



2018
© CIRCA
THEATRE

WHAT'S ON

- 7 Peter Pan**
2 – 13 January
- 8 Joan**
20 January – 17 February
- 10 Rushes**
23 February – 5 March
- 12 Salonica**
15 – 17 February
- 12 Writers & Readers**
8 – 11 March
- 13 Us/Them**
16 – 18 March
- 13 At the Wake**
21 – 31 March
- 14 Switzerland**
17 March – 14 April
- 16 The Truth**
7 April – 5 May
- 18 The Messy Magic Adventure: Kitchen Chaos!**
17 – 28 April
- 19 Seven Deadly Stunts**
17 April – 5 May
- 20 Still Life with Chickens**
9 May – 2 June
- 22 Problems**
11 – 26 May
- 24 Tan-Knee**
2 – 16 June
- 26 The Atom Room**
9 June – 7 July
- 28 Meremere**
22 – 30 June
- 30 Songs for Nobodies**
7 July – 4 August
- 32 Black Dog**
9 – 21 July
- 33 Duck, Death and the Tulip**
9 – 21 July
- 34 Theatresports**
29 April – 17 June
- 34 Improv for Kids**
1 – 6 October
- 35 The Dinner**
10 – 25 August
- 36 WTF! Women's Theatre Festival**
17 August – 27 October
- 38 Bloomsbury Women and the Wild Colonial Girl**
18 August – 15 September
- 40 Modern Girls in Bed**
1 – 22 September
- 42 Medusa**
21 September – 6 October
- 43 Rants in the Dark**
25 – 29 September
- 43 Blonde Poison**
2 – 6 October
- 44 Under Milk Wood**
13 October – 10 November
- 46 Uneasy Dreams and Other Things**
10 – 27 October
- 47 Cellfish**
8 – 17 November
- 48 Puss in Boots**
17 November – 23 December
- 50 A Christmas Carol**
24 November – 22 December

All information contained in the brochure is correct at time of printing however is subject to change without notice.



Circa Theatre has been operating since 1976 and has gained a reputation as one of New Zealand's liveliest and most innovative theatres. It was realised early on though, that ticket sales would never be enough by itself to ensure a viable income for working professional artists. In order to guarantee the public a reasonable and affordable ticket price, funding is required from other sources.

In 1987, Circa Theatre established the **Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT)** to provide financial support to the creative artists (actors, playwrights, directors, etc.) during the initial stages of play production and rehearsal. The support the artists receive from TACT through founding sponsor **Chapman Tripp**, as well as **Deloitte Private**, **Creative New Zealand**, and **individual donors** such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington.

This year, we have introduced the **Arty 500 Annual Campaign** – a fundraising campaign that with your help we hope can achieve its goal to raise \$100,000 across 2017/18!

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY

Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Simply visit **circa.co.nz/arty500** to donate by credit or debit card.

Otherwise, make a payment through Internet Banking.

Account name: Theatre Artists Charitable Trust

Account number: 01-0505-0636362-00

Particulars: [Your name] Payee code: [Your phone number]

Reference: Arty 500

You can also send a cheque to:

TACT, c/o Circa Theatre, PO Box 968, Wellington 6140

Theatre Artists Charitable Trust is a charitable trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 (registration number CC28898).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



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.



Circa Theatre offers sincere thanks to the generous philanthropists and organisations who make it possible for us to continue to bring world class theatre to Wellington.

CORE FUNDERS



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

MAJOR PARTNER



MAJOR GRANTS



MEDIA SPONSORS



WINE SPONSOR



AUDIO SPONSOR



SUPPORTERS & PLAY SPONSORS

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

We gratefully acknowledge a full list of our wonderful supporters on our website.

Become a Circa Theatre Supporter

All supporters play an important role at Circa Theatre and each gift makes a difference. For more information about becoming a Partner, donor or sponsoring a show at Circa Theatre, please contact our team on **04 801 7992** or **circaadmin@circa.co.nz** or visit **circa.co.nz/support**



CIRCA THEATRE CAFÉ & WINE BAR

Enjoy a fresh and seasonal blackboard menu with a selection of outstanding New Zealand wines at our fully licensed Café & Wine Bar before or after any theatre show.

To reserve a table in our Café please phone 04 801 7996 or visit www.circa.co.nz for further information.



CORPORATE VENUE HIRE

For information about hiring Circa Theatre for your corporate events please contact Te Papa Venues at venues@tepapa.govt.nz or call 04 381 7272



Client hosting with a difference

Share your love of the arts with your clients by becoming a Circa Diamond Package business sponsor. An innovative way to give your clients a night they'll remember.



DELICIOUS CATERING

Indulge your guests with a delicious and creative range of catering and beverage options.



SHOW TICKETS

Experience a memorable evening at the theatre.



DIAMOND PACKAGE – TABLE FOR 10

Show your clients you value their business with an unforgettable night of hospitality at Wellington's leading theatre.

Become a Circa Diamond Package business sponsor to receive FIVE personalised 'Dinner and Show' evenings for up to 10 guests, whilst supporting Circa Theatre.

Package cost: \$10,000 (which includes a \$5,000 donation to Circa Theatre).

For more information and to become a Circa Diamond Package business sponsor, please contact our team on **04 801 7992** or circaadmin@circa.co.nz or visit circa.co.nz/support.

Circa is an incorporated society also registered under the Charities Act 2005 (registration number CC31347).



Kia Ora and welcome to Circa Theatre's exciting and eclectic 2018 season!



