



CIRCA

CHAMPIONS OF
NEW ZEALAND
THEATRE
FOR 40 YEARS

JANUARY - JUNE 2016
PROGRAMME



Circa Council on our 40th Year

2016 is a special year for us, as Circa Theatre celebrates 40 years as a champion of New Zealand theatre. We are relishing the chance to acknowledge the theatre makers, playwrights, directors and actors that have made our first 40 years such a joy.

The beginning of our year will be remarkably festive, with the New Zealand Festival affording us a chance to premiere Jane Waddell's adaptation of Kate De Goldi's much-loved *The ACB with Honora Lee*. Kate says, "It's delightful seeing one's story take on a life beyond the pages of the book in which it first entered the world... This stage adaptation gives fresh and imaginative life to 'my' story and characters - how very fortunate for them, me and the audience!" We will also play host to the Writers Week, Fringe Festival, Comedy Festival, and Kia Mau Festival (previously the Ahi Kaa Festival).

Perfectly timed for our actual birthday on 23 April, long-standing Circa Council member Susan Wilson will direct a return season of, arguably, our most successful show; Robert Lord's *Joyful & Triumphant* which was commissioned by Circa. Those who saw the original production will remember the significance of this work; one of our first plays to tell a truly kiwi story.

We are very excited to welcome Michael Hurst, who will tackle *King Lear* in his directorial debut at Circa. Our beloved Ray Henwood will take the leading role. This colossal pairing of talent is, I'm sure, going to result in an epic telling of this Shakespearean drama. Timed for the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death, we will also have a reading of

The Circa Council: (From far left) Charlotte Bates, Branwen Millar, Amanda Hereaka, (main image) Andrew Foster, Susan Wilson, Linda Wilson, Ray Henwood, Neville Carson, Richard Chapman, Carolyn Henwood, Ross Jolly, (right) Lyndee-Jane Rutherford, (not pictured) Miranda Manasiadis.

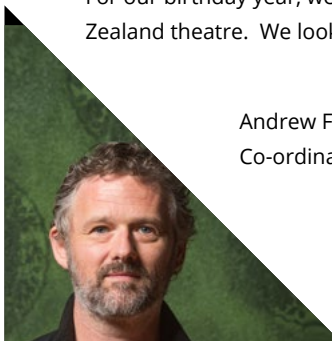


Shakespeare's Will by Canadian playwright Vern Thiessen.

This is part of a series of play readings that will take place throughout the year (see page 20-21 for details). Dance features heavily in our programme, and we welcome Java Dance, Footnote Dance, and the Okareka Dance Company to the theatre.

Circa has always been focused on the artistry of our theatre makers; so beautifully summed up by Susan Wilson: "Our goal was to dazzle the audience with the sheer excellence of the performance – to present theatre of the highest possible standard – where economy and ingenuity keep costs to a minimum so that the rewards could be equally shared by artists and practitioners."

For our birthday year, we present you with the best of New Zealand theatre. We look forward to celebrating it all with you!



Andrew Foster
Co-ordinator, Circa Council

In 2015 we completed a campaign to raise money for new seats in our main theatre – a major piece of work that was only possible with private philanthropic support. We would like to thank the extreme generosity of the following donors, who helped us raise over \$200,000 to **Treat Your Seat.**

With thanks to those who donated seats: Denis & Verna Adam, Lewardowski Family Trust, Greg Anderson, Lois Anderson, Paul & Sheryl Bains, Bob & Sally Barton, Suzanne Blumhardt, Patricia Bollard & Nocolette McKenzie, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, Bruce Bornholdt, Joy & Rue Bourke, Rosemary & Max Bradford, Lynette & Brian Burrell, John Cahill, Rodney Callender, Vivien Callender, Anne & Owen Carr, Jean Cashin, Diana Crossan, Judith Dale, Penny Deans, Andrew Gawith, Anne Donnell, Diana Duff Staniland, Ronnie Biggs, Bill & Mary English, John Errington, John Farrell & Rosemary Fullerton-Smith, Meg Flux, John Flux, Errol Fogarty, Emily Thompson, Valda Ford, Marion & Paul Frater, Judith Geare, Michael & Creena Gibbons, Tiahuia & Neil Gray, John & Melanie Greenwood, Dr. John Grigor, Jenny & Ross Hanna, Carolyn Henwood, Ray Henwood, Dai Henwood, Vivien Hirschfeld, Alisa Hirschfeld, Daniel Hirschfeld, Miri Hirschfeld, John & Heather Hutton, Museum Art Hotel, Paul & Judy Keesing, Ken Keith, Jocelyn Keith, David & Christine Kernohan, Patricia Knight, Nick & Ros Lambrechtsen, The Letteri Family, The Lonergan Family, Ann Mallinson, P. and A. Maloney, Anne Manchester, Ben Wilson, T. & H. Marwick, Rod McLeod, Cecily McNeill, Joy McNicoll, Pen Moore, Ethel Munro, Taliah Morrison, Otilie Morrison, Elliott Morrison, Isabella Morrison, Vita Morrison, Julie Nevett, Kate & David Ongley, Barbara Osborne, Victor Osbourne & Audrey Seeto, Margaret Palmer, Chris Parkin, Sam Perry & Iona Anderson, Australian High Commission, Lyn & Bruce Robertson, Sarah Romans & Trevor Silverstone, Gill & Bruce Ross, Antonia & Elizabeth Saunders, Roy & Renate Savage, Barbara Scelly & Jack Shallcrass, Zain Smith (Everybody Cool Lives Here), Henry Stubbs, Ian Fraser & Suzanne Snively, Deirdre Tarrant, Monica Taylor, Kathy Tipler, John and Teena Todd, David & Lesley Udy, Nicola Varuhas, David & Annette Wale, Kathryn & Peter Walls, Margaret & Ted Watson, Carla & John Wild, Priscilla & Sheila Williams, Kirsty Wood, Jane Wrightson, Annabel Young, and Chris Yu.

