

2017
CIRCA
THEATRE



What's On

- 6**  **Jack and the Beanstalk**
4 - 14 Jan
- 7**  **Manifesto 2083**
13 - 18 Feb
- 8**  **Last Legs**
28 Jan - 18 Feb
- 10**  **A Slightly Isolated Dog**
20 Jan - 11 Feb
- 11**  **The Dark Light**
28 Feb - 5 March
- 12**  **WTF! Women's Theatre Festival**
25 Feb - 25 March
- 14**  **Play Readings**
- 15**  **Capital E National Arts Festival**
13 - 25 March
- 16**  **Escaped Alone**
11 March - 8 April
- 18**  **The BeatGirls' 21st**
1 - 15 April
- 20**  **The Messy Magic Adventure**
18 - 29 April
- 21**  **Mr and Mrs Alexander**
18 April - 6 May
- 22**  **Hand to God**
22 April - 20 May
- 24**  **Olive Copperbottom**
10 - 27 May
- 25**  **Theatresports**
7 May - 18 June

- 25**  **Improv for Kids**
11 - 22 July
- 25**  **Crystal Clear Shakespeare**
31 May - 3 June
- 26**  **Three Days in the Country**
27 May - 24 June
- 28**  **WEED**
1 - 29 July
- 30**  **Destination Beehive: 2017**
8 July - 5 Aug
- 32**  **A Doll's House**
5 Aug - 2 Sep
- 34**  **Caging Skies**
12 Aug - 9 Sep
- 36**  **Anahera**
9 Sep - 7 Oct
- 38**  **A Doris Day Special**
16 Sep - 14 Oct
- 40**  **The Father**
14 Oct - 11 Nov
- 42**  **Lobsters**
21 Oct - 4 Nov
- 44**  **Venus in Fur**
11 Nov - 9 Dec
- 46**  **Peter Pan**
18 Nov - 23 Dec
- 48**  **Cynthia & Gertie Go Baroque**
13 - 23 Dec

LET THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE!

Welcome Theatre lovers! 2016 was a special year for us as we celebrated 40 years of New Zealand Theatre. A truly memorable and historic occasion and we feel honoured to have been able to share and celebrate it with all of our loyal funders, sponsors, supporters and patrons. Thank you to you all.

We would like to see 2017 as a continuation of the celebrations we began last year, especially as we reach another milestone with the 30th Anniversary of Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT). Since 1987 TACT has helped to support the artists during the rehearsal process – vital to the work you see at Circa Theatre each year.

Kicking-off our exciting 2017 programme are return seasons of two Roger Hall 2016 favourites - the delightful *Jack and the Beanstalk* and the hugely popular *Last Legs*, following its sell-out World Premiere 2016 season. We also welcome back A Slightly Isolated Dog with their two previous hits, *Don Juan* and *Jekyll & Hyde*.

As part of the NZ Fringe Festival, Circa Two will host the provocative *Manifesto 2083* in February and then Footnote with Alexa Wilson's new work *The Dark Light*.

Our month-long cornerstone event of 2017, *WTF! Women's Theatre Festival* – curated and hosted by Circa Theatre – will present a range of performances, readings, forums, and workshops that will celebrate the achievement of women and promote theatrical equality in Aotearoa.

Coinciding with *WTF!* is the Capital E National Arts Festival – NZ's biggest Arts festival for children as well as the New Zealand premiere of Caryl Churchill's brilliantly funny *Escaped Alone*.

New Zealand's favourite girl group, *The BeatGirls* are *All Grown Up* as they celebrate their 21st at Circa Theatre in April and Rollicking Entertainment present a double-dose of magic with *The Messy Magic Adventure* and *Mr and Mrs Alexander: Sideshows and Psychics* – the latter being part of the 2017 NZ International Comedy Festival.

Also part of the festival is Robert Askins' Tony Award-nominated Broadway hit, *Hand to God* (a ruthless comedy about sex,



sinner, and sock puppets) and the inimitable Penny Ashton swaps Austen for Dickens with *Olive Copperbottom*. Rounding out the International Comedy Festival is The Improvisors with their crowd-pleasing favourite, *Theatresports 2017*.

Another stunning production making its New Zealand premiere is the Turgenev-inspired *Three Days in the Country* by Patrick Marber in May.

Also returning to Circa in 2017 is Oscar-nominated New Zealand author Anthony McCarten's hit comedy *WEED* and Lorae Parry and Pinky Agnew's razor-sharp political satire, *Destination Beehive: 2017*.

We then take a break from comedy with Emily Perkin's stunning adaption of *A Doll's House*, the haunting survival tale *Caging Skies* and contemporary domestic thriller *Anahera*.

Ali Harper follows her hit 2016 season with the charming *A Doris Day Special* and in October we welcome the most acclaimed play of the decade, Florian Zeller's *The Father* followed by the intense, athletic and visually compelling *Lobsters*.

