

CIRCA THEATRE



2023

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BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA

Annual Membership – \$75

Express your love for theatre by taking up a \$75 annual membership to our Friends of Circa programme. An affordable way to support Circa Theatre, you will receive:

- Two tickets at our special Friends price (\$38 per ticket) for the first two weeks of each production
- A monthly newsletter with special behind-the-scenes access and content
- Access to our exclusive Booking Service where Box Office staff will call to arrange your tickets
- Invitations to Q&As with artists and performers, and other special events
- Invitation to join our monthly social group where Friends can discuss the latest Circa shows
- Automatic entry into our Friends of Circa monthly giveaway of two Circa Theatre tickets

BECOME A SUPPORTER OF CIRCA THEATRE

Partners, donors and sponsors play an important role at Circa Theatre and every gift makes a difference. To become a donor, or to join Friends of Circa, please contact us in one of the following ways:

- **Online** by visiting circa.co.nz/support-us
- **Box Office** by calling us on 04 801 7992 or by emailing circa@circa.co.nz
- **In Person** by visiting Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington

THEATRE ARTISTS CHARITABLE TRUST



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/support-us to donate.

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



MAJOR PARTNER





Kia Ora and welcome to Circa's 2023 season

We are proud to present another vibrant and diverse full-year programme in what will be our 47th year.

2023 will see the return of some familiar faces as well as some new ones, and we hope you enjoy what we have in store for you on our stages here on Wellington's waterfront.

As we approach our landmark 50th Anniversary – and with many exciting developments to come before then – we would like to offer our warmest thanks and gratitude to our loyal supporters, play sponsors, practitioners, friends, and patrons, all of whom make our 2023 Season possible.

Ngā mihi,
The Circa Council

Pictured, left to right from top: Susan Wilson, Salesi Le'ota, Neville Carson, Linda Wilson, Ross Jolly, Dame Carolyn Henwood, Andrew Foster, Simon Leary, Gavin Rutherford, Carrie Green, Jamie McCaskill, Debbie Fish.

Circa acknowledges the mana whenua of Te Whanganui a Tara, Te Atiawa ki Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.



Circa Theatre would like to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the following TACT (Theatre Artists Charitable Trust) Trustees:

Ian Fraser (TACT Chairman and longtime supporter of Circa Theatre – pictured), Charlotte Bates, Debbie Fish, Dame Carolyn Henwood, James Johnston and Mark Reese.



Pinocchio The Pantomime – The Return!

By Simon Leary & Gavin Rutherford

Adventure continues in Wellywoodington!

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

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

3 – 14 Jan
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm
Matinees 2pm
Sat 7 & 14 Jan

\$18 – \$54
\$126 Family Pass
(2 Adults + 2 Children)

Proudly sponsored by



Summer fun continues with a reprise season of *Pinocchio: The Pantomime!* There's toys and treats for the whole whānau in Wellywoodington with puppets, a whale, and a topsy turvy parliamentary circus.

Jump inside a fantastical storybook adventure with Pinocchio and pals as they make their way through a web of lies and porky pies to discover what it means to be a real person.

A refreshing original pantomime featuring Pinocchio's friends and foes with contemporary songs, high energy dance, and dynamic set design.

Starring Nī Dekkers-Reihana, Jthan Morgan, Natasha McAllister, Sepelini Mua'au, Emma Katene, Finley Hughes and Tabatha Bertei-Killick.



'BIRDHOUSE' The Birdmann and Egg

By Trent H Baumann
Composition & Sound Design
By Sachie Mikawa

Fun can save the world!

DIRECTOR
Sachie Mikawa
& Trent H Baumann

COMPANY
Monfu

SET DESIGN
Jim Stanton

LIGHTING DESIGN
Bekky Boyce

19 – 29 Jan
Preview 18 Jan
Circa Two

Wed – Sun 11am
Fri & Sat 6pm

\$15 – \$20
\$50 Family Pass (4 Tickets)
Children Under 2 Free



Wellington City
creativenz
COMMUNITIES

Fly to the future in a live cartoon-action comedy adventure for the whole family from Australia and Japan! The Birdmann and Egg perform world-class stunts, defeat the destructive Regurgitator and save the planet in a full-on fun for the whole family spectacular.

From high up in their treehouse, 'BIRDHOUSE' is a wondrous experience about exploring the sense of place we call home. Enjoy everyone's favourite superstar duo featuring hip songs, happening films, a horrifying sword box illusion and even a hilarious stuffed toy fight. Can fun save the world?!

'FUN FOR ALL AGES' — Georgia Straight
'AMAZEMENT' — The Guardian
'WINNERS' — STUFF NZ
'★★★★★' — MLB

'Best Circus'
Winner – Adelaide Fringe
'Most Original Comedy'
Nominee – Edinburgh Fringe
'Best Show'
Winner – Wellington Comedy Awards



Big J : A New Legacy

By Jacob Dombroski

'I am the future'

DIRECTOR
Rose Kirkup

DESIGNER
Rowan Pierce

COMPANY
Everybody Cool
Lives Here

18 – 28 Jan
Circa One

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

\$15 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

Following his rise to prime time celebrity status on *Shortland Street*, Jacob returns to the stage with his revolutionised award-winning solo.

Opening up his life and heart, Jacob Dombroski invites you to step inside his whare, champion those around you, and rewrite your destiny to share the love.

This is a story about strength, whānau and dreams.

'Jacob bursts onstage... with body-rolling dance moves that would put Magic Mike to shame'
— Monika Barton

'see an artist testing, trying out and more importantly putting his whole soul, heart and body into his work'
— Maraea Rakuraku

PHOTO: JASON ALDOUS. DESIGN: WILLIAM DUGNAN



PHOTO: DEANNA WALKER



Unpacking childhood memories, the Lochburn siblings cringe at the past and wrestle with their family's future. Six actors, two musicians, one new breathtaking play reading.

An entertaining and thought-provoking play by novelist Jenny Pattrick.

The time is a little in the future. The play explores the tension between the terminally ill Irina's need for hope and the government's need to spend its Health

Budget wisely during a threatening pandemic. A controversial law is denying hospital treatment to patients in their last year of life.

Irina's daughter Yulia, a nurse, arrives back from the disastrous war in Ukraine to discover her mother and brother are illegally buying drugs. Arguments erupt. A famous pianist – former pupil of Irina's – visits to complicate matters – and perhaps to provide some hope, to both mother and son.



Written by Anna Secker and Georgia Kellett
| Directed by Anna Secker | Sat 4 Mar 2pm |
Circa Two | \$16 - \$25

Tucked away in Norfolk, England, a peculiar convent offers sanctuary to Margo, an ex-war nurse whose only prayer is to reconnect with her late sister. Battling harsh realities of the second world war, Margo finds the

transition of becoming a nun difficult, with her own conflict between Faith and reality. How can she trust an intangible higher power to protect mankind when she has seen the monstrous actions men are capable of? Knot Theatre presents a script reading of a perfect little world in the midst of thriving chaos.



An Honest Conversation Series

Talk, dance and be honest

CONCEPT
Sacha Copland

COMPANY
Java Dance Theatre

Sun 26 Feb, Sun 26 Mar,
Sun 14 May, Sun 30 Jul,
Sun 24 Sep, Sun 29 Oct,
Sun 26 Nov

7pm
Circa Two

\$16 – \$25



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

41-year-old Sacha has choreographed more than 20 full length dance theatre works and now she wants to talk. Sacha also wants to dance. Sacha will try to be honest while she dances and talks. Throughout 2023 seven conversations will take place, each with a different chatty dance artist. They will all try to be honest while they dance and talk. Each conversation will only ever happen once.

Dancer/choreographers Braedyn Togi, Loughlan Prior and Stela Albuquerque have already been brave enough to commit to a conversation and to mix things up, dancer Bjorn Aslund will host two of these conversations. Bjorn is a prolific artist who lives in many different worlds.

Sacha, Bjorn and these fearless artists can't make any promises but they will try to dance, talk and be honest.

'Somewhere between stand-up comedy, a physical competition, an intergenerational back-and-forth and a celebration of mauri / life force'
— Audience Member

'the audience loved it, the terrain of the conversation and the honesty exhibited was compelling' — Theatreview



In Bed with Schoenberg

By Dave Armstrong

Eccentric Austrian composer meets live string quartet.

DIRECTOR
Conrad Newport

STARRING
Andrew Laing

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Donald Armstrong
(Associate concertmaster
NZSO)

With music by Bach,
Mozart, Beethoven,
Mahler, Lehar,
Schoenberg and more

COMPANY
Armstrong Creative

25 Feb – 18 Mar
Preview 24 Feb
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

Self-confessed genius Arnold Schoenberg has taken to his bed in 1951 Los Angeles believing that this will be his last day alive. The clock is ticking toward midnight. His numerology is never wrong.

Struggling in an unappreciative Hollywood, Arnold reflects on an earlier life of fame filled with glorious Viennese music and where his modern compositions caused riots, where friends and lovers constantly betrayed him and where a failed 'artist' became Führer and forced his unwanted exile.

