
















CIRCA THEATRE



2020

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- 9**  **A Traveller's Guide to Turkish Dogs**
17 Jan - 8 Feb
- 10**  **The Surprise Party**
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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.

In 1987, Circa Theatre established the **Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT)** to provide financial support to the creative artists (actors, playwrights, directors, etc) and help them achieve a viable income and career as professional artists. 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.

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.

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



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Henry Stubbs
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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 & BAR

Enjoy a fresh and seasonal menu at one of Wellington's most iconic Waterfront locations.

Circa café opens at 10.30am, Tuesday to Sunday, serving a daily selection of cabinet items. The evening menu commences at 5pm Tuesday to Saturday. Our waterfront outdoor seating is the perfect spot to enjoy a cold beverage and pizza in the summer sun.

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

You can now book a pre-show meal together with your show ticket on our website www.circa.co.nz.



PHOTOS: ABBIE DORRINGTON



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

- 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)
- There is a \$2 charge for credit card bookings (Mastercard or Visa) but no charge for online bookings.

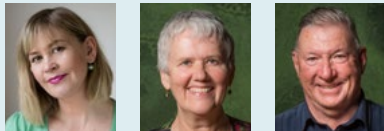
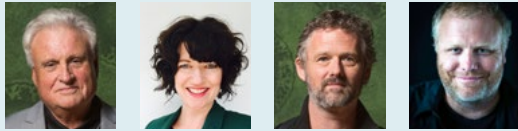
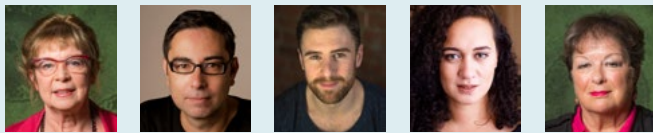
Early Bird Tickets

The Early Bird always gets the worm! Book in advance, secure your seats and enjoy our discounted Early Bird ticket deals where you can **save \$10** on Adult tickets (\$42) and Concession & Senior tickets (\$32).

Note: Only applies to selected shows and is available for the first two weeks of public sale. Keep up to date on our website www.circa.co.nz



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



CIRCA THEATRE 2020 SEASON

Kia ora and welcome to Circa Theatre's 2020 Season.

We are proud to present a smorgasbord of vibrant, diverse and exciting theatre of the highest professional standard in what will be our 44th year.

2020 will see the return of some familiar faces and names – as well as some new and fresh – and we would like to graciously thank all of our practitioners and patrons, supporters and sponsors and everyone else who continue to make Circa such a vital part of Wellington's dynamic arts and culture scene.

We hope you enjoy what we have in store and we can't wait to see you here in 2020.

Ngā mihi,
The Circa Council

In Memory of Ray Henwood ONZM (1937–2019)

The Circa 2020 programme is dedicated to the late Ray Henwood. Ray was an esteemed, iconic and adored theatre and television actor and one of Circa's founding Circa Council members. Arriving in New Zealand from Wales in 1962 Ray's contribution to the arts community was immense and in 2006 he was awarded the Order of Merit for services to film and theatre.



PHOTO: STUFF/DOMINION POST

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).



Alice in Wonderland

THE PANTOMIME RETURNS

By Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford

Curiouser and Curiouser!

DIRECTOR
Susan Wilson

**MUSIC ARRANGED
AND DIRECTED BY**
Michael Nicholas Williams

2 – 11 Jan
Circa One
Tues – Sat 6.30pm,
Sun 4pm

\$18 – \$52
\$122 Family Pass

Proudly
sponsored by



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

If you are curiouser and curiouser and missed our recent Panto season we offer you the chance to come along for our short return season in January.

Alice, the White Rabbit and Dame Majori are joining with the Mad Hatter and friends in a crazy adventure of ups and downs and Pantomime fun. Will Alice rescue her frantic furry friend? Will our Dame find happiness, fame and fortune?

Hurry! Hurry! Don't be late! Make sure you are booked for this very important date!

'I loved the show so much I went twice and took more family members and told everyone I know how wonderful, entertaining, professional and funny it was'

'What a talented and infectiously enthusiastic cast... great audience interaction. Songs, jingles etc were spot on'

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEPHEN A'COULT. GRAPHIC DESIGN: ROSE MILLER.



A Traveller's Guide to Turkish Dogs

By Barnaby Olson & company

A story of two strays

DIRECTOR
Jonathan Price

PRODUCER
A Mulled Whine

17 Jan – 8 Feb
Preview 16 Jan
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$35
Early Bird tickets
available

Set on the salty and smoky coast of Turkey, against the backdrop of one of humanity's oldest and richest oral storytelling traditions, Barnaby is on his big OE – and he is coming home with a Turkish tale of his own.

A spellbindingly inventive retelling of a beautifully simple true story – one of friendship, adventure, loyalty, and truth.

A Traveller's Guide to Turkish Dogs is the story of a dog and her man. A journey across continents.

It's the true story of a mad historian, immortal fishermen, and the Mother of Wolves; border crossings, buried treasure, and the value of companionship. It's an OE like you've never seen or heard. All brought to life by a pack of NZ's most captivating shape-shifting actors.

Starring Barnaby Olson, Stevie Hancox-Monk, Andrew Paterson, & Tess Sullivan.



