

# CIRCA THEATRE

# 2021

MAY-AUG

45<sup>YEARS</sup>  
SUPPORTING  
ARTISTS



[circa.co.nz](http://circa.co.nz)

## CIRCA THEATRE MAY-AUGUST 2021 SEASON

Kia ora and welcome to Circa Theatre's **May-August 2021** Season.

Instead of our traditional annual programme we are presenting three special, separate 2021 seasons: January-April, May-August, and September-December.

Keep an eye on **www.circa.co.nz** for further information.

Again, we are proud to present a smorgasbord of vibrant, diverse and exciting theatre of the highest professional standard in our 45th year and we hope you enjoy what we have in store for you between May and August 2021.

Ngā mihi, The Circa Council



### BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA

#### Annual Membership – \$60

Express your love of the theatre by taking out a \$60 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.

### BECOME A CIRCA THEATRE SUPPORTER

All partners, donors and sponsors 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/support](http://circa.co.nz/support)
- **Phone** Call our Box Office on 04 801 7992 or email [circaadmin@circa.co.nz](mailto:circaadmin@circa.co.nz)
- **In person** Visit Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington



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, Creative New Zealand, and individual donors such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington. Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Simply visit [circa.co.nz/arty500](http://circa.co.nz/arty500) to donate by credit or debit card.

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

**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.**

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#### PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



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#### CORE FUNDERS



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#### MAJOR PARTNER



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#### MAJOR GRANTS





# Things I Know to be True

By Andrew Bovell

*This is us. One year in the life.*

**DIRECTOR**

Shane Bosher

**DESIGNERS**

Andrew Foster

Tina Hutchison-Thomas

Matt Short

**CAST**

Stephen Lovatt

Lara Macgregor

Simon Leary

Heather O'Carroll

Caitlin Rivers

Daniel Watterson

**CO-PRODUCED WITH**

The Court Theatre

30 Apr – 29 May

Preview 29 Apr

Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm

Fri – Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$52

Early Bird tickets  
available

From the writer of *When the Rain Stops Falling* and *Lantana*, this is theatre that proves we share so much more than we think.

They've brought up four kids. They've paid off the house. And they've loved each other for over thirty years. It should be time for Fran and Bob to slow down and smell the roses, but the lives of their wildly complicated adult children are about to come crashing through the back door.

Things that were once believed to be true are exposed, challenging the foundations of family and demanding new definition.

From *August: Osage County* to *Joyful and Triumphant*, Circa Theatre has a rich history of celebrating family. With rich insight, brilliant humour and a whole lot of heart, Andrew Bovell paints a vivid portrait of home: the expectations that trap us and the love that keeps us coming back.

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

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

★★★★ 'Reaches into your heart from its opening moments and keeps you gripped until its shattering end' — Limelight

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE



# Another Mammal

By Jo Randerson

*Two people. One gun. Infinite possibilities.*

**DIRECTOR**  
Jane Yonge

**DESIGNERS**  
Meg Rollandi  
Joshua Tucker

**PERFORMERS**  
Anya Tate-Manning  
Natano Keni  
Erina Daniels

8 - 29 May  
Preview 7 May  
Circa Two  
Tues - Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 - \$52  
Early Bird tickets  
available



In this brand new play by acclaimed New Zealand playwright/comedian Jo Randerson, two characters attempt to mend their relationship: one of them has a gun. Their duel quickly escalates from a tense standoff to a wild ride of unpredictable twists and turns, propelling us into the realms of the mythical and the absurd.

*Another Mammal* investigates the persistence of violence as a default problem-solver. Can we humans find ways to live together with autonomy, dignity, and humanity? Why *can't* we all just get along?

*'The Janet Frame of contemporary Wellington theatre,'* Jo Randerson's distinctive artistic voice has received many accolades including a Bruce Mason Playwriting Award and ONZM. *Another Mammal* is quintessential Randerson: funny, fast, fresh and full of the vulnerability of being human.



# All I See

## World Premiere Season

*The explosion of grief causes memories to ricochet around her. Memories begin to bleed into her reality. Time collapses.*

**DIRECTOR**  
Laura Haughey

**PRODUCED BY**  
Cian Parker

4 – 12 Jun  
Preview 3 Jun  
Circa Two  
Tues – Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$30  
Early Bird tickets  
available

**KIA MAU**  
FESTIVAL

*All I See* is an ode to grief. A poignant tale about the sudden loss of a partner. This piece explores a touching story of life, death, and enduring love. A delicate fusion of physical storytelling and punchy dialogue, this piece is at times darkly humorous, beautifully confronting, raw, and most of all human. Kia Mau Festival is proud to partner in the World Premiere Season of the new work by award-winning artist Cian Parker.