Circa Theatre has been a champion of quality playwriting and performance and a leader of arts and culture in Wellington for over 40 years. We have two unique theatre spaces, Circa One and Circa Two, and in 2018 both will present a programme of powerful and captivating theatre. We bring you original New Zealand work, mesmerising multi-media performance, award-winning dance, developmental and devised work, thrilling dramas, critically acclaimed musicals, deadly stunts, wicked comedy, hilarious puppetry, our perennial family favourite end-of-year pantomime and our second WTF! Women's Theatre Festival.



Looking back, 2017 was yet another momentous year for Circa as TACT (Theatre Artists Charitable Trust) celebrated 30 years of supporting the arts by supporting our creative artists. Another milestone was reached in May 2017 when Circa signed a historic agreement with Te Papa, recognising shared connections and goals – both cultural and physical – between the two iconic Wellington organisations and a commitment to a closer collaborative working relationship.



With a shared aim to bring even greater artistic offerings to the public, 2018 will see the development of a vibrant and dynamic cultural precinct on the waterfront space where both Circa and Te Papa are situated. With our building renovations well underway and due for completion this year, we look forward to welcoming you into a refreshed and revitalised theatre space.



Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our loyal supporters, play sponsors, practitioners, friends and patrons – all of whom make this 2018 programme possible. We are extremely proud to present and share a colourful season of plays, performances and events that we hope will entertain, challenge, move and inspire.



– **The Circa Council**



Peter Pan The Pantomime

Encore season!

By Pinky Agnew & Lorae Parry

**Based on the novel
by J.M. Barrie**

Director:
Susan Wilson

Encore season:
2-13 Jan
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm
\$18 – \$52

**Presented by
arrangement with**



**Proudly
sponsored by**



Peter Pan the Pantomime returns 2 January! This hugely entertaining panto provides spadesful of fun with outstanding singing and dancing by a tip-top cast.

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 'til morning!' Meet Xena-Lily, Eco Warrior Princess, the lost boys and the crooked Captain Hook! And of course there's the Panto Dame played by everyone's all-time favourite, Gavin Rutherford!

"The young audience is entranced throughout." – *Theatreview*

"A hugely energetic performance by this talented group."
– *Kapiti Independent*

"Bright, energetic and full of fun."
– *The Dom Post*



New Zealand Premiere

Joan

By Tom Scott

A play about a wonderful mum by an ungrateful son

Director:

Tim Gordon

Company:

Tom Scott Productions

Starring:

Ginette McDonald

Kate McGill

20 Jan – 17 Feb

Preview 19 Jan

Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm

Fri – Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52

Tom Scott's play *Joan* follows his mother's life from a humble childhood in Southern Ireland to raising six children in gruelling circumstances with an angry alcoholic husband.

Ginette McDonald and her daughter, Kate McGill, share the narrative as the older Joan, wounded, disappointed, and cynical confronts her younger self, full of fun and optimism.

Joan knows what is coming but in the natural orders of things can't reveal what they are – Johanna must find these out for herself.

Joan is as much a story of our history as it is of one mother's life.

A journey of laughter and tears.



Proudly presented by Te Papa
and Movement of the Human

**NEW
ZEALAND
FESTIVAL**
23 FEB —
18 MAR
2018

Rushes

Created by Malia Johnston, Rowan Pierce
and Eden Mulholland

Part of the New Zealand Festival 2018

Book at www.festival.co.nz

*An engaging and mesmerising multimedia
performance experience*

Director:
Malia Johnston

Company:
Movement of
the Human

**Composition and live
music performance:**
Eden Mulholland

23 Feb – 5 Mar
Circa One and Circa
Two plus other spaces

Mon – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4pm

Note: no show

Mon 26 Feb
\$20 – \$42

**(Family and concession
prices also available)**

A multi-award winning collaboration, *Rushes* is an inter-arts experience like no other. Immerse yourself in this unique experience where live music gig meets art gallery meets theatre, dance and film. In *Rushes*, you will navigate your way around a series of performance spaces throughout Circa that are activated and on display for the hour. Explore these spaces at will or follow the crowd – experience an energy that is absolutely infectious. Featuring over 30 performers from around New Zealand and guest artists each night, *Rushes* features stunning visual imagery, lighting and sound, and will leave you energised and exhilarated.



MOVEMENT
OF THE
HUMAN

creative *nz*
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND THE ARTS AGENCY



"Rushes is simultaneously relaxing, energising, entrancing, playful, immersive, fanciful, inspiring and entirely delightful." – NZ Herald

"Rushes is the perfect festival event, leaving audience members smiling, energised and comparing the highlights of an hour or so of an immersion into live art." – Raewyn Whyte



IMAGE: MICHAEL SMITH

Salonica

An original devised production by Equal Voices Arts

In the war to end all wars, a friendship against all odds

Director: Laura Haughey

15 – 17 Feb | Circa Two

Company: Equal Voices Arts

Thurs – Sat 7.30pm | \$18 – \$20

In 1916 a multi-national mass of humanity descended on the ancient city of Salonica. Refugees and soldiers created a vast tented city. In the lull in the fighting, two soldiers strike up an unlikely friendship: a Serbian soldier and a Kiwi sapper, who has concealed his Deafness to join up, meet. With no shared language they develop a way of communicating through their everyday joys, sorrows and letters home.

With reportage and storytelling in English, Serbian and New Zealand Sign Language, this boldly physical new play is accessible for both Deaf and hearing audiences.