Thanks to all other donors: Sally & Evan Abernethy, Denise Almao, Jacquie Alves, Katherine Andersen, Phil Austin, Pip Bennet, Trevor Bleakley, Jenni Borren, Richard Braae & Andrea Gray, Kathleen Brabin, Bettina Bradbury, Jocelyn Brandon, Paul & Ann Breen, Alan & Belinda Brian, Susan Brierley, Gordon Brown, Marie Burgess, Alan Cameron, Janice Campbell, Bernard & Kay Carol, Rick & Loraine Christie, Marie Christoffel, Margaret Clark, Rosemary Collier, Margaret Collins, Charles P. Cooper, Dorothy Corry, Gillian Croad, Ann Cunningham, Mark Davis, Frances Dawson, J.M. Denne, Cathy Downes, Kristin Downey, Pam & Graham Dyhrberg, Virginia Earle, Sally Evers, Peter Fabian, Dorothy Fraser, Selwyn Gallot, Rini Gardenier, Anne Gasson, Ros Gellatly, Steven C Gentry, Yael Gezentsvey, Colin & Maureen Gibb, Joyce Gibson, Ambassador Mark & Mrs Nancy Gilbert, BN & JM Gillespie, Jenny & Neil Gordon, Margaret Gordon, Murray Gowans, Barbara Green, J. Grieve, Jan Gunderson, Jo Hansen & Mark Reese, Deryn Hardie Boys, Brian & Sally Hasell, Barbara Hay, P. & J. Hector, Jacqueline Hemmingson, Fiona Heron, Naney Hill, Jane Hill, Sue Hirst, Marian Hofsteede, Merril Holdsworth, Jocelyn Holmes, Fran Hoover, H Hunn, Diane Imus, Susan & Nigel Isaacs, Max Kerr & Jenny Robertson, Richard Keller, Pia Laurin, Margaret Lee, Jenny Lewis, Christine Lock, Malcolm Macaskill, Ainslie Maresca, Avis Marshall, John & Meave McCarthy, Claire McDonald, Caroline McGhie, Kaye & Dennis McKinley, Ewen McNeill, Jenny Middlemass, Rose Miller, Eunice Mowles, John M. Nankervis, Wayne Nicol, Jill O'Connor, Joycelyn Pearson, Heather Perry, Laraine & Malcolm Perrett, Beth Pethig, Bruce Phillips, J.A. Pope, Margaret Raudnic, Ruth Reese, Margery & Bill Renwick, Tony Richardson, Alan & Cath Roberts, Mr P.L. Rundle, Rella Rutherford, Edith Ryan & Anne McKinnon, Keith Ryan, Agnes Sang, Patricia Sarr, Stella Say, Josephine Scott, Marion Shерley, Tim & Claire Shirtcliffe, Judy & John Stratmore, Henry Stubbs, Jenny Studd, Patricia Sziranyi, Margaret Taylor & Warren Jones, Howard Taylor, Marjorie Thomas, Barbara Thomas, Craig Thompson, John & Heidi Thomson, Annemarie Treadwell, Fay Tudor, Shirley Vollweiler, A McKinnon & W. E. Ryan, Jill Waddington, Margaret & Michael Walls, Naomi Ware, Johanna Warren, Barbara Watson, Sue Watt, Charles Wells, Erica Whyte, Lee Wilkinson, Shelia Williams, Kirsty Wood, Barbara Woods, and Dollaine Young.