Developed through a collaboration of artists:

**Cian Parker**

Actor, co-devisor and words

**Laura Haughey**

Director, dramaturg and movement director

**Mihailo Ladevac**

Actor, co-devisor, script development

**Eddie Elliot**

Choreography and co-devisor

**Andy Duggan**

Composer

*'...Parker finds her way into our hearts with both her words and her performance' — Victor Rodger, playwright and screenwriter*



# The Mourning After

Written and Directed by Ahi Karunaharan

*'...you have to lose something to gain something...'*

**COMPANY**  
Agaram Productions

4 – 12 Jun  
Preview 3 Jun  
Circa One  
Tues – Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri – Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$45  
Early bird tickets  
available

**KIA MAU**  
FESTIVAL



After the death of his father, Kiwi-born Shekar travels to his father's village in the pearl of the Orient, Sri Lanka, to discover the tsunami has swept away the village – all that remains is a single house and those left behind. As Shekar sifts through the ruins in search of answers, the buried truths of his past are revealed.

A theatrical collage of movement, text and excavation featuring a spellbinding solo performance accompanied by a live trio of South Asian musicians.

Kia Mau Festival is proud to partner with Agaram Productions and SquareSums&Co.

*'...a most engaging and entertaining piece of theatre'* — Theatreview



# UPU

*The power of Māori & Pasifika literature  
roaring to theatrical life*

## CURATOR

Grace Iwashita-Taylor

## DIRECTOR

Fasitua Amosa

## COMPANY

UPU Collective

**Tusiata Avia, Audrey Brown-Pereira, Ben Brown, Jacqueline Carter, Sia Figiel, Konai Helu Thaman, Kathy Jetflīl-Kijiner, Briar Grace-Smith, Grace Iwashita-Taylor, Simone Kaho, Daren Kamali, Celestine Kulagoe, Albert Leomala, Grace Mera Molisa, Karlo Mila, John Pule, Lyz Soto, Leilani Tamu, Apirana Taylor, Tayi Tibble, Selina Tusitala Marsh, Hone Tuwhare, Brandy Nālani McDougall, Mauaiaivao Albert Wendt, No'u Revilla & Craig Santos Perez**

**16 – 19 Jun**

**Preview 15 Jun**

**Circa One**

**Tues – Thurs 6.30pm**

**Fri – Sat 8pm**

**\$25 – \$45**

**Early Bird tickets  
available (Adult \$35  
& Concession \$25)**

The world of Oceania is not small. From the energetic volcanoes of O'ahu to the southern reaches of Aotearoa, she is borderless and vast – and growing bigger by the day. After decades of dismissal and disconnection, her children are closer than ever. It's time for a reunion. *UPU* brings the wealth and power of Pacific literature to roaring theatrical life. Curated by award-winning poet Grace Iwashita-Taylor and led by powerhouse director Fasitua Amosa, *UPU* gives the stage to Oceania's most electrifying poetry. Ben Brown, Karlo Mila, Albert Wendt and more: *UPU* is for the trailblazers, the icons and the new writers transforming Aotearoa today.

Following a knock-out Silo Theatre's season at the Auckland Arts Festival last year, *UPU* joins the Kia Mau Festival 2021 with an all-star line-up of leading Māori and Pasifika performers, including Maiava Nathaniel Lees, reviving the words of our literary legends and bellowing out the proclamations and provocations of the next game-changing generation.

Kia Mau Festival is proud to partner with the UPU Collective and the Wellington Premiere Season of *UPU*.

*'This show is pure oratory  
and storytelling at its finest'*  
— Theatrescenes (NZ)

*'A must-see'* — Tearaway (NZ)

**KIA MAU**  
FESTIVAL





# 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

**26 Jun – 24 Jul**  
**Preview 25 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 skilfully 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

Jacqueline Coats

## COMPANY

Little Dog Barking Theatre

10 Jul – 6 Aug

Circa Two

Tues – Sat 10am,

11.30am and 6pm,

Sun 4.30pm

\$15

\$50 Family Pass



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 – Kākāpō. 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**



# Winding Up

By Roger Hall

*Going out in style!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Susan Wilson

**31 Jul – 28 Aug**  
**Preview 30 Jul**

**Tues – Thurs 6.30pm**  
**Fri – Sat 8pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$25 – \$52**  
**Early Bird tickets**  
**available**



New Zealand's most popular and successful playwright, Sir Roger Hall has been making us laugh at ourselves for over five decades. His latest outstanding comedy pays a glowing tribute to the holders of the Super Gold card. It revisits not only his signature brilliance in comedy playwriting, but also two beloved characters who were at the heart of his smash-hit play, *Conjugal Rites*, which went on to become a popular British TV series in the 1990s.

Starring our most celebrated actors Ginette McDonald and Peter Hayden in this sharp, poignant, funny two-hander.

Boomers Barry and Gen are now enjoying retirement and, having celebrated their Golden Wedding, are facing the dilemmas that come with age. Will they be able to go to London to visit their long distant grandchildren? Will they qualify for insurance? What about the Body Corporate?

