

 **CIRCA**
THEATRE

2021

SEPT-DEC

45 YEARS
SUPPORTING
ARTISTS



circa.co.nz

CIRCA THEATRE SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2021 SEASON

Kia ora and welcome to Circa Theatre's **September–December 2021** Season. Instead of our traditional annual programme we are presenting three special, separate 2021 seasons: January–April, May–August, and now, September–December.

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

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
- **Phone** Call our Box Office on 04 801 7992 or email 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 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.

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



CORE FUNDERS



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

MAJOR PARTNER





Crocodile Fever

By Meghan Tyler

Home is the hardest place to hide

DIRECTOR
Stella Reid

CAST
Karin McCracken
Hannah Kelly
Peter Hambleton

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Meg Rollandi

4 Sept – 2 Oct
Preview 3 Sept
Circa One

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

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

Crocodile Fever is an action-packed dark comedy that takes you to the heart of Northern Ireland, 1989.

A window smashes and rebellious Fianna crashes back into the life of her pious sister Alannah. Together for the first time in years, the sisters embark on a rollercoaster ride through their past fuelled by Taytos, gin and 80s anthems.

This thrilling play comes to Circa fresh from sell out seasons in Belfast and Edinburgh. Catch Circa luminary Peter Hambleton as the reptilian father that the two sisters, Hannah Kelly (*The Surprise Party*) and Karin McCracken (*Cock*), must finally confront.

Like Thelma and Louise's wild offspring, *Crocodile Fever* offers a night of feel good revenge and big laughs. It might not end happily, but it will end gloriously.

★★★★★ *'This play is a bloody masterpiece in every sense'*
— British Theatre.com

★★★★ *'Meghan Tyler's dark comedy is met with a roar of approval'*
— The Guardian

Winner of Best Theatre Production,
Edinburgh 2019



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

18 Sept - 2 Oct
Preview 17 Sept
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.'



Mr Fungus

By Fergus Aitken

'New Zealand's Loudest Mime'

DIRECTOR
Fraser Hooper

5 - 16 Oct
Tues - Sat 11am
Circa Two

General Admission \$15
Under 2's free
Family pass \$50 (4 tickets)



THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION
OF WELLINGTON

A refreshing look at absurdity and adventure!

Over the past three decades, Mr Fungus has been one of the capital's most well-known physical performers.

World famous in Wellington, the iconic Mr Fungus presents his new, upbeat physical comedy show, sure to delight KIDS OF ALL AGES.

So, bring the whānau, bring the grandies, bring the neighbours and come and join 'New Zealand's Loudest Mime', Mr Fungus.

'Seized by moments of magic and wonder, physical humour for all ages... A real gem' —Theatreview

'Hilarious...' — NZ News UK



Hir

By Taylor Mac

The revolution starts at home

DIRECTOR
Katherine McRae

9 Oct – 6 Nov
Preview Fri 8 Oct
Circa One

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

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available



Isaac returns 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 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.

Hir is pronounced 'Here'

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

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

'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



Live Through This

By Jonny Potts and Jean Sergent

Love, Death, and Videotapes

DIRECTORS
Jonny Potts and
Jean Sergent

COMPANY
School for Gifted
Children

23 Oct - 13 Nov
Preview 22 Oct
Circa Two

Tues - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 - \$52
Early Bird tickets
available



Two tragicomedies by acclaimed writer/performers Jonny Potts and Jean Sergent weave a journey of love and loss in Wellington.

A guided tour of the capital's video shops, ***The Best Show in Town is at Your Place Every Night*** chases ghosts of our recent past over bright hills and into lost valleys.

Change Your Own Life is a cosmic comedic journey of surviving and thriving through grief, chance, and self-sabotage.

Together, these complementary and sometimes contradictory pieces make for a unique evening of theatre. *Live Through This* reflects what it has meant to live in this city through times of immense cultural and personal upheaval.

'I've never seen Jean give anything less than a powerhouse performance'
— Pantograph Punch

'Potts is at once charming and slightly mysterious... he is a master craftsman'
— Theatreview



The Little Mermaid - A Pantomime

By Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford

A wonderfully watery Wellington tale!

DIRECTOR
Susan Wilson

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

19 Nov - 23 Dec
Circa One

Tues - Sat 6.30pm,
Sun 4pm

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

Proudly sponsored by



Our highly-acclaimed Panto team is back this festive season with an iconic Hans Christian Andersen tale but with a twist... and a bucket fountain full of local references.

Gavin Rutherford returns with his usual exuberance to play the Dame: "Shelly Bay... a poor lonely fisher widow... awww!"

Will she find the true happiness she seeks for her son? And will Coral the little mermaid and her friend Crabby outwit the evil Sea Witch?

Join us this summer for a Panto overflowing with laughs and toe-tapping, tail-flapping songs which will be sure to have the whole family leaving with a tune in their heart and a smile on their gills.

An under-the-sea must-see!

2020 panto audiences said:

'An utterly outstanding show'

'It appealed to the whole audience from very young children to grandparents and everyone in between. I loved all of it.'

'I haven't been to a Pantomime before and it blew my socks off'



HOLE

By Lynda Chanwai-Earle

A green-powered black comedy about a scientist, a Greenpeace activist, a Navy SEAL and one huge ozone hole.

DIRECTORS

Kerryn Palmer and
Sally Richards

COMPANY

Ice Floe Productions
Tapui Ltd

20 Nov – 18 Dec
Preview 19 Nov
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$52
Early Bird tickets
available

World Premiere

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
AGENT, ADVISOR, BOOKSHOP

creativenz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAORA

1867 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

In 1985 the world wakes to the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica.

It's Wild West days at McMurdo Station and Scott Base, a time of big hair, big make-up, and ice-cold wine coolers. It's little more than a decade since the US Navy lifted their ban on women travelling to the Ice. Meanwhile Greenpeace, rallying to create the first 'World Park' in Antarctica, is protesting the commercial exploitation of oil and mineral deposits under the ice by prospecting governments and companies...

Stella, a NZ scientist, Ioane, a US Navy SEAL 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 acclaimed Antarctic Theatre Trilogy, *HOLE* builds on the innovative use of green-powered energy as used in the award-winning *HEAT*.

"HOLE explores the relationship between art and science...[describing] Antarctica as the heartbeat of the world, pulsing as the ice expands with the seasons. Poetry has a way to pull at the heart strings that raw science doesn't...leaving us in awe of the raw beauty of our planet." — Art Murmurs



ACCESSIBILITY AT CIRCA

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. For more information please visit www.circa.co.nz or contact access@circa.co.nz.

CIRCA THEATRE CAFÉ & BAR

We are proud to bring you some very special offers for the months of September and October. Buy two pizzas and get a bar snack on us and/or buy two mains and enjoy our chef's special sharing platter! We are also bringing back our popular Kids menu for the duration of the pantomime in November and December. Keep an eye on www.circa.co.nz/cafe-bar for more details.

CORPORATE VENUE HIRE

Celebrate the festive season by bringing your team to a show at Circa and start off with canapés & drinks before the show and dinner after. We offer groups 6+ and 20+ discounts to shows. For information about hiring Circa Theatre for your corporate events contact Te Papa Venues at 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. 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.



1 Taranaki St, Wellington | 04 801 7992 | www.circa.co.nz



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