PHOTOGRAPHY: BECKI MOSS. DESIGN: WILLIAM DUIGAN.



The Surprise Party

By Dave Armstrong

A new summer comedy from the writer of *The Motor Camp*

DIRECTOR
Conrad Newport

18 Jan - 15 Feb
Preview 17 Jan
Circa One
Tues - Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri - Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 - \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
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Be careful who you vote for ... they might get in.

Doug Moore has been the sole MP of his tiny left-wing party for nine years.

But when Beehive scandals and social media disasters hit both major parties, Doug and his ragtag list of hopeless candidates – including a bus driver who hates passengers and a transport spokesperson who doesn't drive – are in serious danger of winning power. Doug is horrified – he knows what they're like!

Playwright and *DomPost* columnist Dave Armstrong and director Conrad Newport (*Niu Sila*, *Rita and Douglas*, *Le Sud*) reunite for this wildly entertaining satire of New Zealand politics today.

Starring: Alex Greig, Hannah Kelly, Bronwyn Turei, Sepelini Mua'au, Vincent Andrew-Scammell and Danielle Meldrum.

'Dave Armstrong – a lefty Wellington lightweight and potboiler playwright'
— Sir Bob Jones

'Armstrong's ability to write a drama that is both contemporary and universal in its themes puts him at the top of the league table of Kiwi playwrights' — Elspeth Sandys, Listener

PHOTO: STEPHEN A'COURT



Wonderful

By Dean Parker

A whirlwind of theatrical delight

DIRECTOR
Conrad Newport

STARRING
Andrew Laing

COMPANY
Armstrong Creative

12 Feb – 7 Mar
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

ARMSTRONG
CREATIVE

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

Following a hugely successful premiere season at BATS, *Wonderful* comes to Circa.

Napier 1959.

Brother Vianney has a calling.

To educate the boys in his classroom and to help them become good, caring Catholic citizens.

A larger-than-life presence, he calls upon his show business background and treats his class to the quirky insights that he has discovered from the popular films and romantic musicals of the 1950s.

Fall in love with Brother Vianney in this undeniably theatrical whirlwind of an education, filled with extraordinary wisdom, plenty of laughter, some great show songs and heart-breaking pathos.

'It's quite rare that you see a performance and writing and direction work together so seamlessly. Andrew Laing is masterful.' — James Cain, Was it Good

'A multi-layered and extremely absorbing "dance" that needs to be experienced. You won't regret it' — John Smythe, Theatreview

PHOTO: ANDY CROWN PHOTOGRAPHY



IMAGE: SHIRLEY WITH BILL SYDNEY MAY 1946. WILLIAM BALL SUTCH COLLECTION ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY PACOLL76911453-1

PLAY READING

Shirley and Bill

By Dean Parker

Based on Shirley Smith: an Examined Life
by Sarah Gaitanos

Sat 29 Feb 2pm Circa One

Shirley, daughter of one of Wellington's leading families, her father a Supreme Court judge, returns to New Zealand at the outbreak of WWII with an Oxford degree. She seeks a husband who will help her live a fulfilling life.

She begins an affair with the dazzling Bill, born to an impoverished, working class family but triumphantly educating himself into the higher reaches of Wellington and international society, a crusading socialist who believes history has reached its terminus with him. Ten years older than Shirley, he divorces his wife to marry her.

Shirley strives to achieve a life of her own, but she is always in his shadow – a position she accepts, not without briding, admiring him so. When their lives explode, she is left wondering just who it was she married.

A Q&A with writers Dean Parker and Sarah Gaitanos will follow the performance.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
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AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

New Zealand Festival OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

BOOK FAST

festival.nz



PHOTO: ANDI CROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr Red Light

Company: Nightsong

Written by Carl Bland | Directed by Ben Crowder and Carl Bland

Wed 4 – Sat 7 Mar, 7pm | Sat 7 Mar, 1pm | Sun 8 Mar, 2pm | \$53 / \$59

A hapless bank robber takes three people hostage in a pie shop. Find out what might happen next in this black comedy about the unpredictability of strangers, unexpected friendships, and how popping in for a pie can change your life forever. **'Surreal, beautiful, hysterical and outrageously original'** — NZ Herald

THANKS TO **creative nz**
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA



PHOTO: ALEX EFIMOFF

Strasbourg 1518

Company: Borderline Arts Ensemble

Directed and Choreographed by Lucy Marinkovich

Written and composed by Lucien Johnson

Thu 12 – Sat 14 Mar, 6.30pm | Sun 15 Mar, 4pm | \$53 / \$59

A woman steps out of her house and begins to dance. Within days, hundreds more have followed, and the city falls into a delirious trance of mass psychosis. Take a visceral, explosive leap into the subconscious and explore the most bizarre dance epidemic in history. **'A feast of visual artistry'** — Dominion Post on Lobsters

Contains nudity

PARTNERED BY **BALANCED INVESTMENTS**

THANKS TO **creative nz**
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA



VIVIR: Flamenco Guitar & Dance

Performed by Aylin Eleonora & Raul Mannola

Ancient secrets explored with a contemporary feel in an elegant night of Flamenco

DIRECTOR
Aylin Eleonora

COMPANY
Aylin Eleonora
& Raul Mannola

26 – 29 Feb
Circa One
Weds & Thur 6.30pm
Fri & Sat 8pm

\$21 – \$30

Part of the New Zealand
Fringe Festival 2020



Aylin Eleonora

A new interpretation of the art of Flamenco, *VIVIR* is a refined and intense showcase of traditional Flamenco styles blended with contemporary flavours by Aylin Eleonora and Raul Mannola.