“Physical Theatre at its storytelling best” – Dance Manchester



Writers & Readers

Part of the 2018 New Zealand Festival

8 – 11 Mar | Circa Theatre | \$19

Bookings www.festival.co.nz/writers



Get ready for four days of fast-tracked, smart conversation from a profusion of local and international luminaries – and you. Sessions will play in both Circa One and Two, with a Festival bookstore in the revamped foyer. Full details of the Writers & Readers programme from 1 February; expect events, guests and themes to satisfy all manner of literary appetites.



SCOTT TRUST



Us/Them

By Carly Wijs

BRONKS & Richard Jordan Productions with Theatre Royal Plymouth & Big in Belgium in association with Summerhall

Part of the 2018 New Zealand Festival

Fri 16 – Sun 18 Mar, 7.30pm | Sat 17 – Sun 18

Mar, 1.30pm | Circa One | \$49

Recommended for ages 12+

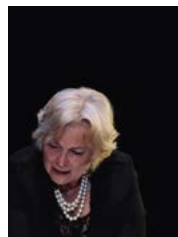
Bookings www.festival.co.nz

This “astonishingly assured” (*The Guardian*) drama comes to New Zealand following sell-out seasons at the Edinburgh Festival and London’s National Theatre. *Us/Them* portrays the experiences of children who lived through the 2004



NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL
23 FEB —
18 MAR
2018

Beslan school hostage crisis through a child’s eyes and with a deft lightness of touch. Despite the potentially harrowing subject matter, the experience is naively wonderful, unsettlingly funny and deeply thought-provoking.



At the Wake

By Victor Rodger

“A black comedy with brio, attitude and guts ...” – NZ Listener

Company: FCC

21 – 31 Mar | Preview 20 Mar | Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm | Fri – Sat 8pm | \$25 – \$52

From the award-winning Kiwi/Samoan playwright of international festival hit *Black Faggot*, comes the Wellington premiere season of *At the Wake*. Chain smoking, booze swilling Joan (Lisa Harrow in her Wellington theatre debut) holds court at her daughter’s funeral. Keeping it together with the help of a \$300 bottle of Johnny Walker, this fading diva is thrilled to see her gay grandson Robert but apoplectic when his estranged Samoan father, Tofi, turns up to pay his respects. Nobody is safe as Joan unleashes hell at the wake. Family drama erupts as these unforgettable characters deal with loss, love and misunderstanding.



“...has the force of a volcanic eruption that blows away the veneer of social convention to release layers of pent-up emotion and deeply embedded pain” – New Zealand Herald

Presented by arrangement with





Switzerland

By Joanna Murray-Smith

The sharper the wits the higher the stakes

Director:
Susan Wilson

17 Mar – 14 Apr
Preview 16 Mar
Fri 16 Mar and
Sat 17 Mar
8pm shows
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm
\$25 – \$52

Proudly
supported by
Paul and Danika
McArthur

"Love is what interests me. It's just that love is indivisible from murder."
– Joanna Murray-Smith

It's 1995 in the Swiss Alps where Patricia Highsmith lives, refusing to contact her increasingly desperate publishers who are urging her to write the final instalment of her best-selling Mr Ripley series.

But when a mysterious international visitor barges into her home unannounced, will her love of fictional murders become a dangerous reality? What appears first to be a standard cat-and-mouse game of wit and wiles, soon becomes a dance to the death. Who is the cat and who is the mouse? And ... who will make it out of Switzerland alive?

Catherine Downes and Simon Leary star in this chilling and sometimes hilarious two-hander.

"Funny, chilling and thrilling, this is a hugely entertaining show that will have you on the edge of your seat..."
– PerthNow



The Truth

By Florian Zeller

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Racy comedy of lies and infidelity

Director:

Ross Jolly

7 Apr – 5 May

Preview 6 Apr

Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm

Fri – Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52

Proudly

sponsored by

Christopher Finlayson

The Truth: the advantages of concealing it and the drawbacks of revealing it...

Alice and Michel are having an affair. Michel's wife, Laurence, has been asking him difficult questions. Alice's husband Paul is Michel's best friend.

As deceptions intertwine, the two couples find themselves ensnared in a spiralling tissue of truth and lies that keeps us intrigued and entertained.

The Truth is a brilliantly ruthless comedy which dissects the hypocrisies which hold society together.

Highly acclaimed writer of hit play *The Father*, Florian Zeller has an interest in provoking and teasing audiences.

In a pitch-perfect translation by Christopher Hampton, *The Truth* is funny and thought-provoking, owing something to *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (also translated by Hampton) and more (a debt acknowledged by Zeller) to Pinter's *Betrayal*.

The Truth moves with the fluency of a dance that keeps turning on its own heel. It is smart, surprising and painfully funny.

"A zippy farce about ever-shifting layers of infidelity ★★★★★" – Time Out

"A devious must-see ★★★★★" – The Observer



IMAGE: ELIZABETH LANE



IMAGE: EMMA BRITTEN

The Messy Magic Adventure: Kitchen Chaos!

By David Ladderman
and Lizzie Tollemache

More fantastical fun for children aged 5+

Director:
Greg Cooper

Company:
Rollicking
Entertainment

17 – 28 Apr
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 11am
\$10 – \$15

Rollicking
Entertainment

Spray and Wipe are back in a brand new show! When magic is accidentally let loose in the kitchen, everything is turned topsy turvy... Now, the audience must help Spray and Wipe bake a cake as their kitchen gets messier and messier! Circus, slapstick and magic combine in this very special adventure.

Suitable for our friends from last year AND for newcomers to the Messy Magic world. Last year, *The Messy Magic Adventure* completely sold out both the original season and extra added shows, so do get in quick! Waterproof cover provided for those in the front row...

"Gleeful physical comedy is infectious and the entire audience appears to be having a ball."