November brings David Ives' steamy Broadway hit, *Venus in Fur* to Circa Two and we close out the year with the World premiere of *Peter Pan* the Pantomime and the delightful musical comedy, *Cynthia and Gertie Go Baroque*.

Thank you for supporting Circa Theatre and we look forward to seeing you here as we continue to celebrate, both the returning and the new, in 2017.

- The Circa Council

Photo credit: Rebecca Taite



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

SUPPORTING THE ARTS BY SUPPORTING
OUR CREATIVE ARTISTS

Since 1987 TACT has supported the careers of some of our leading playwrights and played a pivotal role in enabling those employed in the theatre industry to receive a reasonable reward and recognition for their work. TACT's role is to attract donors to directly support the artists during the rehearsal process - which is vital to the work you see at Circa Theatre.

Through the support of founding sponsor Chapman Tripp as well as Deloitte Private, Creative New Zealand and numerous individual donors, TACT aims to keep the theatre artist firmly centre stage.

CORE FUNDERS:

Chapman Tripp is proud to support New Zealand's vibrant and diverse arts community. Founding sponsor since 1987.



Deloitte Private is committed to working with home-grown Wellington businesses, and is proud to support excellence on our local stage.



Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency developing, investing in and advocating for the arts.



SUPPORTERS & PLAY SPONSORS:

TACT and Circa would like to acknowledge the following people who have been our most generous philanthropists over the last 30 years:

John & Jay Benton
Mary & Peter Biggs CNZM
Diana Duff Staniland
Chris Finlayson
Roger Hall
Vivien Hirschfeld
Jack Hodder
Christine & David Kernohan

Anne & Paddy Maloney
Paul & Danika McArthur
Pen Moore
Sam Perry
Suzanne Snively
Brian & Andrea Steele
Henry Stubbs
Richard Stubbs



CORE FUNDERS:



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

MAJOR GRANTS:



PROJECT GRANTS:



MEDIA SPONSORS:

WINE SPONSOR:

AUDIO SPONSOR:





Roger Hall's

Jack and the Beanstalk

Writer Roger Hall

Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum – great fun for everyone!

Director: Susan Wilson

Jack is back! Celebrate the new year; climb to beanstalk heights and explore exciting new worlds.

Songs: Paul Jenden and Michael Nicholas Williams

Join Jack as he takes us on a once upon a time ... happily ever after tale of how he climbs the beanstalk to a wondrous land where there is a goose that lays golden eggs and - Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum - a Giant with a dangerous appetite!

Circa One
4 - 14 January

Tues - Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm
\$15 - \$46

Presented by
arrangement with



There's a terrific and topical script by Roger Hall, a top-notch cast headed by Gavin Rutherford, as everyone's adored Dame, and lots of opportunity to boo the baddies and cheer the goodies and step right into this musical and magical treat.

"Jack offers awesome pantomime"

- Dominion Post

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court



The Rebel Alliance presents

Manifesto 2083

Writers:
Christian Lollike,
Olaf Højgaard &
Tanja Diers

On 22 July, 2011 Anders Behring Breivik killed 77 people and injured more than 200. What makes a young Norwegian man put on a police uniform and sail out to the island of Utøya on a quest to shoot as many politically active young people as possible? Before the terror attack Breivik sent out a 1500 page manifesto containing everything from racist propaganda, philosophical reflections and bomb manuals to interviews he conducted with himself.

Director: Anders Falstie-Jensen

Design: John Verryt,
Ruby Reihana-
Wilson &
Elizabeth Whiting

Starring Edwin Wright, *Manifesto 2083* gives an extraordinary insight into the mind of man who radicalized himself in order to commit an act of terror that shocked the world.

Circa Two
13 - 18 Feb

Mon - Sat 7.30pm
\$15 - \$30



WINNER: Outstanding Performer
Dunedin Fringe Festival, 2016

"This production has extreme power"

- Theatrescenes



RETURN SEASON

Last Legs

By Roger Hall

Growing Old Disgracefully

Director:
Ross Jolly

Circa One
28 Jan - 18 Feb
Preview 27 Jan

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$46

Presented by
arrangement with



After a sell-out World Premiere season in 2016, Roger Hall's smash hit *Last Legs* is back, to start the year laughing!

Set in an upmarket retirement community, the Cambridge, with a cast of recognisably funny and fallible characters, Roger Hall has delivered once again. Outside of happy hour, bridge and mah-jong, our well-to-do seniors indulge in greed, jealousy, love and lust... not to mention their share of gossip, backstabbing and scandal!

Last Legs takes aim at our misjudgments, quirks, misdemeanors and is a quintessentially Kiwi look at ourselves, as we are accurately and amusingly pilloried and parodied by Hall.

A must-see for the audience who trust Hall to deliver a fun, amusing night of seniors behaving badly.