'VIVIR has been developed in the studios of Madrid by the soaring comet that is Aylin Eleonora. She has fallen in love with Flamenco, but is also something of a poetess, and wishes to expand the possibilities of her chosen artform. Her guitarist Raul Mannola is astoundingly proficient. You can almost smell the Andalusian harvest and feel the spirit which rose up against Napoleon.' ★★★★★ — Mumble Cirque, Edinburgh 2019

'The standout performance. A hugely impressive display of Spanish dancing' — TheWee Review, Edinburgh 2018

PHOTO: JUAN ESPERÓN



New Dance Group

ChoreoCo by Footnote New Zealand Dance

New Adventures in Dance

CHOREOGRAPHERS
Josie Archer &
Kosta Bogoievski

COMPANY
ChoreoCo

10 – 15 Mar
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$16 – \$22

Part of the New Zealand
Fringe Festival 2020



FOOTNOTE
New Zealand Dance

creativenz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND - Te Atahua

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Wellington
Community Trust
Supporting community initiatives

Combining fresh choreographic voices with a short-term company of remarkable dance artists, ChoreoCo by Footnote is designed especially for Fringe every year. This year, choreographers Josie Archer and Kosta Bogoievski join with five bright and brilliant ChoreoCo dancers to create New Dance Group.

With an eye for the oddities of everyday scenes, in New Dance Group, Josie and Kosta bring their observations of domestic and public spaces into the theatre. New Dance Group will delight in pulling apart the common ingredients that make up a dance show, examining them, and putting them back together in weird and wonderful ways.

'...the talented team suspend reality...'
— Art Murmurs on ChoreoCo 2019

IMAGE: JOSIE ARCHER AND KOSTA BOGOIEVSKI



Sorry For Your Loss

Written and Performed by **Cian Gardner**

She did it all on her own; the gift of strength from one woman to another

DIRECTOR & DRAMATURG
Laura Haughey

16 – 20 Mar
Circa Two
Mon – Fri 7.30pm

\$16 – \$20

Part of the New Zealand
Fringe Festival 2020



A one-woman show written and performed by the exciting up-and-coming artist, Cian Gardner. It is her story of growing up and explores the effects of having a sometimes-there-mostly-not Dad, and an-always-there-doing-her-best Mum.

This story is about the strength of a woman; and the gift of strength from one woman to another. Director Laura Haughey brings her unique physical approach to the storytelling in this original, devised piece of work.

‘Brave and engaging. Captivating!’
— Deborah Nudds, Festival
organiser of Toi Wāhine Festival

PHOTO: AISHA ROBERTS



Improv for Kids!

Brought to you by **The Improvisors**

14 – 24 Apr
School Holidays
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 11am

\$10 – \$15



The Improvisors and Circa want to get kids involved in live theatre. We know that kids love theatre. We also know that kids love theatre that’s interactive. And that’s what The Improvisors do.

The Improvisors are back for the April school holidays with a theatrical experience that lets the audience take charge. The kids’ suggestions will drive the scenes – they provide sound effects, props and even costumes. It is *Improv for Kids!*

The Improvisors’ comedy takes you into the magic of your own imagination. Every show is unique – crafted for the children by comedians who are mums and dads. The kids love it – they shout out, they dance, they wriggle and move – and are encouraged to be part of the action.

This is a show that provides genuine family entertainment perfect for those aged 4–12 and parents who are young at heart!

Gift your child or grandchild with the magic of theatre – and you will probably have a giggle or two, too.



The Artist

By Circo Aereo and Thom Monckton

DIRECTOR
Sanna Silvennoinen

LIGHTING DESIGN
Juho Rahijärvi

SOUND DESIGN
Tuomas Norvio and
Atte Kantonen

COSTUME DESIGN
Kati Mantere

CONSULTANT
Eveliina Hämäläinen

COMPANY
Circo Aereo

25 Mar – 11 Apr
Preview 24 Mar
Circa One
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

An artist arrives in his paint-spattered studio ready to create a new work. He waits for inspiration. When it finally comes, things don't proceed quite as he would wish. For this artist, every task is filled with challenges, until chaos is unavoidable.

The Artist follows Thom Monckton's previous collaboration with Circo Aereo, *The Pianist* (Circa 2014 & 2015), which has proved a smash hit with some 300 performances around the world. New Zealand-born Monckton trained in circus in Christchurch and at the Lecoq School in Paris, before moving to Helsinki. He is co-founder and current artistic director of Kallo Collective, whose *Only Bones v1.0* recently won Auckland and Wellington Fringes.

Like *The Pianist*, this new show is co-created by circus artist, choreographer and director of Circo Aereo, Sanna Silvennoinen.

'The sense of invention and play is captivating for all ages. Monckton is a delight. It's a show that's never indulgent, the momentum never sagging in the build-up to a lovely denouement'
— The Stage

'Embodies the art of laughter'
— The Times



The Look of Love

By Ali Harper

A musical feast for the heart and soul

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Tom Rainey

STARRING
Ali Harper with
Daniel Hayles (piano)
Callum Allardice (guitar)

COMPANY
Ali-Cat Productions

4 Apr – 2 May
Preview 3 Apr
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

Burt Bacharach's hit songs have a sound like no other... poignant, atmospheric, beautiful.