– *Theatreview*

Seven Deadly Stunts

By David Ladderman
and Lizzie Tollemache

Thrills, chills and delights

Director:
Mike Friend

Company:
Rollicking
Entertainment

17 Apr – 5 May
Circa Two

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

Rollicking
Entertainment



From the creators of 2017 hit *Mr and Mrs Alexander: Sideshows and Psychics...* Step right up as Rollicking Entertainment celebrates seven of the most notorious stunts in carnie history. A nail-biting experience inspired by the life and times of Harry Houdini. Escapology, chainsaw juggling, walking on broken glass and other famous feats are performed along with the stories of how... and why... they exist. Exciting, terrifying and genuinely funny, roll up and join the dastardly duo of Lizzie Tollemache and David Ladderman. Come laugh, gasp and cheer – the carnival is in town!

R16 unless accompanied by a parent

"Exceptional skill, panache and humour. Don't miss it." – John Smythe, *Theatreview (Mr and Mrs Alexander)*



Still Life with Chickens

By D.F. Mamea

Some friendships are just clucking surprising!

Director:
Fasitua Amosa
Company:
Auckland Theatre
Company
Starring:
Goretti Chadwick

9 May – 2 June
Preview 8 May
Circa Two

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

Presented by
arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRITERS
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

**AUCKLAND
THEATRE
COMPANY**

ASB
Partners with passion.

“E, leai, I’m not doing an encore. I’m an old woman, you stupid chicken. The last time I sang and danced like that... oi, ‘ta fia ola e. My wedding day. I was so young and beautiful, and so was Papa.”

Mama’s proud of her flourishing veggie garden. So when she discovers a stray chicken enjoying her greens, her first instinct is to reach for the spade. But what starts as an all-out war develops into a grudging friendship. A beautiful, beguiling and very funny play about family, community, loss and love, the things that make life worth living.

Still Life with Chickens won the 2017 Adam NZ Play Award and also the award for Best Play by a Pasifika Playwright.

Goretti Chadwick is a well-known face in New Zealand theatre, television and film. Her screen credits include *Pani & Pani*, *Auckland Daze*, *Vermillion*, *Apron Strings* and *Sione’s Wedding*. Highlights with Auckland Theatre Company include *The Good Soul of Szechuan*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



A World Premiere of a high energy,
high anxiety new New Zealand comedy

Problems

By Joe Musaphia

A counter-revolutionary comedy

Director:
Gavin Rutherford

Starring:
Simon Leary
Andrew Paterson

11 – 26 May
Preview 10 May
Circa One

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

Presented by
arrangement with



The Great Leader is having a nap. Boris and Stephan guard his room with revolutionary zeal.

But wasn't he supposed to be awake by now? The Great Leader's Wife says wake him! The Great Leader's General says let him sleep!

And doesn't The Great Leader sleep with a gun?

Comedy with a bang in the tradition of Tom Stoppard, Armando Iannucci and Monty Python.

Problems is a highly relevant hilarious high-dive into a world of demagogues, mixed messages and Big Brother.

Two of New Zealand's best and brightest comedy talents tackle this thumping new play from one of New Zealand's finest comedy writers.

Witty, silly, relevant.

"Don't let someone else chew your food for you."



IMAGE: PHIMIA NICHOLAS

Native Agency Aotearoa presents the Premiere
Season of the 2016 Adam Award Winner

Tan-Knee

By Maraea Rakuraku

Your terrorist is our freedom fighter

Director:
Nathaniel Lees

Company:
Native Agency
Aotearoa

2 - 16 June
Preview 1 June
Circa One

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

**Accompanying
exhibition opens
1 June at 6.30pm**

**Presented by
arrangement with**



September 2007. After 20 years on the international boxing circuit, Tū is coming home. And he's got plans involving his cousin Eunice, brother Pōtiki, and their childhood gym – Muhammad's.

Fourteen-year-olds Stevie and her comic-drawing best friend Chiefy aren't that thrilled about the intrusion into their world of Tū and his big ideas. It's hoha. As hoha as the white vans parked up for days all over Tan-Knee and the undercurrent of unsettling activity rumoured to be driven by the Te Urewera Prophets aka the Tame-Itis.

Tan-Knee is the first in the Te Urewera Trilogy by Maraea Rakuraku.

EUNICE

Their terrorists are our...

PŌTIKI

Freedom fighters.

EUNICE

It's all a matter of whose side of the story you're on.

PŌTIKI

And who's telling it.



The Atom Room

By Philip Braithwaite

Are you more loyal to who you love or what you love?

Director:
Lyndee-Jane
Rutherford

9 June – 7 July
Preview 8 June
Circa Two

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

Presented by
arrangement with



Proudly
supported by



Sarah's husband Danny lives in futuristic Wellington ravaged by climate change and nuclear fall-out. Sarah is an engineer working on Mars. Their long-distance relationship is eased by visits to the Atom Room, a highly-advanced virtual reality system where they can 'meet' and 'interact' in a way so believable that it might as well be reality.

This is the premiere production of a thrilling new NZ play featuring brand-new music from electronic music icons Minuit (Paul Dodge & Ruth Carr). For the first time audiences will also get to explore our future Wellington in a unique VR experience thanks to our partnership with PROJECTR.nz

Is fantasy ever as good, or as bad, as reality?