Is there too much damn clutter in their lives? And does Barry's neighbour really fancy him?

*'Just brilliant ... So many laughs from beginning to end ... his best ever!!!'*

*'...wonderfully perceptive and insightful ...'*

*'...the script was sparkling, full of heart, tenderness and joy...'*



# Every Kind of Weather

## Celebrating Bruce Mason's Centennial

*A theatrical box set from an iconic playwright and one of our greatest actors.*

**PLAYWRIGHT**  
Bruce Mason

**DIRECTOR**  
Shane Boshier

**PERFORMER**  
Stephen Lovatt

**DESIGNERS**  
Jane Hakaraia  
Sean Lynch  
Paul McLaney

**COMPANY**  
Brilliant Adventures

19 Aug – 11 Sep  
Circa Two  
Tues – Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52  
Early Bird tickets  
available



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

Bruce Mason is perhaps the most significant playwright in Aotearoa's theatrical history. Writing with courage and insight, he was a lover of language and a champion of the underdog.

Between 1959 and 1978, Bruce toured the country, telling uniquely Kiwi stories about emerging identity, cultural cringe and social difference. From church halls to country shearing sheds to the Edinburgh Festival, Bruce would play anywhere, in any circumstance, to any audience.

2021 marks the centenary of his birth. To celebrate his extraordinary legacy, actor Stephen Lovatt is collaborating with director Shane Boshier and the Bruce Mason Estate to make three of his greatest solo works resound for a new age.

Timeless. Universal. Distinct. Performed in repertory, this mini-festival is a not-to-be-missed theatrical encounter with a master craftsman.



## The End of the Golden Weather

*"I invite you to join me, in a voyage into the past, to that territory of the heart we call childhood."*

Bruce Mason's quintessential Kiwi classic chronicles the friendship between a 12-year-old boy and the wild-limbed Firpo.

Through the boy's eyes we see the wonder of life on a perfect beach, in a perfect 1930s New Zealand, during a perfect summer. It's a world of magic and transformation, where anything can happen and miracles seem possible.

Firpo is a social outcast who dreams of winning an Olympic medal. When the boy sets out to help Firpo make his dream a reality, ignoring his father's rebukes and community ridicule, a battle rages between the eternal optimism of childhood and the harsh pragmatism of adulthood.

Gliding effortlessly between flights of poetic fancy and blunt everyday speech, *The End of the Golden Weather* is New Zealand storytelling at its very best.

## Not Christmas, but Guy Fawkes

An adolescent boy tries to find his place in an adult-dominated world. A young man retraces an intensely felt boyhood experience of bullying. A playwright in his last days reconciles the value of an artistic life and challenges the idea of New Zealand identity.

Comic disasters and confronting your own hubris. *Not Christmas, but Guy Fawkes* is a richly autobiographical search for self-expression. Profound and true, it is a set of variations about over-reaching, cheekily confronting our very own Tall Poppy Syndrome.

## Courting Blackbird

July 1939. Bo Baron, the enfant terrible who has haunted Europe, is packed off to New Zealand to live with relations. Upon his arrival in Wellington Harbour, he sets out to charm and outrage New Zealand society. Prepare for hijinks a-plenty.

This is the story of an extraordinary friendship, a spirited awakening and a wildly idiosyncratic man. Embodying the emergence of a socio-political consciousness, this is a play for today, backed by a fistpump for the wicked and irreverent in all of us.



© Big Mark & Co

## **CIRCA THEATRE CAFE & BAR**

### **Enjoy a Sunday roast and mulled wine this winter!**

We are proud to bring back an old favourite – the Sunday roast after each Sunday matinee in June and July. \$31.00. Please call the café on 04 801 7996 to book your post-show Sunday roast. Mulled wine will also be available the entire month of July.

Burger special: Between August 1st and 16th we are celebrating Circa's 45th Anniversary with a special burger offering. Keep an eye on [www.circa.co.nz/cafe-bar](http://www.circa.co.nz/cafe-bar) for more details.

## **CORPORATE VENUE HIRE**

For information about hiring Circa Theatre for your corporate events contact Te Papa Venues at [venues@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:venues@tepapa.govt.nz) or call 04 381 7272.

## **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](http://www.circa.co.nz).

Please note that all Visa and Mastercard transactions incur a \$2 contribution towards the standard card fees.

## **EARLY BIRD TICKETS**

Book in advance, secure your seats and enjoy our discounted Early Bird tickets 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 at [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz).



Audio Described performance of *CRINGE WORTHY!* (2019)

## 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 provides 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](mailto:circa@circa.co.nz).

### Bathrooms

We have renovated our foyer and have a new bathroom block. There is one 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](mailto:access@circa.co.nz).



1 Taranaki St, Wellington | 04 801 7992 | [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz)



*All information in this brochure is correct at time of printing but is subject to change.*