"Very well acted, extremely funny – such great entertainment"

- Audience response

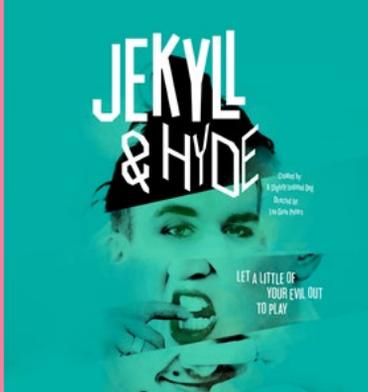
"A truly professional cast doing what they do best, performing a Roger Hall play with humour and fun."

- Sheridan Bruce, Wotzon

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court

circa.co.nz | 04 801 7992

p.9



A Slightly Isolated Dog presents

Don Juan / Jekyll & Hyde

Bring Your Boldness Out to Play

Director:

Leo Gene Peters

Circa Two

20 Jan - 11 Feb

Tues - Sat 7.30pm

Sun 4.30pm

\$20 - \$35

The very famous, very French theatre company is back with its hits from the last two years: *Don Juan* and *Jekyll & Hyde*.

Don Juan is the story of the world's greatest lover. Of how we often fail to be the person we want to be, despite our best efforts.

Jekyll & Hyde is a Gothic Horror story that encourages you to unleash your inner beast with the terrifying and yet still exceptionally sexy tale of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

It's a cabaret. It's comedy. It's chaos. It's a furious and adrenalized romp. It's the BEST... PARTY... EVER.



"...what theatre could be, not what it has been for the last hundred years. That'd be Don Juan's greatest conquest"

- Arthur Meek

Proudly supported by



The Dark Light

A lost species trying to remember itself; a self realisation; a flicker in the shadows

Company:

ChoreoCo by Footnote New Zealand Dance

Choreography:

Alexa Wilson

Circa Two

28 Feb - 5 March

All shows 7.30pm

\$12 - \$20

Performed by Footnote's multi-award winning short-term company created especially for Fringe, *The Dark Light* by Alexa Wilson is dance that presents us with a unique world. A lost species tries to remember itself. An in-between place is translated to us on screen. A realisation, a flicker in the shadows.

Berlin-based New Zealand choreographer Alexa Wilson is a multi-disciplined artist who explores intersection between movement, digital content, political consciousness and humour. Working with ChoreoCo on *The Dark Light* sees Wilson returning to Footnote for the first time since the full company performed *The Status of Being* in 2014.



Winner 'Best Dance' NZ Fringe 2014 and 'Best Dance Performance' & 'Best Dance Performer' NZ Fringe 2015.



Gender Equality? When?

WTF! Women's Theatre Festival 2017

25 Feb - 25 March

Various times and charges apply
Visit circa.co.nz for the latest updates

Circa Theatre is proud to curate and host *WTF! Women's Theatre Festival*, celebrating women's voices and following on from 2016's hugely successful *Women in Theatre Hui*. A second conference will be hosted at Whitireia on 11 March 2017 (to coincide with International Women's Day 8 March) – *Women In Theatre Hui – The Next Stage*.

This month long event will run from 25 Feb - 25 March and showcases Caryl Churchill's *Escaped Alone*, *Hens' Teeth* and *Miss Jean Batten*. Circa will present a smorgasbord of performances, play readings (see page 14), monologues, talks, forums and workshops that will celebrate the achievement of women and promote theatrical equality in Aotearoa. BATS is also presenting *Writes for Women* – a short series of play readings from leading New Zealand women playwrights - *Fix* by Jess Sayer, *Esther* by Angie Farrow and *Rēwena* by Whiti Hereaka 14 - 16 March 6.30pm.

Please join us in our celebrations.



Miss Jean Batten

Flying in the face of convention

Writer: Phil Ormsby

Director: Amanda Rees

Starring: Alex Ellis

Design: John Parker, Elizabeth Whiting, Ruby Reihana-Wilson and Thomas Press

Producer: Flaxworks

Circa One

7 - 11 March

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm

Fri - Sat 8pm

\$25 - \$35



Jean Batten's 1936 flight from England to New Zealand in a single engine plane made of wood and fabric, navigating with just a compass and a watch, is one of the extraordinary feats of the last century.

Jean Batten, one of New Zealand's greatest heroes: a woman who fought against the odds to secure her place in history.



Hens' Teeth

Produced by Kate JasonSmith

A Season of Women Comedians

Circa One

14 - 25 March

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm

Fri - Sat 8pm

\$25 - \$46

Since it first premiered at Circa Theatre back in 1988, *Hens' Teeth (A Season of Women Comedians)* has broken box-office records! The secret of the widespread popularity of *Hens' Teeth* is simple: it is women being funny. And not only are these women funny, but they are funny about things that are part of the fabric of most women's lives.

Play Readings

Part of the 2017 Women's Festival



Jess Sayer

Speak

Mark Lawson has been given an ultimatum. Get the interview to end all interviews or it's see ya later career and the lifestyle that goes with it. If he wasn't already partially bald, he'd be tearing his hair out. Mark realises there's only one logical thing left to do: kidnap Caryl Churchill.