ME R M E R E



Meremere

Rodney Bell

*A mesmerising multimedia performance
memoir from Māori dance artist Rodney Bell*

Director:
Malia Johnston

Company:
Movement of
the Human

22 – 30 June
Preview 21 June
Circa One

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



Meremere brings you the incredible story of Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniapoto), which spans an international career in integrated dance, years of homelessness in America and a return to his home town of Te Kuiti in Aotearoa. The work powerfully layers movement, projected imagery, documentary footage and music to bring Rodney's stories to life. *Meremere* is a beautiful and intimate performance that invites you to viscerally experience a unique and inspirational memoir. The work features live music by renowned composer Eden Mulholland.

Collaborating artists include Rowan Pierce (AV), Tūi Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield and Emma Willis (Dramaturgy), John Verryt (Set), Ruby Reihana-Wilson (Light) and Ian Hammond (Graphic Design).

"Meremere is the ultimate combination of theatre, dance, music, film; of storytelling and image evoking; of power and play."
– *Theatreview*

Songs for Nobodies

By Joanna Murray-Smith

Everyone has a story

Director:
Ross Gumbley

Company:
Ali-Cat
Productions Ltd

Starring:
Ali Harper

7 July – 4 Aug
Preview 6 July
Circa One

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

Ali-Cat
PRODUCTIONS Ltd

THE
COURT
LIVE THEATRE

From the team who brought Circa audiences *A Doris Day Special*, *Legendary Divas* and *Bombshells*, comes this critically-acclaimed, one-woman play starring Ali Harper (Best Actress – Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards, and United Solo Festival, New York).

"In this country, people are always talkin' about dreams. You can be your dream. You can have your dream. You can live the dream. But that's just a clever way of gettin' people to shut up and stop complainin'."

Songs for Nobodies shares five life-changing encounters between five everyday women whose lives have been touched in some way by five legendary divas: Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday and Maria Callas.

The singer has her story and the listener hers, and should these touch each other, there can be magic.

"... truly astonishing acting and singing tour-de-force."

– *The Christchurch Press*

"You would be mad not to go and sparkle in Ali Harper's light."

– *Theatreview*

"Profound, ironical, funny, moving and ultimately astonishing, *Songs For Nobodies* is outstanding entertainment." – *Manawatu Standard*



IMAGE: PAMELA ALLEN

Black Dog

Adapted for the stage by Peter Wilson
Based on the bestselling children's
book by Pamela Allen

*A hauntingly beautiful story about love and
friendship that will reach out and touch us all.*

Director: Peter Wilson
Company: Little Dog
Barking Theatre

9 – 21 July
Circa Two

Tues – Sat
10am and 11.30am
\$12.50

**Presented by
arrangement with**



Black Dog and Christina lived together in a little cottage on the edge of a forest. They had been friends for a very long time, they played together, they swam together, they ran barefoot through the forest. Then, suddenly, one cold day in winter, everything began to change...

Even the very young know the pain of love. In this hauntingly beautiful story we share Black Dog's pain as he waits and waits for the return of Christina's love.

In the Spring, they ran together over the hills. In the Summer, they swam together in the river. In the Autumn, they played together in the fallen leaves.

As it got cooler they collected sticks for the fire that would keep them warm during the long winter months.

For all ages from 2 years to 100 years old and their companions.



Duck, Death and the Tulip

Adapted for the stage by Peter Wilson
from the award-winning children's book
of the same name by Wolf Erlbruch

Director:
Nina Nawalowalo
Music: Gareth Farr
Company: Little Dog
Barking Theatre

9 – 21 July
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 6pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$12.50
Family tickets
available

**Presented by
arrangement with**



A Duck meets a character called Death. They strike up an unlikely friendship. They go swimming together, drink cups of tea and generally enjoy life together. Duck of course grows older as each day passes and it soon comes time for the two friends to part.

One of the most beautiful stories for children from the pen of Wolf Erlbruch, writer of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Children's Literature.

Award-winning puppetry about an unlikely friendship between a Duck and Death. For all ages from 2 years to 100 years old and their companions.

Winner of An Outstanding Theatre Award – 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival

**“One of those rare shows that equally
delights toddlers and their parents and
reaches out to both.” – Broadwaybaby,
Edinburgh**



Theatresports 2018

The Improvisors

We're back and we have no idea what we are doing

29 Apr – 17 June | Circa One | Sun 7pm | \$18 – \$25

Take two teams of Improvisors, throw them at the mercy of the audience and watch the magic! Circa has been the home of Theatresports for over two decades and now this is your chance to be part of the comedy sensation with a new and unique show every Sunday. No one can predict what will happen but we can guarantee the laughs.

“That highly entertaining scenarios can be conjured out of thin air by people whose major skill is to listen to each other, accept what is offered and build on it with alacrity, still rates as small miracles to me.” – Theatreview

Improv for Kids

The Improvisors

1 – 6 Oct | Circa Two | Mon – Sat 10am and 11.30am | \$12

Kids love theatre. Kids love theatre that's interactive. And that's what The Improvisors do – taking kids into the magic of their own imagination. Every show is unique with opportunities to shout out, dance, wriggle and be part of the action.

This is genuine family entertainment. Give your child or grandchild the gift of the magic of theatre – and you will probably have a giggle or two, too.

“It is a joy to see adults and children having fun and imaginative play time, leaving their inhibitions behind and laughing and playing together.” – Theatreview

The Dinner

Devised by Joan Bellviure

Silver service comedy with a slice of drama

Director:
Juliet O'Brien

Company:
The Improvisors

10 – 25 Aug
Preview 9 Aug
Circa One

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

The Dinner is an improvised play set at an elegant dinner party that erupts with every serving, a stew of buried emotions and hidden secrets.

Revenge is indeed a dish best served cold...