The king of love songs in the 60s and 70s, Bacharach's music has stood the test of time and continues to touch millions of hearts all over the world.

Spend an evening with Ali Harper as she showcases the Grammy award winner's extensive collection – *Close To You*, *Alfie*, *That's What Friends Are For*, *Walk On By*, *Anyone Who Had A Heart* and reminds us *What The World Needs Now* in the *The Look Of Love*.

If you enjoyed Ali's previous shows at Circa Theatre – *Songs For Nobodies* (Awarded Best One Woman Show at the United Solo Festival, New York 2018), *A Doris Day Special*, *Legendary Divas*, *Bombshells* (Awarded Best Actress, United Solo Festival, New York 2016 & Best Actress, Chapman Tripp Awards 2008) and *Tell Me On A Sunday* – then you won't want to miss Ali's latest show *The Look of Love*.

'Ali Harper lights up every room she enters, owns every stage she steps upon, steals every heart that hears her sing' — Alex Rybeck, New York

'Harper transcends the "star" label to prove herself a true artist'
— John Smythe, Theatreview

'Harper is a songwriter's dream. Magical and in complete command of the stage'
— Christie Lavin, award-winning New York singer, songwriter

PHOTO: SIMON GREENWOOD, CANTERBURY TALES PHOTOGRAPHY



Things I Know to Be True

By Andrew Bovell

Theatre of tiny miracles

DIRECTOR
Shane Boshier

COMPANY
Brilliant Adventures

18 Apr – 16 May
Preview 17 Apr
Circa One
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

One year in the life of a family.

The Prices are just like me and you. They're not from the top end of town, but they're not battlers either. Fran and Bob have loved each other for thirty years. They've built a home, raised four strong children and kept their sense of humour.

It should be time to sit back and smell the roses. But just when things should be slowing down, the complicated lives of their kids are about to come crashing through the back fence.

Things I Know to Be True is a profound and deeply familiar study of the mechanics of family, and the things which sustain, protect and inhibit us.

This is theatre that will make your heart sing from the writer of *Lantana* and *When the Rain Stops Falling*.

Featuring Heather O'Carroll

★★★★★ 'A thing of beauty, exquisitely observed. An absolute gem.'
— The Daily Telegraph

★★★★ 'Tender, physical and deeply relatable' — The Guardian

★★★★ 'Genuinely haunting and fervently recommended'
— The Independent

PHOTO: STEPHEN A'COURT. IMAGE: MONIQUE HAMON



Winding Up

By Roger Hall

Going out in style!

DIRECTOR
Susan Wilson

9 May – 20 Jun
Preview 8 May
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

Undoubtedly our most successful and blazingly popular theatre legend, playwright Roger Hall KNZM, QSO, brings you his latest outstanding comedy.

Gen and Barry have made it through to the twilight years.

The Golden Wedding's been and gone and they're now about to embark on their first cruise. But – should they be travelling at all? Is it time to downsize? To declutter? What about the Body Corp? And Barry's health? Will they get travel insurance? And does Barry's neighbour really fancy him?

Just when life should be getting easy... it isn't.

Winding Up is Hall's glowing tribute to the holders of the Super Gold Card.

Starring our most celebrated actors, Ginette McDonald and Peter Hayden in this sharp, poignant, funny two-hander. Roger Hall at his very best.

'... quite simply, another ROGER HALL great night out!' — A Shortcut to Happiness

'He is uncanny in picking up exactly the thing that the audience wants to talk about' — Alison Quigan



Theatresports 2020

Brought to you by The Improvisors

Sundays at 7pm
3 May – 7 Jun
Circa One

\$18 – \$25
\$60 Family Pass

THE
Improvisors



The comedy sensation returns for another year! The Improvisors will be stepping up with their family favourite improvised comedy – *Theatresports*.

Over the six-show season Wellington's funniest improvisors will pit themselves against each other in a battle of wits with the audience as judge, jury and (possibly) executioner. They are competing to create comedy scenes to win the team title of Wellington's funniest.

Theatresports delivers a once-in-a-lifetime experience at every show. Not to be missed because not even the improvisors know what is going to happen.

PHOTO: STEPHEN A'COURT



Dungeoning and Dragoning

A live fantasy adventure guided by fate

PRODUCERS
Harriet Prebble
& Gavin Rutherford

COMPANY
Canvas Abyss

Sundays
28 Jun – 2 Aug
7pm
Circa Two

\$18 – \$25

**CANVAS
ABYSS**

Dungeoning and Dragoning takes the beloved basement tabletop role-playing game and turns it into a spectator sport, where improvised theatre meets collaborative storytelling meets your geekiest dreams come true.

Watch the mighty Dungeon Master lead a ragtag party of Wellington's best performers through a fantastical adventure as they weave rich stories, make new allies and vanquish old enemies... but only if the dice allow.

Drop in for a single night or follow the crew through their six-part adventure. Frequently hilarious, sometimes moving and always unpredictable, this is spontaneous, unscripted theatre controlled entirely by chance.