And also to other contributors: Creative New Zealand, Wellington Community Trust, Pelorus Trust, Mainland Foundation, and Infinity Foundation.

THEATRE ARTISTS CHARITABLE TRUST

Supporting the arts through supporting artists

TACT continues as a vital and leading strategy in the creative arts industry in New Zealand, attracting willing donors from the corporate world, individuals, and CNZ.

Its vision is to distribute funds directly to the many artists creating excellent work at Circa and to assist them in achieving a viable career. As Circa celebrates a milestone anniversary, TACT will continue to look ahead and seek out new ways to ensure the artist is always kept centre stage.

TACT board members are Ian Fraser (Chair), Neville Carson, Carolyn Henwood, James Johnston, Anna Kennedy and Paul Sinclair. Circa and TACT salute founding sponsor Chapman Tripp, Deloitte Private, and Creative New Zealand for their outstanding support.



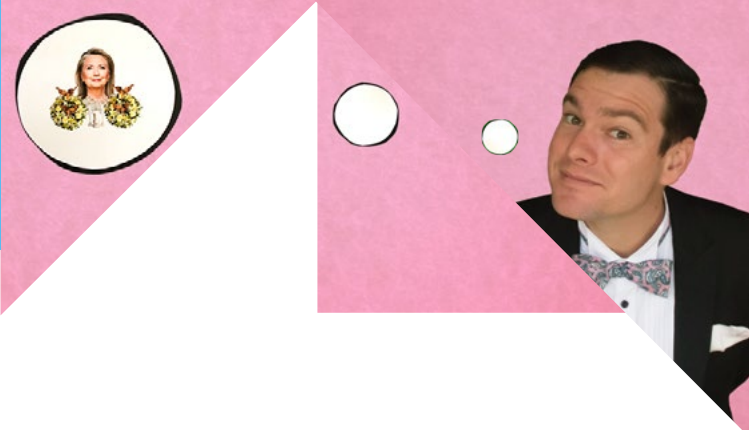
Chapman Tripp is proud to support New Zealand's vibrant and diverse arts community.



Our team of Deloitte Private professionals are committed to working with home-grown Wellington businesses, and we are proud to support excellence in the arts on our local stage.



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



Robin Hood: The Pantomime

2 - 9 January

Written by Roger Hall

Directed by Susan Wilson

Songs by Paul Jenden
and Michael Nicholas
Williams

\$25 - \$46



With loaded bow behind a tree,
You never know where he will be,
He moves like velvet, sleek and
svelte,
Around the Wellington Town Belt.
His eye is quick, his aim is sure,
He robs the rich to feed the poor,
He's always on the side of good,
The hero known as Robin Hood!

The Wine Project

3 - 7 February

Java Dance Company

with live music by Tristan
Carter and Charley
Davenport

**\$35 with wine tasting
\$25**

*This is a dance of joy you feel to the
extreme, a drama you know in your
soul, a dark secret we share that you
won't admit is yours.*

- Theatreview, Nelson, 2015

We create a magic, dangerous
and ancient story when we tend
the vines, crush the grapes, and
ferment the juice. *The Wine Project*
invites you into a world of intrigue
and aroma, of ritual and revelry, of
sex and power.

**There in the glass was the soil of a
place and in that soil a soul**



Hillary Clinton / Young Lover

"Demented" - New York Magazine

30 Jan - 20 Feb (preview 29 Jan)

Directed by Geoff Pinfield

Produced by Show Pony

Starring Arthur Meek

Written by Geoff Pinfield & Arthur Meek based on a book by
Richard Meros

Dear Reader. Drastic action must be taken. I wish to prove that
I am that drastic action. In this nuclear PowerPoint lecture, I will
show you how I propose to initiate a Golden Age of Western
Civilisation simply by becoming Hillary Clinton's Young Lover.
Yours passionately,
Richard Meros, B.A. xx

Engaging, intelligent and provocative

- CEO Express, New York.

Arthur & Geoff's delightfully earnest comedy premiered at La
Mama Experimental Theatre in New York in March 2015. It
will return in triumph to the big apple in April - where it will be
performed at The Public Theatre before touring the US & UK.
Circa is proud to host its first step on the road to the 2016 US
Presidential Election.

\$25 - \$35

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz





The Vivien Hirschfeld Season of The ACB with Honora Lee

Written by Kate De Goldi

Adapted and Directed by Jane Waddell

Produced by Stephen Blackburn

Circa's contribution to the 2016 New Zealand Festival, is a world premiere.