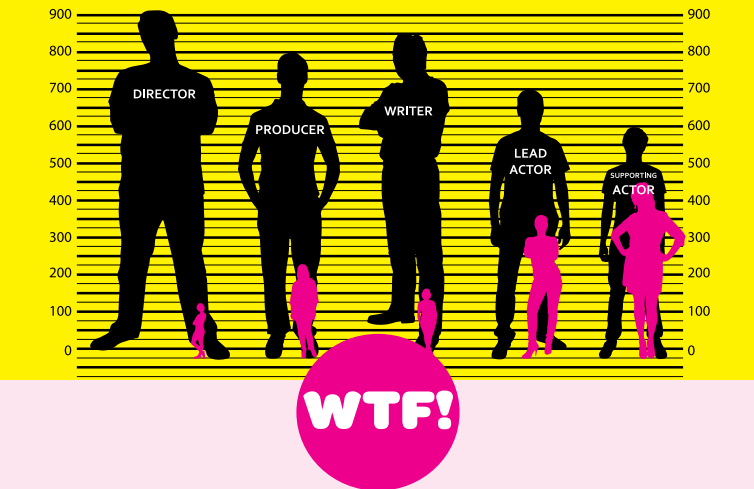
Without scripts, the cast of seasoned improvisors create a full length improvised play every night.

You don't have to guess who's coming to dinner – you get to decide.

Enjoy a delicious bistro style two-course meal with a glass of wine while devising a crafty storyline for your characters. A feast for your creativity and taste buds not to be missed!

Theatre ticket and meal only \$99 pp





Women's Theatre Festival 2018

Celebrating women's voices

17 Aug – 27 Oct

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

The 19th of September 2018 is the 125th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand and Circa Theatre is delighted to celebrate this, as well as New Zealand Theatre month by once again hosting WTF! Women's Theatre Festival throughout August, September and October.

The four plays (*Bloomsbury Women and the Wild Colonial Girl*, *Modern Girls in Bed*, *Blonde Poison* and *Uneasy Dreams and Other Things*), one devised work (*Medusa*), one developmental season (*Rants in the Dark*), two play readings (*Tender*, *Sean Penn is in His Boat*) and workshops all showcase women playwrights, directors, designers, actors, dancers, musicians and theatre workers. They give voice to historical female characters as well as focusing on issues facing women today and are more fully explained in the following pages. The seasons start in August and run into October, but those productions in September are all written by New Zealand women.

Circa Theatre is also proud to be hosting the Fourth Women in Theatre Hui on 15 September. More information to follow in the new year.

WTF! is proudly supported by



Play Readings

WTF!



Tender

Judith Cowley

Even though stories were an important part of my upbringing and everyday life, I didn't start writing them until recently. In 2014 I completed my Masters in Creative Writing-Scriptwriting at IIML, Victoria University. It was the beginning of my love affair with writing scripts. Since then I have been writing both film and theatre scripts. I find it so satisfying, to create characters and worlds and to see what happens. *Tender* is my first full-length play.



Sean Penn is in His Boat

Josephine Stewart-Tewhiu

Josephine Stewart-Tewhiu (Ngāpuhi/Te Rarawa) is an Auckland based writer and actor.

Josephine was named Runner Up in the Adam NZ Play Award in 2016 for her play *Sean Penn is in His Boat*, a funny and compelling tale of middle-aged siblings dealing with the death of their mother the same week as the devastating Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Presented by arrangement with



Women on the verge...

another writing workshop

1 September

**For more information please contact
womenintheatre nz@gmail.com**

Following on from the highly successful *Twelve Angry Women* convened by the brilliant British playwright Sara Clifford in 2017, Circa Theatre is hosting a second writing workshop for women. A similar format will apply: a day's workshop followed two weeks later by a public reading of work inspired by the workshop, curated by director Katherine McRae. The reading will be part of the Fourth Women in Theatre Hui on 15 September.

What are you on the verge of... ?

Bloomsbury Women and the Wild Colonial Girl

By Lorae Parry

A witty look at love, life and literature

Director:
Susan Wilson

18 Aug – 15 Sept
Preview 17 Aug
Circa Two

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

Presented by
arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP



In 1908 Katherine Mansfield set sail for London, never to return.

After meeting Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield wrote: "I have nothing to say to charming women. I feel like a cat among tigers."

Virginia's first impressions of Katherine Mansfield were: "I'm a little shocked by her commonness... She seems to have gone every sort of hog since she was 17."

Against a colourful background of the people and places that shaped Katherine Mansfield's "many hundreds of selves", this play shows these two literary rivals developing a special relationship which defies stereotypes and gossip.

"Parry's Katherine Mansfield, the 'colonial' girl at large in a hard and dazzling world takes us close to 'the real thing' ... does justice to the amusing, clever, compassionate, constantly self-examining personality it engages with. And it shows us Virginia Woolf as well in a freshly slanting light." – Vincent O'Sullivan



IMAGE: TABITHA ARTHUR AND ED WATSON

Modern Girls in Bed

By Cherie Jacobson and Alex Lodge

An irreverent comedy about sisters, strength, and how sometimes you just need to go to bed for the rest of your life

Director:
Rachel Lenart

Company:
full.stop.theatre

1 – 22 Sept
Preview 31 August
Circa One

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

Presented by
arrangement with



Proudly
sponsored by
Vivien Hirschfeld



When life gets too hard for Ally and Petra they decide to go to bed, John and Yoko style – except not for ‘Peace’ – forever.

But something strange is going on in the house, and taking a stand proves harder than they thought. Kate Sheppard won’t stop bossing them around, Katherine Mansfield keeps making demands, and Henri Poincaré is going into labour. As things take a darker turn for Ally, will the women of her world come together or fall apart?