PHOTO: STEPHEN A'COURT. DESIGN: HADLEY DONALDSON



Hir

By Taylor Mac

The revolution starts at home

DIRECTOR
Katherine McRae

23 May – 20 Jun
Preview 22 May
Circa One
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

Isaac returns to home from a stint in the armed forces to discover his suburban family engaged in a war of their own.

His mother, liberated from an abusive marriage, is intent on upending the patriarchy.

His younger sibling is gender transitioning and on a crusade to dismantle the binary.

Their dominating father, left speechless and passive after a stroke, is floundering in this new reality.

But in this sly, subversive comedy, annihilating the past doesn't always free you from it.

Taylor Mac has been named 'one of the most exciting theatre artists of our time' (Time Out NY).

Hir is pronounced 'Here'

★★★★★ *'Taylor Mac's Hir is more than a comedy about gender. It proves the potential of theatre.'* — The Guardian

'Hir is a powerful and provoking piece of theatre, a working-class manifesto of liberation and matriarchy that creates new theories as it dissimulates old ones'
— NZ Herald



IMAGE: KATHARINE HALL



Elling

**A new version by Simon Bent
based on the novel by Ingvar Ambjørnsen**

A charming celebration of the simple things in life

DIRECTOR
Ross Jolly

27 Jun - 25 Jul
Preview 26 Jun
Circa One
Tues - Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri - Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 - \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

Proudly sponsored by

MARY AND
PETER BIGGS CNZM

& CHRISTOPHER
FINLAYSON

After two years of sharing a room in a mental institution Elling and Kjell are allowed out, back into society. It's not that they're dangerous, they're just a little... hopeless. Elling is too smart. Too sensitive. And, Kjell has a plan, a dream, a great ambition. He wants to lose his virginity. Preferably today.

Elling charts the bumps and stumbles as this truly odd couple make their way back into the world we take for granted. As they build friendships, become accustomed to all things ordinary and start to experience the pleasure of the everyday we share their joy as they discover the richness of life in the 'real' world.

Based on the cult Norwegian film and skillfully adapted by English playwright Simon Bent, *Elling* is a sensitive, eccentric and unsentimental play. A parable about the nature of happiness, the need to be open and how all our lives would be improved by more poetry, more sex and more pork with gravy.

'A rare treat ... the most blissfully funny and touching evening I have had in the theatre for ages' — The Guardian

'Elling brings hearty dollops of humour, charm and warmth' — Stuff

'It's charming, quirky, touching, and laugh-out-loud funny'
— Theatre New York



The White Tree

By Peter Wilson

*New Zealand stories not to be forgotten
for children and their families*

DIRECTOR
Peter Wilson

COMPANY
Little Dog Barking
Theatre

7 – 18 Jul
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 10am and
11.30am and 6pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$15
\$50 Family Pass

creative*nz*
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND - TOI AOTEAROA


THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION
OF WELLINGTON

Wellington
Community Trust
supporting community initiatives


LITTLE DOG BARKING
THEATRE COMPANY

The great white tree was a place where children came to play, to climb amidst its branches, a place where creatures made their homes, the birds in nests hidden amongst the leaves, or in the hollows where the roots dived deep into the earth. A place where people took a rest from long journeys. A place where the wind rustling in the leaves of the tree would tell it stories from distant places. It was in this place that the White Tree was able to remember the story of the Huia family, the little yellow-eyed penguins – Hoiho – and the lumbering great green parrot – Kakapo. Stories of sadness and stories of hope. These memories are precious, and the Great White Tree is in danger. Who will remember?

The White Tree is a beautiful piece of theatre created by Little Dog Barking for the whole family. From the company that brought you *Duck, Death and The Tulip*, *Guji Guji*, *Black Dog* and *Paper Shaper*.

Outstanding Theatre Award
– Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014

**Best Foreign Theatre Award – 2014 &
2016 Asian Pacific International Arts
Festival – China**

PHOTO: SUE HILL



Sundays at Ira's

Created by Jane Keller
and Michael Nicholas Williams

'It's delightful, it's delicious, it's de-lovely'

DIRECTOR
K.C. Kelly

MUSICAL DIRECTION
Michael Nicholas Williams

COMPANY
Hurst First

25 Jul – 15 Aug
Preview 24 Jul
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$38
Early Bird tickets
available

Jane's Great Aunt Alice was a close personal friend of Ira Gershwin and was a regular guest at his Sunday Soirées. Other regulars were Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Noël Coward, George Gershwin and many others.

Alice dined out for years on the stories of rivalries, feuds and great friendships. Told with humour, charm and interlaced with songs from these marvellous early 20th Century composers, *Sundays at Ira's* is a nostalgic and entertaining night out. Jane is accompanied by Michael on piano.

'...extraordinary versatility and elegance. The humour, pathos, and haunting lyrics have audiences transfixed.'

PHOTO: CHRIS COAD



Raising the Titanics

By Albert Belz

The greatest showband to never exist

DIRECTOR
Tainui Tukiwaho

COMPANY
Te Rēhia Theatre
Company

1 – 29 Aug
Preview 31 Jul
Circa One
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available



Presented in
partnership with



Celebrating a decade since its sell-out debut season, Te Rēhia Theatre Company are proud to present the Wellington premiere of *Raising the Titanics* by award-winning playwright Albert Belz (*Astroman*, *Yours Truly*).