Adapted by accomplished theatre practitioner, Jane Waddell, this story comes from one of our most loved authors, popular with both adults and children. Quirky humour, playfulness and intergenerational love are at the heart of this adaptation of Kate De Goldi's 2012 novel, *The ACB with Honora Lee*.

A charming exploration of kindness, patience and acceptance, it explores the relationship between young Perry and her eccentric Gran, Honora Lee, who's losing her memory and lives in the Santa Lucia Rest Home. As more and more words slip from Gran's grasp, Perry furiously gathers them up, turning them into an illustrated and disorderly alphabet book, which becomes a gift of love to her grandmother.

An ideal theatrical experience for all the family this Festival season is guaranteed to pull at your heart strings.

\$39 Adults / \$19 Children
\$97 Family (2 adults, 2 children)

Gran: I spy with my little eye...

Perry: Goody. I like I spy.

Gran: Something beginning with spectacles.

Perry: You're supposed to say a letter. You should say 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with S.'

*"It's delightful seeing one's story take on a life beyond the pages of the book in which it first entered the world. Having *The ACB* in the hands of a script writer and a theatre company is something like the experience of a fond parent watching their child find new and enlarging prospects beyond home - stimulating friends and environments, new ideas and ways of being in the world. This stage adaptation gives fresh and imaginative life to 'my' story and characters - how very fortunate for them, me and the audience!"*

– Kate De Goldi

For performances 27 Feb - 20 March

Ticketek 0800 842 538

www.festival.co.nz

For performances 22 - 26 March

Circa 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz

**NEW ZEALAND
FESTIVAL**

26 FEB - 20 MAR 2016

FESTIVAL.CO.NZ

**NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET**
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP



Who Are We Now?

26 February - 1 March

Footnote New Zealand
Dance

Choreographed by Maria
Dabrowska

\$12 - \$20



Winner of Best Dance in 2014 and 2015, ChoreoCo. by Footnote New Zealand Dance is a short-term company created especially for Fringe from the brightest new dancers.

Who are we now? The moment you know, you know. Twenty thousand people or just us six. As long as there's life for you and me...

Waves

Saturday, 5 March

By Alice Mary Cooper

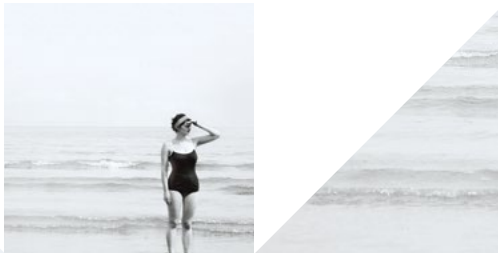
\$19 - \$49



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



We know it as the "butterfly stroke" but to Elizabeth Moncello growing up on Australia's Gabo Island in the 1930s it was the "dolphin". So reveals Alice Mary Cooper, who with highly expressive storytelling brings us the unofficial history of how Liz invented the butterfly/dolphin with the help of fish, penguins and other aquatic friends.



Jekyll & Hyde

19 March - 16 April

Directed by Leo Gene Peters

Produced by A Slightly Isolated Dog

Proudly supported by Shoreline Partners

A Slightly Isolated Dog is back with the highly anticipated follow-up to last year's smash hit, *DON JUAN!!* This year they bring you the harrowing, terrifying and yet still exceptionally sexy tale of *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*.

5 crazy clowns invite you to play with them. They bring you in, they get you a drink, they flirt with you a bit and then they invite you to tell the story of *Jekyll & Hyde*, WITH THEM. This interactive retelling of Stephenson's classic allows you to release your inner beast. Join us for this explosive and hilarious celebration of boldness and rage.

Live BIG!

'We wanted to make a party - a place for us to come together and play. Basically, it's adults playing make-believe, but with alcohol. It's so delightful to watch and be a part of... the performers are so strong and make everything so easy. It's hilarious and alive and constantly surprising.'

- Leo Gene Peters

\$25 - \$35

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz





Spotlight on Playwrights

In our 40th birthday year we are delighted to be part of the New Zealand Festival Writers Week. In true Circa tradition New Zealand playwrights are centre stage.

Circa will celebrate the 100+ New Zealand playwrights whose work has captivated audiences over the years: from Roger Hall's first play, *Glide Time*, in 1976 to Kate De Goldi's *The ACB with Honora Lee*, adapted for the stage by Jane Waddell and part of the 2016 Festival.

There will be events, stimulating panel discussions, and a reading of *funnygirl* by Anthony McCarten (above right), in which he dramatises his explosive novel – a plea for tolerance and freedom for individuals and art.

Friday 11 March, 10am – 11am Stand Up and Be Counted (Panel Discussion)

Chaired by Emily Perkins

The Guardian UK's list of the 101 Greatest Plays in any western language included only one woman (Caryl Churchill). Are New Zealand's women playwrights as invisible?

12pm – 1pm Who the Hell are We? (Panel Discussion)

Chaired by Dave Armstrong

Reflections of Kiwis on stage both challenge and entrench our unique lifestyle. From *Foreskin's Lament* to *Waiora*; from *Middle*

Full Details on www.circa.co.nz.

Bookings: Ticketek 0800 842 538
and www.festival.co.nz



Age Spread to *The Motor Camp*; from *Wednesday* to *Come* to *Hikoi* – are we representing our nation honestly on stage?

2pm – 3pm Literature or Ephemera? (Panel Discussion)

Chaired by Linda Clark

Too few plays get repeat showings. Some gather dust, few go on forever. Even Bruce Mason and Roger Hall (above left), who are household names, have not had all of their plays staged. Some plays are studied, some seen often, some are devised and some forgotten.

Saturday 12 March, 10am - The Theory of Anthony

In conversation with Anthony McCarten

What are the keys to Anthony McCarten's success? From *Ladies Night* to *The Theory of Everything*; Wellington to Hollywood – Not only is Anthony an internationally successful writer and producer for stage and screen, nominated for Academy Awards, and winner of BAFTA awards, he has also written several best-selling novels translated into 14 languages.

Saturday 12 March, 2pm Playreading of *funnygirl* by Anthony McCarten

McCarten has dramatised his explosive novel; pleading too for tolerance, the freedom of individuals, and the freedom of art. Azime is 20 years old and shy. She is Kurdish but grew up in London. She lives in two different worlds. She secretly visits a comedy course, and later slips into a niqab and becomes the world's first Muslim comedian. Her appearance is explosive: her family is against her, the British press celebrates her as a sensation, and the Internet is hot with death threats.



Joyful & Triumphant

An Incidental Epic by Robert Lord

2 April – 8 May

Directed by Susan Wilson

Proudly supported by Peter Biggs CNZM and Mary Biggs

This outstanding award-winning New Zealand play returns to celebrate Circa's 40th birthday Anniversary.

"What do you have if you don't have family?"

"Peace of Mind?"

How to survive the train wreck that can be Christmas with the family is skilfully chronicled by playwright Robert Lord in *Joyful & Triumphant*.

The play spans forty years of Christmas Days in the lives of the small-town Bishop Family, as they struggle and cavil and cuddle. Beginning early morning Christmas Day 1949, it moves logically in time through subsequent Christmas Days of the '50s, '60s, '70s, to conclude late evening Christmas Day 1989.

Forty Years of New Zealand Society in an eggshell, fragile but whole
- Denis Welch, *The Listener*

Circa first produced *Joyful & Triumphant* in 1992, in the original theatre on Harris Street. It was commissioned by Circa and

premiered as part of the Wellington Arts Festival (now the New Zealand Festival), directed by Susan Wilson. It was a sell-out success, winning awards in the Festival as well as the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards for Production of the Year, Director of the Year, and New Zealand Playwright of the Year.

This original production went on to tour New Zealand before heading overseas to Australia and London. We are delighted to be bringing it back to Circa as part of the special birthday celebrations and very excited that Susan Wilson will again be directing.

Pictured above is the original cast from the 1992 production. Jane Waddell, Catherine Downes and Michele Amas will return to the cast in different roles for the 2016 season. Peter Hambleton joins this outstanding cast.

A masterpiece destined to become a classic
- New Zealand Herald

\$46 full / \$38 senior and students

\$33 Friends (until 17 April) / \$39 groups 6+

\$36 groups 20+ / \$25 under 25s

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz



Improv for Kids

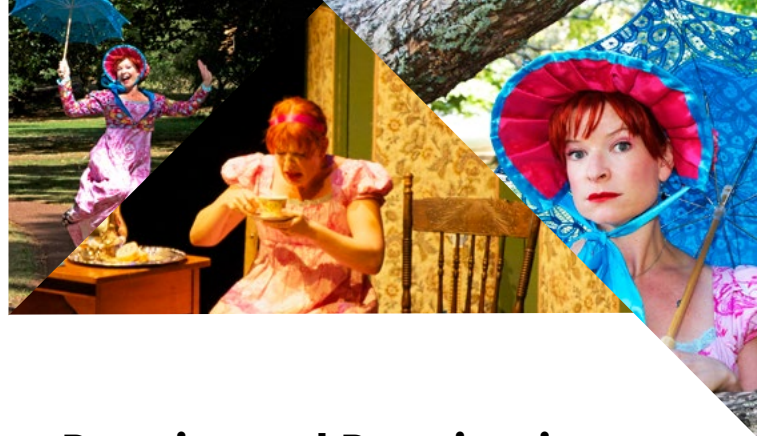
18 - 30 April

The Improvisors

\$10



Kids love theatre that's interactive. So do The Improvisors! Kids (and their grown-ups) loved the 2015 season of *Improv For Kids*, so we're bringing it back. 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!



Theatresports

Sundays at 7pm

1 May - 5 June

The Improvisors

\$15 - 20



Part of NZ International Comedy Festival

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. Watch from the bleachers, cheer from the side-lines, make the calls – the choice is yours. The show is new, unique and unpredictable each night. We only guarantee the laughs.



Promise and Promiscuity

A New Musical by Jane Austen and Penny Ashton

3 - 21 May

Workshop Director: Ben Crowder

Produced by Penny Ashton

Written by Penny Ashton and Jane Austen

Part of NZ International Comedy Festival

Join Elspeth as she battles literary snobbery, cousin Horatio's digestions and her mother's nerves, armed with a blushing countenance, excellent ukulele skills and being quite bright - you know... for a girl.

Penny Ashton (Radio NZ National, Hot Pink Bits) tackles a brand new cast of Austen's characters with song, dance and appalling cross-stitching.

Penny Ashton is New Zealand's own global comedienne who has been making a splash on the world stage since 2002. She has performed over 600 solo shows worldwide and has represented New Zealand in The World Cup of Theatresports in Germany, and Australasia in a Performance Poetry Slam Tournament Tour of the UK. She has also performed by invitation at The Glastonbury Festival, has reported from the Miss Universe Pageant in Las Vegas and is a favourite on *The Panel* on Radio NZ National.

\$25 - \$35

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz



King Lear

14 May – 18 June

William Shakespeare

Directed by Michael Hurst

Starring Ray Henwood as King Lear

Proudly sponsored by Christopher Finlayson and
Cariad Productions

Nothing will come of nothing

Circa Theatre celebrates its 40th anniversary in spectacular style, proudly presenting four theatre kings: Lear, Shakespeare, Henwood and Hurst.

Four hundred years after Shakespeare's death, Ray Henwood, honoured among New Zealand's finest actors, takes on one of the pinnacle theatre roles of all times — King Lear. Henwood will play this colossal figure under the direction of acclaimed Shakespeare master Michael Hurst in his exciting directorial debut at Circa Theatre.

King Lear utterly reinforces our sense of what it is to be human. An old man mistakes false praise for love and makes a terrible choice that destroys his family and his kingdom. Featuring some of the greatest and most complex characters ever created, the story overflows with raw emotion — from jealousy and cruelty to loyalty and self-sacrifice.

\$46 full / \$38 senior and students

\$33 Friends (until 29 May) / \$39 groups 6+

\$36 groups 20+ / \$25 under 25s



Shakespeare pushes every aspect of tragedy to the extreme in this play, including the sheer physical force needed to perform it. It is lean. It has language of breathtaking scope. It takes both cast and audience to the edge of doom.

King Lear is a magnificent production befitting a remarkable milestone — Circa's 40 years enriching New Zealand's top theatre scene.

"I am interested in the performance, the acting. The heart of Lear is the language, and the heart of that language is the way it sounds, words assembled such that they disclose deep human truths and emotions. This is the actors' job in Shakespeare. To speak the language with truth, connection and commitment. I am excited to be working at Circa on this special production in this special year."

- Michael Hurst, Director.

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz



SoIOTHELLO

15 - 18 June

Directed by Graig Geenty

Produced by Te Rēhia Theatre Company

Part of the Kia Mau Festival 2016

\$25



This Matariki, see Māori Performance Mask (Te Mata Kokako o Rēhia) come to life as Regan Taylor unfolds an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello* as a solo performance. Set in Te Ao Māori, *SoIOTHELLO* weaves together the original prose, modern English and Te Reo Māori to deliver a dynamic and cheeky interpretation of one of history's more tragic plays.

Everest Untold

6 - 11 June

Directed by Toby Leach

Produced by Ffynroc Productions

Starring Stephen Lovatt & Jonny Brugh

\$25 - \$46

Everest Untold follows the summiting of Everest in 1953 from the perspective of expedition leader, Sir John Hunt, and "the other Kiwi" on the climb, George Lowe. It was not the "Hillary and Tenzing show" but a team effort. Others might have got there first had fate not intervened.