Shortlisted for the Adam NZ Play Award and led by acclaimed director Rachel Lenart (*Constellations*), this new work is a razor-sharp, poignant collision of historical heroines and present-day family politics. A play for anyone who knows that women are complex and courageous propagators of change who can also watch a lot of Netflix.

“I was very good in bed, I thought. One week I read *Little Women* three times in bed.” – Mum



IMAGE: PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NEW ZEALAND

Zanetti Productions presents

Medusa

Created by Nisha Madhan, Julia Croft,
Virginia Frankovich

21 Sept – 6 Oct
Preview 20 Sept
Circa Two

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



WTF!

With a head of poisonous snakes and a murderous gaze, Medusa has come to epitomise female monstrosity. Caravaggio painted her. Shakespeare wrote about her. Freud had a bloody field day.

From acclaimed feminist theatre makers Julia Croft, Virginia Frankovich and Nisha Madhan comes a new work of dissection and dissent on female bodies, female violence and female rage. With Medusa as their muse, and Jill Soloway as their spiritual guide, *Medusa* is a blood boiler, a stealthy deconstruction, and one of feminism's great reclamations.

"Postmodern performance art meets power pop politics – powerfully delivered." – *Total Theatre UK* on *If There's Not Dancing at the Revolution, I'm Not Coming*



Rants in the Dark

Based on the book by Emily Writes
Adapted for the stage by Mel Dodge
& Lyndee-Jane Rutherford
Director: Lyndee-Jane Rutherford
Company: Good Times Company

25 – 29 Sept | Circa One | Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm | \$25 – \$39

Emily Writes shot to stardom after a rant in the dark on her blog received 1 million hits overnight. People across the world connected to the words every parent thinks at 4am after the third wake-up of the night, but would rarely be brave enough to say out loud.

"Parenting is hard. And awesome. And the best thing ever. And it's so hard. And amazing. And it's a mess of contradictions and we can't get through it alone. Let's get through it together."

Lyndee-Jane Rutherford (*Hand to God*, *La Casa Azul*) and Mel Dodge (*Miss Brontë*) are proud to be leading the stage adaptation of Emily's hilarious and heartfelt best-selling book in this one-week development season, part of the Women's Theatre Festival.



Blonde Poison

By Gail Louw

The past never lets you go

Director: Paul Gittins
Company: Plumb Productions

2 – 6 Oct | Circa One | Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm | \$25 – \$39

Legendary stage actress Elizabeth Hawthorne ONZM, whose stellar career spans 40 years, stars in her first solo show.

Based on true events *Blonde Poison* tells the haunting story of Stella Goldschlag, a young Jewish woman living illegally in war-torn Berlin. Stella saved herself and her family from Gestapo death camps by becoming a 'Greifer' (catcher), who informed on other Jews in hiding. Extremely successful, she was nicknamed 'Blonde Poison' by the Gestapo, due to her blonde hair and ruthless efficiency. Some 50 years later she agrees to be interviewed. The past is about to catch up with her.



"Elizabeth Hawthorne's greatest performance."
– NBR



Under Milk Wood

By Dylan Thomas

*We are not wholly bad or good, who
live our lives under Milk Wood*

Director:
Ross Jolly

13 Oct – 10 Nov
Preview 12 Oct
Circa One

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

**Proudly supported
by Mary and
Peter Biggs CNZM**

A delightful if peculiar story of the daily life in “Llareggub” (read it backwards), a small Welsh town by the sea. Meet blind Captain Cat, Mog Edwards and his sweetheart Miss Price, Sinbad Sailors, Dai Bread, Polly Garter, Nogood Boyo, Lord Cut-Glass and many others. Walk along Coronation Street, Cockle Row and Donkey Street, down to the little fishing harbour and back to Milk Wood as Dylan Thomas explores their lives, hopes and thoughts in the dreams of a night and the rhythm of a day.

Both a play and a poem, *Under Milk Wood* was written from the heart. It offers an unforgettable journey into the roots of our common tongue and the soul of Wales. From dark and sombre to hilarious and cynical, it showcases Thomas’ sharp wit and wonderful mischievous use of language.

Circa’s production of this much loved classic will feature an extraordinary video landscape, a beautifully composed soundtrack from Gareth Farr and will star the venerable Welsh wizard himself, Ray Henwood, as the narrator blind Captain Cat.

“The voices of Dylan Thomas’ *Under Milk Wood* rise and fall, crashing into each other like waves under a milky moon, their sweet prose an effervescence of sounds and syllables to intoxicate the soul.”



IMAGE: TABITHA ARTHUR



IMAGE: JOHN McDERMOTT

Uneasy Dreams and Other Things

By Lori Leigh

A new play inspired by Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis. With pop music. And a penis.

Director:
Stella Reid

10 – 27 Oct
Preview 9 Oct
Circa Two

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

Presented by
arrangement with



- You see it too?
- ...
- Okay, so I am not dreaming.
- Would you look at me?
- I can't look at you right now. You have...
- I know what it is.
- You have a – a leg – coming out of you.
- Actually, I have two legs. I was born with two legs. And now there is a ...
- Penis. PENIS. You have a man's PENIS!

After receiving a “dick pic” from her boss and a subsequent night of uneasy dreams, Samantha, an aspiring photographer, wakes up one morning find herself... transformed.

“A thinking woman sleeps with monsters.” – Adrienne Rich

“Very clever, very funny, very imaginative; a startling, wild ride.”