Directed by Tainui Tukiwaho (*Astroman*, *BLACK TIES*), *Raising the Titanics* is a magical musical homage to the late and great Māori showbands of the 1950s and 1960s.

These remarkable groups changed the face of New Zealand's musical landscape and paved the way for future New Zealand entertainers. It harks back to a time when bands like The Quin Tikis and Māori Volcanics were in vogue and at the top of the charts!

Raising the Titanics is a story of discovery, dark secrets, whānau and redemption expertly told through a gifted and multi-talented cast of Māori actors and musicians.

Winner of Super City Award for Best New Play of 2010

'...a piece of Kiwi musical history... musically superb...you'd have to be hard-hearted not to feel a tug on your heartstrings' — Frances Edmond, NZ Listener

'...nostalgic in all the right ways...left me with a smile on my face and a tear in my eye' — Jodi Yeats, The Big Idea

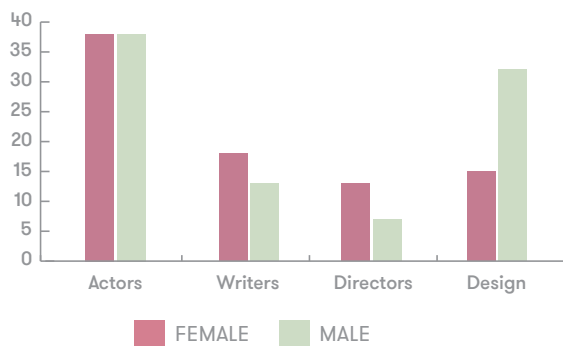


WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL 2020

22 August – 7 November

Circa Theatre is delighted to launch the 3rd WTF! in four years with Jo Randerson's exciting new play *Another Mammal* on 22 August. A writing workshop convened by the renowned Renée takes place the following weekend, and Lucy Kirkwood's dazzling *Mosquitoes* opens on 5 September. The Festival includes play readings; a development season of the second part of Lynda Chanwai-Earle's Antarctic trilogy entitled *HOLE* (following *HEAT*); plus the all-female production of *Di and Viv and Rose* by Amelia Bullmore; and Laura Wade's witty satire *Home, I'm Darling*.

Inspired by Equal Representation for Actresses, Circa Theatre takes up the challenge of 50:50 by 2020 and examines its programming in 2018 in preparation for a Forum (date tba). The Circa Council has equal representation of men and women and has always championed equality. The graph (which replaces the Women in Theatre graph used for previous Festivals) shows that Circa has achieved equal numbers of male and female actors, supports female directors and writers, and needs to encourage more women into set and lighting design. The forum will look at the statistics for 2019 and 2020 and challenge other theatres around the country to do the same. Ongoing attention to equality is the motivation for this Festival. We are also addressing gender diversity with the children's show *The Glitter Garden* creating a Festival which celebrates women's voices and opens the discussion to LGBTQI+ and the Rainbow community.



WTF! is proudly supported by



WTF!

Play Readings

BERNHARDT/HAMLET

by Theresa Rebeck

Sat 12 Sep 2pm

In 1899 Sarah Bernhardt decides she will play Hamlet – not the first time she has sought gender equality.

LOUIS: Someone needs to talk her out of it. She's a great actress, but Hamlet? It's grotesque. If Shakespeare meant for Hamlet to be a woman, he would have named the play 'Hamlet Princess of Denmark'. That's not what he wrote... Men playing women, that's all right. Women playing men. It doesn't work... It's a disgusting idea and you know it.



BREATHLESS

by Courtney Rose Brown

Sat 26 Sep 2pm

In the heat of Mia's imminent wedding and unsure how to live with the death of her brother, Mia is coaxed together with her whānau for the first time in years. In what had been the bright home of her childhood, Mia and her family are stuck in a purgatory-like state. *Breathless*, named after the panicked state of grief, is about a family's rickety journey towards healing.

Described as 'a dynamic and compelling portrait of a family in transition', *Breathless* formed part of Courtney's Masters at the International Institute of Modern Letters in 2017. The script won Playmarket's Playwrights b425 competition in 2019, and Courtney is excited to be breathing new life into this story with Circa Theatre.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP



BREAKING AND ENTERING

– a writing workshop

Convened by Renée | Sat 29 Aug 10am – 2.30pm

Circa Theatre is delighted to be hosting this third workshop for NZ women playwrights, convened by acclaimed playwright, writer and teacher Renée (Wednesday To Come).

Renée uses the title *Breaking and Entering* as 'a metaphor for the idea that writers have an idea that breaks into their mind and then they take hold of it and use it to enter the world of the script'.

As in previous years director Katherine McRae will work with Renée to curate a public reading of work inspired by the workshop on Saturday 19 September at 2pm in Circa Two.

Please register your interest with womenintheatre@nz@gmail.com by 1 August 2020. Only 10 places available.



Another Mammal

By Jo Randerson

*We have a way here, and we should stick to it.
That's how strong things build up.*

DIRECTOR
Jane Yonge

PRODUCER
Sara Shirazi

DESIGNER
Meg Rollandi

22 Aug – 19 Sep
Preview 21 Aug
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
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Proudly supported by



In this brand-new play by acclaimed New Zealand playwright Jo Randerson, two characters attempt to mend their relationship. One of them has a gun. In this time of social disconnect, when questions of immigration and assimilation are constantly debated both here and overseas, *Another Mammal* pokes angrily (but with great humour) at nationalism and violence as a default problem-solver.