Mana Wahine

20-25 June

Directed by Taane Mete, Tairaoa Royal, Malia Johnston

Produced by Okareka Dance Company

Part of the Kia Mau Festival 2016

Celebrate powerful women with this all-female dance work that draws strength from traditional Māori mythology.

Three of New Zealand's best choreographers combine dance, theatre and film in this powerful performance. Inspired by the true story of Te Aokapurangi, a young maiden from Mokoia Island who single-handedly saved her people from slaughter, this collage of imagery and movement transcends time and space.

From the stunning opening to the spine-tingling finale, be inspired by this display of courage, determination and fearlessness as *Mana Wahine* evokes the spiritual status of "the woman" within us all.

Jaw -droppingly memorable

- Sharu Delikan 3rd July 2014

\$46 full / \$38 senior and students

\$39 groups 6+ / \$36 groups 20+

\$25 under 25s

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz

Okareka

creative nz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA



Circa Play Readings

As part of the 2016 Circa Season, we will be presenting a number of Play Readings throughout the year. In our 40th birthday year we are delighted to celebrate the 100+ New Zealand playwrights whose work has captivated our audiences over the years.

A Play Reading will include actors on stage reading the play in full, directed and rehearsed in advance of the public reading.

Saturday 16 April 2pm - THE WAR PLAY by Philip Braithwaite (above left)

"Private Jack Braithwaite's story is so simple it could be summarised in a few words: he went to fight in the Great War, he behaved badly as a soldier, he was executed. Yet there is so much more to it than that. In the 1980s, several documents came to light that showed Jack was largely innocent of the charges laid at his feet – instead of causing a mutiny, it transpired, he was trying to avert one. I've written the story of my Great Uncle in a way that is unconventional and eccentric, because this is a strange and unwieldy tale, but one that needed to be told." - Philip Braithwaite

Saturday 11 June 2pm - SHAKESPEARE'S WILL by Vern Thiessen

2016 is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, and alongside *King Lear*, we are delighted to present this solo piece from Canadian playwright, Vern Thiessen, in which Anne Hathaway presents her side of the story. It is a remarkable creative imagining, and Anne has much to say.

Saturday 9 July 2pm - SCARLET & GOLD by Lorae Parry (above right)

The dramatic Waihi strike of 1912 was the first union action in New Zealand where women played an active and innovative part. It follows the changing fortunes of women from the three sectors that clashed so forcefully in Waihi: the striking miners; the workers who crossed the line, and the mine owners and shareholders. The Waihi strike changed our country's industrial law, and out of the ashes of that long and bitter action, the NZ Labour Party was born.

Saturday 20 August 2pm - THE FATAL NEW ZEALANDER by Sir James McNeish

Who was he? Norman Kirk was Labour's first native-born Prime Minister. Prime Minister for just 20 months. He died suddenly and prematurely in 1974. James McNeish writes: "Norman Kirk's death to many is still a mystery. At one point I thought I knew the answer - an answer - but a vital piece of information eluded me. Unexpectedly one day it fell into my lap. This play, based in part on the experience of a woman who was close to him, is the result.

Saturday 29 October 2pm - THE DARK by Ken Duncum

What are you afraid of? *The Dark* is a supernatural romance set in the 1920s during the height of the Spiritualism craze. New Zealand sisters Mina and Hannah Fox are a sensation on the British and US séance circuit, until the editor of a psychic journal encourages them into a mid-Atlantic showdown with the most celebrated medium-buster of the age, ex-stage magician Harry Price. Tragedy ensues.



Encore Restaurant

My earliest memory of my seduction with food was the smell of roasting nuts wafting through the Central Markets in Adelaide South Australia where I was born and raised. The aromas of the markets tantalised my sense of smell, the vibrancy and catch cries of the sellers and their colourful wares forever imprinted as one of my fondest of ritual excursions.

– Jacinta Saeki, Encore Head Chef

Encore Restaurant serves fusion style contemporary cuisine with a harbour view. We specialise in pre-show dining to enhance your theatre-going experience by dishing up delicious, seasonally fresh and local ingredients along with fabulous show specials.

Encore Bar also offers light meals, snacks, refreshments, scoop ice-cream and really good fair-trade organic Peoples Coffee. Choose from our signature cakes, pastries and more from the cabinet during your evening or after the show, or ask one of our friendly staff to make you one of our themed cocktails.

Encore hopes to make your time at Circa a memorable one, so speak to us about how we can complement the award-winning theatre and be of service to you.

Enquiries and Bookings: 04 801 7996
Email: enquiries@encoreatcirca.co.nz

Restaurant:
Tuesday to Saturday 5pm Till 8:30pm
Sunday Roast from 6pm
Bookings essential
Bar open Tuesday to Sunday till late



BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA!