Jean Betts

Genesis Falls

Four troubled people trapped in an isolated high country hovel navigate mysteries, dark memories and bad weather together. Finalist for the 2012 - 2013 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Fourth World

An odd trio dining at a holiday house are surprised by the arrival of three upper-class guests. A hostage situation and row ensues. As the cast re-attempt the same scenario with different endings, their political differences are argued and they all try to find a suitable ending for the play. 'Who's been staying in my holiday bach while I'm not there?'



Jo Randerson

The Wife Who Spoke Japanese In Her Sleep

Honey Tarbox, an ordinary Kiwi housewife with ordinary quarter-acre dreams, inexplicably begins speaking Japanese in her sleep. Translated, her sleep-speaking is revealed to be prophetic, and immediately the wheels are set in motion for Honey's fantastic transformation from suburban housewife into media megastar.



Vivienne Plumb

Presented by arrangement with



Times and Dates TBC - \$15 - \$19



Capital E National Arts Festival

13 - 25 March 2017

NZ's biggest Arts Festival for children | Circa One

Shu's Song

Capital E Live

Created by Laura Gaudin, Rachel Callinan and Gina Moss

We invite you to step inside the imaginary world of Shu and watch the ordinary world become extraordinary. The popping soundtrack and puppetry take you on an adventurous story of friendship.



18 March
11.30am

La Vie Dans une Marionette

White Face Crew

This is the surreal tale of a lonely pianist and the puppet he buys to keep him company. Packed with hilarious moments and surprises, this melodramatic world is full of clowning, dance and live music.



25 March
10am

Tetris

Arch8

Tetris is for people who can't sit still, who like to climb the walls, and who can imagine the impossible. Four dancers flip over, slide under, and pile up on top of each other in award-winning Arch8's first visit to New Zealand.



25 March
1pm

Bookings Capital E - 04 913 3740 | www.capitale.org.nz

*"I'm walking down the street and
there's a door in the fence open
and inside there are three women
I've seen before"*



New Zealand Premiere

Escaped Alone

By Caryl Churchill

*A brilliant, joyous return from the
enigmatic Caryl Churchill.*

Director:
Susan Wilson

Music:
Gareth Farr

Circa Two
11 March - 8 April
Preview 10 March

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$52

*"...it's hard to imagine you'll come
across a more brilliant play this year...
mischievous, funny...plugged into our
modern world"*

- Time Out ★★★★★

Three old friends and a neighbour: a
summer of afternoons in the backyard
garden, drinking tea and chatting,
lots of gossip, lots of idle chit chat,
casual conversation becomes a pool
of radiance defiant of the terrible
darkness outside.

This wryly funny play from the
renowned Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*,
Cloud Nine, celebrates the Women's
Festival at Circa Theatre.

**"[Churchill] has lost none of the courage and
inventive imagination that have made her
one of the most exciting and unpredictable
playwrights of the last half-century..."**

- British Theatre Guide

Starring a cast of New Zealand's finest senior actors.
Photo *Left to Right*: Carmel McGlone, Ginette McDonald, Jane
Waddell, *Front*: Irene Wood

"I only am escaped alone to tell thee"

- Book of Job, Moby Dick

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court

THE BEATGIRLS' 21st

All Grown Up

Devised and choreographed by
Andrea Sanders

Featuring:

Andrea Sanders,
Kali Kopae &
Carolyn
McLaughlin

Company:

Produced by Total
Entertainment NZ

Circa One

1 - 15 April

Preview 31 March

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm

Fri - Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 - \$52

Spend an evening with NZ's favourite girl group as they celebrate their 21st!

This is a show not to be missed, a special tribute to all the fabulous songs and artists that have shaped The BeatGirls and kept them at the forefront of their game for over two decades.

Music from the 40s to now, a trip down memory lane woven together with stories recounting the journey so far.

The irresistible BeatGirls bring a wealth of experience to the stage applauded by young and old, both locally and internationally, captivating audiences with great costumes, sassy choreography, humour and a fabulous repertoire guaranteed to thoroughly entertain!



"The girls had the audience eating out of their hands, adrenaline on high heels!"

- Dominion Post

"As iconic as the Wellington Bucket Fountain"

- Dominion Post

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court





The Messy Magic Adventure

David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache

*Fantastical fun for children
(and child-like adults) aged 5+*

Director:
Greg Cooper

Company:
Rollicking
Entertainment Ltd

Circa Two
18 - 29 April

Tues - Sat 11am
\$10 - \$15



Spray and Wipe are two cleaners who have been hired for their most exciting job ever, cleaning a magician's house! But when they accidentally let the magic out of its box, everything is turned topsy-turvy...

Now, the audience must help Spray and Wipe think of a plan to get the magic back in the box before the magician comes home, as her house gets messier and messier! The best of circus, slapstick and magic combine in this very special adventure for primary school aged children and their families. Waterproof ponchos provided for those in the front row...

**"Plays out in a terrifically unexpected way....
Highly recommended."**

- **Theatreview**

Image: Anton van Helden



Mr and Mrs Alexander: Sideshows and Psychics

David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache

Meet the most notorious couple in colonial showbiz!