– Murray Lynch, Playmarket Director

Winner Adam NZ Play Award (Runner-Up)

Cellfish

By Rob Mocaraka, Miriama McDowell and Jason Te Kare

A delicious dark comedy with thrilling twists

Director:
Jason Te Kare

Company:
Taki Rua Productions

8 – 17 Nov
Preview 7 Nov
Circa Two

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

Originally co-produced by the Auckland Arts Festival 2017

Presented by
arrangement with



Eight counts unlawful entry using imagination, four counts possession and cultivation of Shakespeare, and one count dangerous operation of a voice class.

In *Cellfish* hardened inmates come face to face with a whole new nightmare: Shakespeare classes with Miss Lucy! Some are looking to improve their parole chances, others want to kill some time and one just wants to kill. Funny and insightful, this gripping new work takes us behind the walls of a New Zealand correctional facility and into the minds of its residents.

Cellfish is a delicious dark comedy with thrilling twists. Be captured by the action.

“Stimulating, hilarious, upsetting and profoundly on point.” – Simon Wilson, *The Spinoff*



Puss in Boots The Pantomime

By Paul Jenden

Purrfect panto fun for everyone!

Director:
Susan Wilson

Music:
Michael Nicholas
Williams

17 Nov – 23 Dec
Preview 16 Nov
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm
\$18 – \$52

Presented by
arrangement with



Proudly
sponsored by



A poor widow woman, Mrs Miller, and her son Arthur live in a run-down shack in Te Aro Valley and dream of winning the Big Wednesday Lotto and moving to posh Karori.

One day, a clever cat called Puss in Boots turns up and they all set off to make their fortunes. Follow their exciting adventures as they come across a down-on-his-luck King, his feisty daughter and a marauding ogre! Will they find fortune? Will they outwit the wicked ogre? Will they live happily ever after?

If your boots are made for walkin' then walk right along to Circa for this year's panto... and of course look out for our magnificent Panto Dame.

"There is something magical for kids and adults to share in an annual panto."

"Love the Panto, we go every year."

"We came out bubbling with laughter and enjoyment."



A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

"...brimming with humour and pathos"
– John Smythe, *Theatreview*

Director:
Ross Jolly

24 Nov – 22 Dec
Preview 23 Nov
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
\$18 – \$52

"...rich plum pudding of a performance" – Laurie Atkinson, *Dom Post*

Ray is delighted to return with his acclaimed production of *A Christmas Carol* following his highly successful season in 2013.

Dickens himself was one of the first writers to read his own work in public performance. *A Christmas Carol* was subtitled *A Ghost Story for Christmas* on its first edition and it has become one of the best known and loved Christmas stories. In it we meet characters who have entered our language: Scrooge, Tiny Tim, the Ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. So, with the help of some modern technology like soundscapes, lighting and projection, Ray offers a night to celebrate all the true traditions of the Christmas season that we have adopted into our lives and that were first written about in such a captivating way by one of the masters of English letters, Charles Dickens.

"I invite you all to treat yourselves to the true meaning of the Christmas spirit with the wonderful words of the immortal Charles Dickens"

– Ray Henwood

Bookings

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

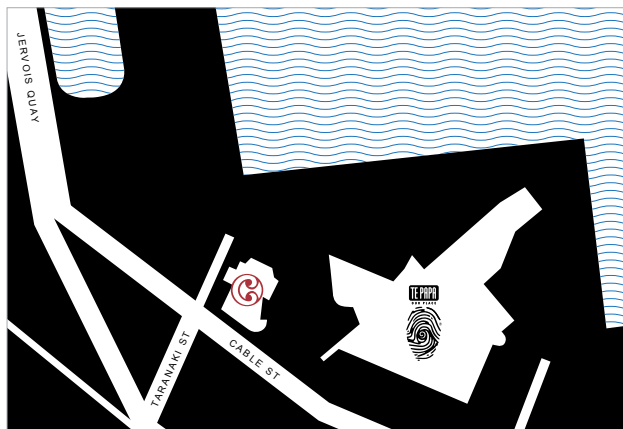
- There is no extra charge for credit card bookings (Mastercard or Visa) and online bookings
- The Box Office gets very busy an hour prior to the shows, so we recommend calling for advance bookings before 5.30pm
- Please note performance times can sometimes vary, please check with Box Office or online to confirm
- Need parking? We recommend Te Papa carpark (parking fees apply)

Food & Drink at Circa

Circa Theatre provides a fully licensed bar and café 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 7992 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.

Become a *Friend of Circa*

Circa Theatre is supported by patrons like you. When you contribute to Circa Theatre, you join a group of individuals and businesses that, along with sharing a passion for the arts, ensures Circa Theatre can continue to bring a diverse range of world class productions to Wellington. Your support helps make it possible!

Annual Membership – \$60

Express your love of the theatre by taking out an annual membership to our *Friend of Circa* programme. An affordable way to be involved in supporting Circa Theatre, you will receive:

- Two tickets at our special Friends price (\$38 per ticket), for the first two weeks of each production
- Regular newsletters keeping you up-to-date with exclusive content about upcoming productions
- Automatic entry into our *Friends of Circa* monthly giveaway of TWO Circa Theatre tickets
- Invitations to special events at Circa Theatre.

Philanthropic Support

All donors play an important role at Circa Theatre and each gift makes a difference. We offer sincere thanks to the generous people who donate.

To become a *Friend of Circa* or to donate

- **Online**
Visit circa.co.nz
- **Phone**
Call our Box Office on 04 801 7992
- **In person**
Visit Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington

Circa is an incorporated society also registered under the Charities Act 2005 (registration number CC31347).



CIRCA THEATRE

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz