represented only 21% in 2015.

To reach such accomplishment, Fekat Circus has undertaken diverse initiatives: shows, birthday parties' animations, team building workshops, paying circus classes and camps, renting of space and equipments. The secret recipe: good communication, constancy, and lots of passion.

Considering the economic boom which Ethiopia is going through, this is the time for Fekat to develop further and establish itself as a form of art to count within the country's development.

There's a long way to go but we are not ready to give up on surprising with new ideas.

NUMBERS ARE
NOT THE ONLY
THINGS THAT
COUNT



Luca Dragone, 2016

2016

INCOME

	Amount in ETB	Amount in Euro*
BROUGHT FORWARD from 2015 (Jan 1 2016, in FCC Festival bank)	167,394.63	7,259.09
DONATIONS		
First African Circus Arts Festival	585,598.35	24,356.08
EU Comission (Circus, Berta! Project)	2,568,781.6	106,148
Fondation Alta Mane (Smile Medicine Project)	475,515.45	20,500
Swiss Embassay (More than a circus project)	89,426.65	3,642.63
Diplomatic Spouses Group Ethiopia	40,000	1,633.31
TOTAL DONATIONS	3,759,322.05	156,280.02
INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGA)		
Circus shows	398,275	16,647.33
Circus classes + camps	188,350	7,872.76
Birthday animation	100,000	4,179.86
Outreach programmes	90,909.35	3,799.88
Other incomes	56,018.81	2,341.51
TOTAL INCOME FROM IGA	833,553.16	34,841.34
TOTAL 2016 INCOME	4,760,269.84	198,380.45

EXPENDITURES

	Amount in Birr	Amount in Euro*
First African Circus Arts Festival	452,862.9	19,180.98
Personnel (Managerial, admin, comm)	433,891.26	17,985.99
Personnel (Implementing staffs)	738,679.73	30,875.76
Compound rent	180,000	7,523.74
Smile Medicine materials	153,226.45	6,404.65
Circus equipment/costumes	153,463.01	6,414.54
Office equipment/supplies	97,262.46	4,065.43
Ad/promo expenses	82,413.05	3,372.06
Merchandising expenses	27,030.71	1,129.85
Miscellaneous expenses	188,230.52	7,867.77
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,491,570.15	104,245.99
REMAINING BALANCE AS OF DEC 31, 2016	2,268,699.69	94,134.46

2017

INCOME

	Amount in ETB	Amount in Euro*
BROUGHT FORWARD from 2016	2,268,699.55	94,226.93
DONATIONS		
EU Comission (Circus, Berta! Project)	4,709,118.49	169,646.00
Fondation Alta Mane / Smile Medicine Project	497,018.1	20,000.00
Fondation Alta Mane / Circus Berta! Project	184,286.48	7,500.00
Fekat's contribution for Circus Berta!	5,169.80	200.00
Donation from Creatividad Solidaria for the community circus	33,789.56	1,065.72
Donations for Live the Circus Crowdfunding	134,545.6	4,451.99
Donations for the Smile Medicine Project (Christmas Show)	77,840.00	2,192.19
Gain on exchange rate fluctuation	84,237.87	2,596.37
TOTAL DONATIONS	5,726,005.90	207,652.27

	Amount in ETB	Amount in Euro*
INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGA)		
Private circus classes	162,805.00	5,918.03
Circus camps	112,100.00	4,074.88
Outreach trainings	115,540.10	4,199.93
Team building workshops	52,850.00	1,921.12
Monthly Shows	73,885.00	2,685.75
Circus shows for visitors in compound (tourists, schools)	70,750.00	2,571.79
Circus shows outside compound	170,000.00	6,179.57
Birthday Animation	129,060.00	4,691.38
Face painting, creative painting & kid's corners	35,830.00	1,302.44
Promotional sales to support the crowdfunding (T-shirts & photos)	42,385.00	1,540.71
Spanish Tour	758,855.44	27,584.71
Hong Kong Tour – Payment for travel insurance	6,112.28	222.18
Rental of space & speaker/light	20,500.00	745.18
Other incomes	98,976.39	3,597.83
TOTAL INCOME FROM IGA	770,046.49	27,991.51
TOTAL 2017 INCOME	8,764,751.94	235,643.78

2017

EXPENDITURES

	Amount in Birr	Amount in Euro*
Personnel (managerial, admin, comm)	1,305,021.24	48,500.23
Personnel (implementing staff)	1,397,552.14	52,248.16
Capacity building related expenses	361,647.01	13,705.93
Travel related exchanges & missions	241,804.05	9,755.93
Compound rent	222,000.00	8,604.84
Recreational programmes materials	94,852.18	3,716.66
Circus equipment/costumes	134,889.45	4,928.98
Office equipment/supplies	105,276.11	3,476.38
Add/promo expenses	303,330.69	11,026.20
Merchandising expenses	120,097.60	4,365.60
Miscellaneous expenses	565,948.60	22,101.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,852,410.07	182,430.43
REMAINING BALANCE AS OF DEC 31, 2017	4,991,935.59	186,684.30



CIRCUS WILL
SAVE THE
PLANET

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