Director:
Mike Friend

Company:
Rollicking
Entertainment Ltd

Circa Two
18 April - 6 May

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$39



1888. New Zealand. Mr Alexander defies the laws of physics. Mrs Alexander reads minds. Audiences gasp at their heart-stopping finale, The Possum Trap... until the night they disappear. Step right up for a seat to Mr and Mrs Alexander's final performance. Acclaimed variety artists Lizzie Tollemache and David Ladderman weave together illusion, mind reading and sideshow to tell this award winning New Zealand story, which has enjoyed sold out seasons across Australia, the UK and Canada. Inspired by a ruthless Victorian underbelly of hucksters, mediums and carnies; expect edge-of-your-seat, breathtaking fun, full of laughs and thrills.

**"Tollemache and Ladderman have concocted a
magical show, and it's not to be missed."**

- **CBC ★★★★★**

Image: Nick White

HAND to GOD



The **HELL** Season of

Hand to God

By Robert Askins

Sesame Street meets The Exorcist

Director:

Lyndee-Jane
Rutherford

Starring:

Peter Hambleton

Set & Costume:

Ian Harman

Puppets by:

Jon Coddington

Circa One

22 April - 20 May

Preview 21 April

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm

Fri - Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 - \$52

Hand to God is a thrill ride of a comedy about good and evil, sex and sin, faith and the filthy mind of one twisted sock puppet.

In a church basement in a little town in Texas, something evil is afoot.

Or, well - at hand. The youth group has a monster in its ranks: a rogue puppet named Tyrone. He's hijacked the hand of timid teen Jason and there's nothing his classmates, his mother, or the pastor can do to exorcise this foul-mouthed demon. As Tyrone's influence over Jason steadily grows, *Hand to God* explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind us.

Like nothing you've seen before, this Tony Award-Nominated Broadway hit is a ruthless comedy about sex, sinners, and sock puppets.

Warning: content is intended to offend. Not suitable for children.



"Flat-out hilarious!"

- **The New York Times**

Don't miss the New Zealand premiere of the uproarious Tony Award-Nominated Broadway hit on stage during the NZ Comedy Festival.

Image: William Duignan (graphics), Mark Tantrum (photo)



Olive Copperbottom

A New Musical by Charles Dickens and Penny Ashton

Director:
Ben Crowder and
Penny Ashton

Company:
Penash Productions

Circa Two
10 - 27 May
Preview 9 May

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun - 4.30pm
\$25 - \$35



Following the delicate sold out successes of *Promise and Promiscuity*, Penny Ashton (*Radio NZ The Panel*) swaps Austen for Dickens and brings orphaned hero Olive and a squalid gaggle of Victorian characters to pox-ridden London life. Will Olive find a family amongst the brothels, toffs and grael? Or will Mrs Sourtart, Mr Fivestars or even Mr Goodsort break her heart as well as their teeth? A rollicking one-woman musical journey that will fulfil your greatest expectations and be the best of times and well... the best of times.

Promise and Promiscuity:
Winner Best Theatre, Adelaide Fringe

"...a sparkling performer whose energy bounces off the stage."

- The Scotsman, *Promise and Promiscuity*

Image: Aaron Beard

Theatresports 2017

Company:
The Improvisors

Circa One
7 May - 18 June

Sundays 7pm
\$15 - \$20



Take two teams of Improvisors, throw them at the mercy of the audience and see what magic unfolds! The world-wide comedy sensation that is Theatresports has found a happy home at Circa Theatre and this is your chance to be part of the action. The show is new, unique and unpredictable each night. We only guarantee the laughs.

Improv for Kids

Company:
The Improvisors

Circa Two
11 - 22 July

Mon - Sat 11am
\$10



Kids love theatre that's interactive. It's a great opportunity to introduce your kids to the world of live theatre. We may not have millions of dollars worth of computer-generated effects, but we do listen to kids and we make their ideas central to what happens on stage. In *Improv For Kids*, imagination is the best special effect of them all!

Crystal Clear Shakespeare

Circa Two
31 May - 3 June

Wed - Sat 7.30pm
\$15 - \$35

UK actor, author and presenter of Original Pronunciation (OP), Ben Crystal will perform a Shakespeare Showcase of readings with a troupe of renowned SGCNZ Alumni.



New Zealand Premiere

Three Days in the Country

By Patrick Marber

A version of Turgenev's 'A Month in the Country'

Director:
Susan Wilson

Three Days in the Country is set on a beautiful Russian country estate where the arrival of a handsome new tutor brings reckless, romantic desire to an eccentric household.

Music:
Gareth Farr

Circa One
27 May - 24 June
Preview 26 May

"An evening of lovingly textured pleasure"
- The Economist

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$52

From Patrick Marber (*Closer*) comes a witty, elegant update of *A Month in the Country* that underlines the idea that Turgenev is our contemporary.