Can we as humans find ways to live together which allow us autonomy, dignity, and a humane sharing of power?

Another Mammal is quintessentially Randerson: dryly ironic while being completely authentic and truthful.

PHOTO: SHANELL BIELAWA



Mosquitoes

By Lucy Kirkwood

Can sisterly love survive the chaos of the universe?

DIRECTOR
Susan Wilson

5 Sep - 3 Oct
Preview 4 Sep
Circa One
Tues - Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri - Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 - \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

WTF!

'This is the kind of play that makes me want to punch the air in celebration... emotionally involving as well as intellectually satisfying... ranges from profoundly funny to deeply moving'
— WhatsOnStage

From Lucy Kirkwood, writer of the highly acclaimed *Chimerica* and *The Children*, comes this exciting new work.

Alice is a scientist. She lives in Geneva. She is embarking on the most exciting work of her life.

Jenny is her sister. She lives in Luton. She spends a lot of time Googling.

When tragedy throws them together, the collision threatens them all with chaos.

Featuring Catherine Downes, Gavin Rutherford, Harriet Prebble, Dryw McArthur

'Fascinating... Kirkwood has proved that she is a dramatist of dauntless ambition' — The Guardian

'...tackles giant themes with a swaggering showmanship' — Telegraph

'Wildly ambitious, often very funny... huge ideas' — Time Out

'Intelligent, impassioned ... exhilarating in its ambition' — The Times



Hole

Written by Lynda Chanwai-Earle

A scientist, an activist, a Marine, and one huge HOLE

DIRECTOR
David O'Donnell

COMPOSER
Gareth Farr

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY/
LIGHTING DESIGNER**
Marcus McShane

SET DESIGN
Brian King

COMPANY
Ice Floe Productions Ltd

23 – 26 Sep
Preview 22 Sep
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm

\$25 – \$35

WTF!

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
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creativenz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTIAROA

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY
WELLINGTON
1867

In 1985 the world wakes to the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica. Its Wild West days at McMurdo Station and Scott Base. It's little more than a decade since the US Navy lifted their ban on women travelling to the ice. Stella, a NZ scientist, Ioane, a US marine from American Samoa, and Bonny, a Greenpeace activist, meet during one Antarctic summer. What unfolds is as dark, funny and monumental as the discovery of the ozone hole itself.

The second play in Lynda Chanwai-Earle's Antarctic Trilogy, *HOLE* builds on the innovative use of green-powered energy as used in the award-winning *HEAT*.

'Considered on a global scale, the decision of the HEAT production team to experiment with alternative energy sources highlights the unsustainability of our current first world practices. Both provocative and moving HEAT will remain in my consciousness for a long time to come' — Sharon Matthews, Theatreview

IMAGE OF EMPEROR PENGUIN CHICKS. PHOTO: LILLIAN NG

The Glitter Garden

Concept by George Fowler

Written by George Fowler and Lori Leigh

It's a drag show – for kids!

DIRECTOR
Lori Leigh

COMPANY
Hugo Grrrl

29 Sep – 10 Oct
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 11am and 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$10 – \$15
\$40 Family Pass

WTF!

PHOTO: ADEN MESER. DESIGN: PIP PHILLIPS CLARK

Join Skipper The Snail, Honey The Bee and all their glittering garden buddies in this truly delightful theatre experience about friendship, nature and being your beautiful, colourful self. Expect sensational costumes, magical movement, song, dance, and hilarity as we help bumbling gardener Hugo get things growing in his grubby front patch. The Glitter Garden is a one-of-a-kind goofy and glamorous drag spectacular made to amaze grown-ups and kids alike.

Starring international drag star Hugo Grrrl alongside local legends Eva Goodfun, The Everchanging Boy and Robin YaBlind.

'I made this show because everybody loves sparkles. And because if I had seen this show as a kid it might have changed my life' — George Fowler



Home, I'm Darling

A new play by Laura Wade

'Being a domestic goddess is not as easy as it looks'

DIRECTOR
Ross Jolly

10 Oct – 7 Nov
Preview 9 Oct
Circa One
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm,
Fri – Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

WTF!

Judy is a picture-perfect '50s housewife. She spends her days making the perfect devilled eggs, mixing the perfect Screwdrivers and being the perfect homemaker to her husband Johnny. They're totally happy with their pastel-hued life. The only problem is, it's not the 1950s, it's now, and their dream world is about to come crashing down in hilarious style.

In Laura Wade's smart and engaging *Home, I'm Darling*, nostalgia isn't what it used to be ...and it constantly collides with present-day realities.

Fresh from winning the 2019 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, *Home, I'm Darling* is full of big laughs, big skirts and big questions. How can we cope with the pressures of modern life? What do we lose in the present when we pine for the past? And can you get stains out of a shirt with just lemon juice and baking soda?

This witty, highly original and thought-provoking comedy takes a look at the complexity of women's choices and the dangers of nostalgia through distinctly rose-coloured glasses. Full of playful, breezy charm, it also packs a considerable punch.