Join our most dedicated group of theatre lovers by becoming a Circa Friend. A \$60 annual membership fee entitles you to discounted tickets, our monthly Friend's Newsletter, and invitations to special events. Fill in this form and return it to the Box Office to join:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership: \$60

I would like to make a donation of \$____

Total \$____

Visa Mastercard
_____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry ____/____

Cheque

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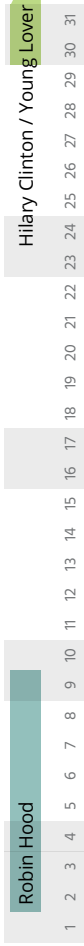
Circa One

Circa Two

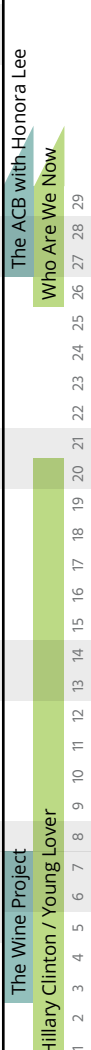
Special Events

Theatresports

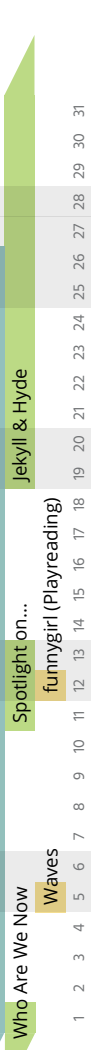
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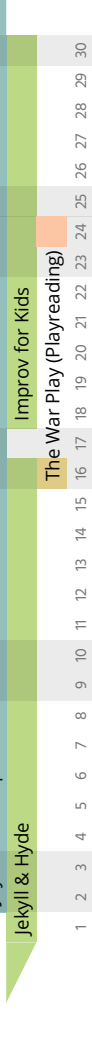
February



March



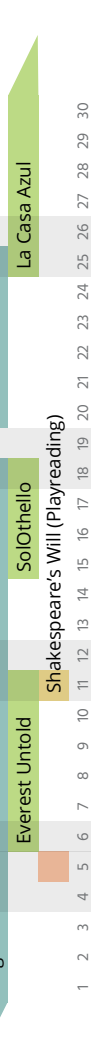
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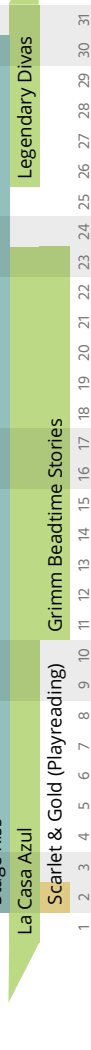
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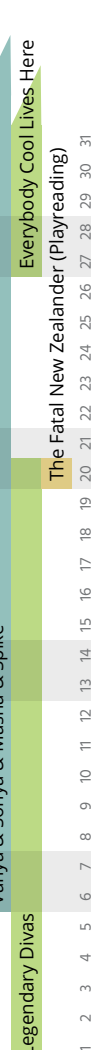
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July



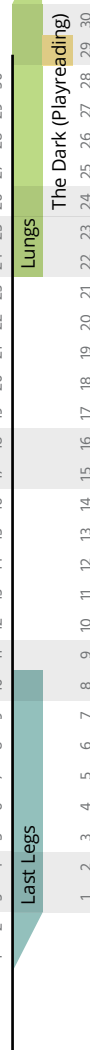
August



September



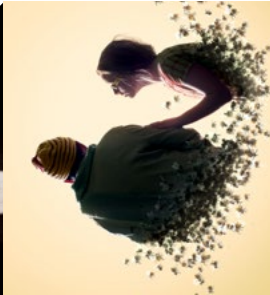
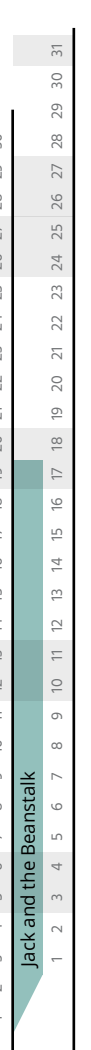
October



November



December



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Circa would like to acknowledge the following people who have been our most generous philanthropists over the years: John & Jay Benton, Peter & Mary Biggs, Diana Duff Staniland, Chris Finlayson, Roger Hall, Vivien Hirschfield, Jack Hodder, Christine & David Kernohan, Anne & Paddy Maloney, Pen Moore, Chris Parkin, Sam Perry, Suzanne Snively, Brian Steele, Henry Stubbs, and Richard Stubbs. We would also like to thank The Museum Art Hotel and The Fame Trust.