**Proudly sponsored
by Paul and Danika
McArthur, and
Vivien Hirschfeld**

*"Painful and potent as a glass of neat,
chilled vodka, downed in one"*
- Time Out

"...the wit of the dialogue captivates. And, as in an elegant dance, the play keeps turning on its own heel, moving between comedy and anguish, reminding us of love as an impractical joke"

- The Observer ★★★★★

"...emotionally eloquent and disarmingly funny, delicately fretted with melancholy"

- The Stage ★★★★★

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court



WEED

By Anthony McCarten

High Old Times Down on the Farm

Starring:
Andrew Foster
Gavin Rutherford

Director:
Ross Jolly

Circa One
1 - 29 July
Preview 30 June

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$52

Presented by
arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET THE
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

From the pen of award-winning New Zealand author Anthony McCarten (*The Theory of Everything*) comes the hit comedy *WEED*.

It's the 90s... and farming is struggling. Henry Donovan is being forced into the mortgagee sale of his farm. But thankfully, his mate Jack Riorden has a cunning plan. Fired up by a marketing conference, they decide to go for broke and grow a cash crop of marijuana.

Terry, a young woman Henry met in Wellington, turns up and Jack enlists the aid of his hapless nephew, Hugh.

Can these partners in crime go for green, beat the bankers and save the farm? Is this "grass" the solvency solution or will the dodgy joint venture just go to pot, and their dreams go up in smoke?

With *WEED*, Oscar-nominated McCarten has us laughing as his typical Kiwi characters valiantly strive to beat the system and win the day! A genuine comic gem.

"Lots of laughs and a great time had by all"

- Dominion Post

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court

circa.co.nz | 04 801 7992

p.29

“The hottest ticket in town!”



Destination Beehive: 2017

By **Lorae Parry and Pinky Agnew**

Director:
Jan Bolwell

Circa Two
8 July - 5 Aug
Preview 7 July

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$52

Parry and Agnew are back! Join the funniest party in town, as a fresh batch of political try-hards vie for your vote in their relentless race towards...
Destination Beehive: 2017

Don't miss this brand new comedy, packed with great music, slick moves and sharp political satire.

The spinners and the winners, the wannabes, the has-beens and never-have-beens sing and dance their way through gaffes and faux pas, in-fighting and back-biting, bad polls and loop holes, as they bolt for the back benches!

If you're having trouble maintaining an election, book now - you'll never laugh harder.

Starring Lorae Parry, Pinky Agnew, Kate Harcourt and Carrie Green.

“Cleverly crafted, wittily written, dynamically directed and choreographed, sublimely sung and ebulliently performed.”

- John Smythe, Theatreview 2014

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court

circa.co.nz | 04 801 7992

p.31



A Doll's House

By Emily Perkins

Adapted from Ibsen's original

Compelling, contemporary and critically-acclaimed

Starring:
Sophie Hambleton

Director:
Katherine McRae

Set and Costume:
Ian Harman

Lighting:
Marcus McShane

Circa One
5 Aug - 2 Sept
Preview 4 Aug

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$52

Presented by
arrangement with



Nora Helmer has it all: a successful and attractive husband, a big house and two charming children. But as Christmas festivities get underway, events from the past return to wreak havoc in paradise. Nora's life begins to fracture, leaving her trapped inside a web of secrets and lies... Will the truth set her free or is she in too deep?

In the original play, Ibsen controversially exposed the power and gender dynamics of a marriage. This modern take, by celebrated New Zealand writer Emily Perkins, picks up Ibsen's gauntlet and drops it into present-day New Zealand.

Sophie Hambleton (*Katydid*, TV's *Westside*) commands the stage as Nora. Directed by award-winning Katherine McRae (*Cherish*, *The Enemy of the People*), this production will shock and move you.

"Perkins has lobbed a grenade onto the stage and we wait anxiously for it to explode."

- James Wenley, Metro 2015

Proudly sponsored by



Image: Tabitha Arthur



Caging Skies

By Desirée Gezentsvey

True passions. True lies.

Director:
Andrew Foster

Circa Two
12 Aug - 9 Sept
Preview 11 Aug

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$52

Johannes, a zealous member of the Vienna Hitler Youth, discovers a fateful secret – his family is hiding a young Jewish woman, Elsa, in their home. Her life in his hands, Johannes and Elsa embark on a gripping journey of obsession and love that blurs the lines between the captive and the free, the victorious and the defeated, as the horrors of the war unfold around them and each must find a way to survive.

From award-winning writer Desirée Gezentsvey (*Nuclear Family*) and visionary director Andrew Foster (*Red*) comes this hauntingly powerful story that lays bare the darkest corners of the human soul.

Inspired by Christine Leunens' novel of the same title, nominated for the Prix Medicis' and the Prix FNAC 2007.

"...gripping... has haunted me ever since I finished reading it."

- New Zealand Books

"...beautiful... powerful... surprising and captivating... cannot be forgotten."