'A vicious satire with a heart of gold-wrought with peculiar subtlety and intelligence' — The Spectator

'Laura Wade's witty, and clever play rates five stars' — Go London

'An amusing, affecting, inspiring evening of soft gingham and hard truths'
— The Times UK



Di and Viv and Rose

By Amelia Bullmore

'Deliciously imperfect'

DIRECTOR
Stephanie
McKellar-Smith

CAST
Jodie Dorday
Julie Edwards
Lara Macgregor

COMPANY
Fusion Productions

15 Oct – 7 Nov
Preview 14 Oct
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$46
Early Bird tickets
available

WTF!

fusion
PRODUCTIONS

'How do you want to live here? I mean we could come and go and lead separate lives. Or we could really live together. What do you think?' – Rose

Rose (Julie Edwards) is a free-spirited art history student who sleeps with any boy she likes the look of. Her companions are Di (Lara Macgregor), a sports-loving lesbian who is taking business studies, and Viv (Jodie Dorday), a sociology student with a fierce work ethic. On the surface they seem unlikely friends but as Di, Viv and Rose's friendship grows, we see how their solidarity precariously survives physical separation, varied career paths and even mortality.

Di and Viv and Rose is a witty, vivid comedy that charts the steady, but sometimes chaotic, progression of three women's lives and their ultimately enduring bonds.

This NZ Premiere sports a top NZ all-female cast and crew and is one not to be missed.

'Di and Viv and Rose is a moving and surprising pleasure of an evening, that sends you out into the night with a lump in your throat' — Michael Billington, The Guardian (London)

'This is a powerhouse cast that any city in the country would find hard to beat. I have worked with them all and each has the power to dominate whatever stage they are on. As a trio, they will be incandescent.'

— Roger Hall, CNZM, QSO



Cinderella

THE PANTOMIME

By Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford

You will go to the Ball!

DIRECTOR
Susan Wilson

**MUSIC ARRANGED
AND DIRECTED BY**
Michael Nicholas Williams

14 Nov - 20 Dec
Preview 13 Nov
Circa One
Tues - Sat 6.30pm,
Sun 4pm
Extra matinees
Sat 5, 12 & 19 Dec at 2pm

\$18 - \$52
\$122 Family Pass
Early Bird tickets
available

Proudly
sponsored by

TE PAPA
THE PLACE



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

The magical fairy tale *Cinderella* bursts onto the Circa stage with a modern local twist.

Cinderella lives in the basement of a damp, leaky Aro Valley flat with her dramatically evil step sisters. Things are rough! But what happens when Cinderella has a chance encounter with a fairy godmother with magical powers that would put Harry Potter to shame? And wait! There's also a charming gentleman who may turn out to be a Prince. Could things possibly end up happily ever after?

Celebrate summer with a family comedy jam packed with singing and dancing, topical jokes for the adults and a sizeable dose of magic and slapstick for the kids.

Hurry! Best book now before you turn into a pumpkin!

'The grandsons really enjoyed it and we noted the range of ages in the audience who were also engaged and laughing'

'This is the first Panto I have ever seen. Why have I wasted all these years?'



Promise & Promiscuity

A new musical by Jane Austen and Penny Ashton

DIRECTOR
Ben Crowder

COMPANY
Penash Productions

12 – 29 Nov
Preview 11 Nov
Circa Two
Tues – Sat 7.30pm,
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$38

After a rapturous sell-out season in 2016, Penny Ashton's bonnet is back.

Flushed by seven years of success, from Edinburgh to Edmonton to Adelaide, comes Miss Ashton's collaboration with Jane Austen (deceased). Join Elspeth as she battles literary snobbery, cousin Horatio's digestions and her mother's nerves, armed only with a blushing countenance, excellent ukulele skills and being quite bright, you know... for a girl.

In this hilarious, one-(freakishly talented)-woman show, Penny tackles all of Austen's characters with song, dance and appalling cross-stitching.

Winner Best Theatre Adelaide Fringe, Best Solo Show Victoria BC Fringe, Best Performance in a Comedy Auckland Fringe.

'Pride and Prejudice gone wild in the best way' ★★★★★ — Rip It Up, Adelaide

PHOTO: JUDY ASHTON

ACCESSIBILITY AT CIRCA

Seating

Our seating in Circa One is accessible to wheelchair users; the seats in the front row can be removed so a wheelchair can be placed there instead. Circa Two does not have this seating structure – however, the front row of seats does provide accessible seating as it is a flat surface from the foyer to these seats (with no inclines or stairs).

If you have any questions about seating, please contact the Box Office on 04 801 7992 or email circa@circa.co.nz.

Bathrooms

We have recently renovated our foyer and have a brand-new bathroom block. There is one new, accessible unisex toilet in Circa.

Performances

Circa Theatre prides itself on being a theatre that strives to make excellent quality theatre that is available to all members of our community. We offer a range of different accessible performances to suit audience members with different needs and requirements. These include NZSL Interpreted Performances for Deaf audience members, Audio Description for visually impaired patrons and Relaxed Performances for people who benefit from a more relaxed environment, including people with an autism spectrum disorder and people with intellectual or learning disabilities.

Tickets

In a further effort to make our theatre more accessible we are pleased to introduce a \$25 access ticket for accessible performances as well as a free companion/support person ticket. For more information please contact access@circa.co.nz.



CIRCA THEATRE

04 801 7992

www.circa.co.nz