- Jean Soublin, Le Monde

Image: Andrew Foster

*What's wrong with
standing in the garden?*



*It's a
beautiful garden.
Look.*

Anahera

By Emma Kinane

Finalist in the Adam NZ Play Award 2016

Director:
Katie Wolfe

Liz and Peter Hunter have it all. A great marriage, successful careers, a beautiful house and two wonderful children.

Circa One
9 Sept - 7 Oct
Preview 8 Sept

Until their son Harry goes missing.

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$52

Distraught, they wait for news from the police, supported by social worker Anahera. But as the hours pass and everyone is pushed beyond their limits, Anahera must make a stand.

Presented by
arrangement with



But is it already too late? Can Anahera save anyone?

**Proudly sponsored
by Cariad
Productions**

Anahera is a contemporary domestic thriller about a struggling kiwi family and the angel who stands up for them.

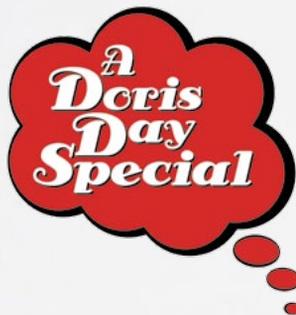
Award-winning director Katie Wolfe, who last appeared at Circa as Lady Windermere, returns to create the premiere production of this exciting new New Zealand work from the writer who co-wrote the SEED plays *Turbine*, *Paua* and *The December Brother*.

**“A wonderfully compelling piece of theatre that
we discussed for days after.”**

- Audience feedback, The Next Stage at ATC

Image: Katie Wolfe

Graphics: Sean O'Connor



A Doris Day Special

By Ali Harper

A whole lot more than just the girl next door

Director:
Stephanie
McKellar-Smith

Following her outstanding season of *Legendary Divas* Ali Harper returns with her highly-acclaimed show *A Doris Day Special*.

Company: Ali-Cat
Productions Ltd

Doris Day, with her bubbly personality, lilting voice and blonde beauty, was America's singing sweetheart of the silver screen during the 1950s and 1960s.

Circa Two
16 Sept - 14 Oct
Preview 15 Sept

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$46

With her hit songs *Sentimental Journey*, *Secret Love* and *Que Sera Sera*, she was for many years ranked as the #1 female box office star in the world.

Directed by Stephanie McKellar-Smith with the Big Band Musical Direction by Rodger Fox, it's 1971 and Doris is filming her Television Special. You are invited to be a part of *A Doris Day Special* television studio audience and celebrate the life and songs of that quintessential girl next door.

"Ali Harper is a New Zealand national treasure. She is the country's outstanding female musical theatre performer"

- Kurt Gänzl, Kurt of Gerolstein

"At the centre [as Doris Day] is the indefatigable and super-charged talent of Ali Harper."

- Theatreview



The Father

By Florian Zeller

Translated by Christopher Hampton

A touching, funny, deeply unsettling mystery

Director:
Ross Jolly

Circa One
14 Oct - 11 Nov
Preview 13 Oct

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm
Fri - Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm
\$25 - \$52

**Proudly sponsored
by Christopher
Finlayson**

Andre was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter and her husband Antoine. Or was he an engineer whose daughter now lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas and he can't find his watch. He is starting to wonder if he is losing control.

This extraordinary play explores issues of reality versus memory, and does so with deft black comedy. It is a bizarre, psychological thriller where we are constantly challenged to decide whose reality prevails. Sharp and surprising, *The Father* is quietly devastating.

The author of this intriguing and compelling dark comedy, Florian Zeller, is one of France's hottest new writing talents.

The most acclaimed new play of the decade, *The Father* is a searingly honest, profoundly moving, darkly comic masterpiece.

"A play that constantly confounds expectations and works almost like a thriller, with a sinister Pinteresque edge."

- Guardian

★★★★★
- Sunday Times

★★★★★
- Guardian

★★★★★
- Observer

★★★★★
- Evening Standard

★★★★★
- Times

★★★★★
- Mail on Sunday

★★★★★
- Daily Mail

★★★★★
- Financial Times



Lobsters

Humour, Sensuality and Surprise. The omnipotence of our dreams colliding with our realities

Director:
Lucy Marinkovich
and Miranda
Manasiadis

Choreography:
Lucy Marinkovich

Company:
Borderline Arts
Ensemble

Circa Two
21 Oct - 4 Nov
Preview 20 Oct

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$35

Inspired by the images and manifestos of The Surrealists, *Lobsters* seduces us into a world of humour, eccentricity, sensuality and the surreal. This is a place where we are expert at both disguising and exposing our most secret of selves.

In *Lobsters*, the performers seek out deep human connection and inner truth, but instead experience a series of misses, near-misses, collapses, and implosions.

Choreographer Lucy Marinkovich, recently returning from practising in Germany, Spain, France, Croatia and Singapore, combines talents with Athens-Wellington-NYC based theatre maker Miranda Manasiadis, to bring you the athletic and visually compelling *Lobsters*.

“Lobsters is the new metamorphoses of Borderline Arts Ensemble’s earlier The Surrealists... intense, physical, compelling; this will make you think - about yourself- and your friends.”

- Deirdre Tarrant



Venus in Fur

By David Ives

Sexy. Smart. Mischievous. Erotic.

Director:
Andrew Foster

Circa Two
11 Nov - 9 Dec
Preview 10 Nov

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sunday 4.30pm
\$25 - \$52

Thomas, a young playwright-turned-director, has adapted a scandalous 19th century novella for the stage. Known as the birthplace of sado-masochism, *Venus in Furs* charts an obsessive relationship between a man and the mistress to whom he becomes enslaved. Eager to connect with contemporary audiences, Thomas wants to cash in on the success of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. But he's finding it hard to cast his leading lady.

Enter Vanda, an actress desperate to impress. As Thomas reluctantly agrees to audition her, desire twists and turns on itself, blurring the lines between play-acting and reality.

Nominated for Best Play at the 2012 Tony awards, *Venus in Fur* is a tantalising and unsettling exploration of sexual politics both on and offstage – an absolute audience dazzler.

“Seriously smart and very funny”

- NY Times

“A delicious study of sexual power dynamics”

- LA Times

Image: Andrew Foster



Peter Pan

By Pinky Agnew & Lorae Parry

“Look out behind you!!!”

Director:
Susan Wilson

Circa One
18 Nov - 23 Dec
Preview 17 Nov

Tues - Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm
\$15 - \$52

Presented by
arrangement with



GET HOOKED this Pantomime season with one of the most loved stories of all times. Peter Pan and the troublesome Tinkerbell whisk Wendy away to the wondrous World of Neverland.

Without Google maps, their only directions are: 'Second on the right and straight on till morning!' Meet Tina Lily, Leader of the Tinakori Tribe, the lost boys, the cunning crocodile, the conniving pirates. And the crooked Captain Hook! And of course there's the Dame, the Grandest, Grand Dame in the pantomime world.

Outstanding entertainment for all the family!

“Fun, witty, intelligent, something for all ages, we all came out trying to remember the best jokes - we were aged from 8 to 72!”

“I just love a good Pantomime, I come every year.”

“We go to the Panto every year and always know that we are going to have a good time and smile and smile.”



Cynthia & Gertie Go Baroque

With Rose Beauchamp & Helen Moulder

Director:
Jeff Kingsford-
Brown

Company:
Willow Productions

Circa Two
13 - 23 Dec
Preview 12 Dec

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 - \$39

The celebrated diva Miss Cynthia Fortitude and her longsuffering accompanist Miss Gertrude Rallentando are back! These stars of the brilliantly original NZ comedy, *The Legend Returns*, make a bold shift into Baroque opera featuring Gertie's magical harpsichord, a sorceress from Hokitika, a furious media storm and other theatrical paraphernalia.

Cynthia gallantly holds the evening together, even when Gertie's infatuation with all things Japanese threatens to derail their 50 year partnership. A cornucopia of music and comic delight!

"We don't know where they came from, or what they did before they came. That they came is sufficient!"

- Metropolis, Christchurch

Your Visit

Bookings can be made in person at the box office, by phone on 04 801 7992 or online anytime at www.circa.co.nz

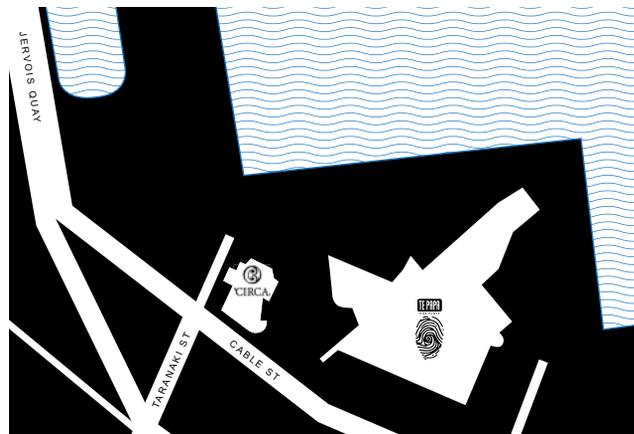
- There is no extra charge for credit card bookings (Mastercard or Visa) and online bookings
- One hour prior to show start time bookings at the box office will only be taken for that show
- Please note performance times can sometimes vary, please check with Box Office or online to confirm
- Need parking? We recommend Te Papa carpark (parking fees apply)

Food & Drink at Circa

Circa Theatre provides a fully licensed bar and cafe' service before and after the show. Phone 04 801 7996 or visit www.circa.co.nz for more information.

Accessibility at Circa

Circa Theatre aims to offer a great theatre experience for all of our patrons. For information on accessible performances or how to access the building please call 04 801 8137 or visit: www.circa.co.nz/your-visit/accessibility/



Circa Theatre is located at 1 Taranaki Street on Wellington's waterfront next to Te Papa.



CIRCA THEATRE
04 801 7992
www.circa.co.nz