Starring Andrew Laing (*Wonderful, Gifted*), *In Bed with Schoenberg* is a delicious Viennese pastry filled with comedy, drama and exquisite live classical music.

Developed from an original commission by Chamber Music New Zealand.





Stories About My Body

Morgana O'Reilly

Tales of selling my toes in NYC, diary entries from '98, birth, boobs and trying to like my chins.

15 – 25 Mar
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$40

The Recent winner of Most Outstanding Show at Whangarei Fringe 2022 and sold-out seasons in Auckland, Taranaki, Waiheke and Melbourne, *Stories About My Body* is coming to Wellington!

Storytelling meets stand-up meets spoken word.

Let me tell you stories about my body.

Warning: there will be nudity... and you will love it.

"Hilarity to humanity, and back again"
— Jess Karamjeet, Theatrescenes

"She's at the top of her game, generous and brave" — Judges, Whangarei Fringe



The King of Taking

by Thom Monckton

Roll out the royal red carpet! One is cordially invited to Thom Monckton's newest physical comedy.

COMPANIES

Kallo Collective
& A Mulled Whine

21 – 25 Mar
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

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A MULLED WHINE



Allergic to normal flooring, a childish and petulant King can only walk on red carpet – and cannot move without an effective fanfare. You are hereby summoned to the royal grounds where this King callously barrels towards his own destruction.

A brand-new show from acclaimed physical comedy performer Thom Monckton (*The Artist*), *The King of Taking* boasts circus, mime, and a whole lot of velvet.

Performing in Wellington for one week only at Circa Theatre!

Royal decree: The King requests a selection of wrapped gifts from his most loyal subjects (you).*

**Bearing Gifts discount price available for those who bring a wrapped present.*

'It's fun. It's really, really fun. We're comfortable, we're in stitches, this guy is great.' — Art Murmurs

'Monckton is amazing to watch, his body seemingly not constrained by the usual restrictions of bones and gravity' — Otago Daily Times



Cringeworthy – Swinging in the '60s!

By Andrea Sanders

A psychedelic blast from the past!

DEvised BY
Andrea Sanders
[BeatGirl Productions]

CAST
Andrea Sanders
Jeff Kingsford-Brown
Jared Pallesen
Rebecca Ansell

1 – 29 Apr
Preview 31 Mar
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

Cringeworthy is back, transporting you to the GROOVIEST era of all, the swinging '60s!

Following on from *Cringeworthy* the '70s and '80s, this show is a FAR-OUT tribute to Kiwiana music and culture in the '60s.

With just one TV channel, shows such as *Let's Go*, *C'Mon* and *Happen Inn* were all the rage, with top acts such as Mr Lee Grant, Dinah Lee, The Chicks, Alison Durban and John Rowles performing a mix of local and international hits.

Presented by our very own 'Mod Father' Ray Columbus and the smoothest of smooth, Pete Sinclair, Kiwis had a BLAST as a smorgasbord of songs hit the screens! Along with homegrown hits, be prepared to hear your FAB favourites from iconic overseas acts such as The Beatles, Tom Jones, Petula Clark, The Seekers, Nancy Sinatra and more, as a musical journey takes us back to a time so vastly different to today.

If you're SWITCHED ON then TUNE IN, break out your Beehives and Beatle boots and get ready to Go go.

Do the TWIST, do the SWIM, do the DUCK, do the PONY, do whatever you like as long as you do it at *Cringeworthy* the '60s.

CAN YOU DIG IT??

'A swinging affair, equal parts fast paced and hilarious!'

'Fab choreography, psychedelic costumes and a sizzlingly snazzy vocal quartet'

'Memory lane has never looked this good, forget Dancing in the Street, you'll be dancing in your seat'



Land of the Long Long Drive

By Catriona Tipene and Ryan Cundy

A classic road story with a Kiwi twist!

DIRECTOR
Catriona Tipene

COMPANY
Horse With No Name

8 – 22 Apr
Circa Two

Tues – Thurs
10am & 11.30am
Fri – Sat
10am, 11.30am & 5pm

\$15 General Admission
\$50 Family Pass (4 Tickets)



Wētā, Tuna and Kārearea are mates of Gary the Glowworm, and are travelling to attend his rave in the cave birthday party. The friends face a number of trials on the road, and learn that despite their differences, they can achieve their goals by working together!

A tale for Kiwi kids, featuring iconic NZ creatures, landscapes and fresh waiata by NZ singer-songwriter Benny Tipene. Winner of the 3–8-year-old section of Playmarket's Plays for the Young Competition, *Land of the Long Long Drive* brings you a laugh out loud, inspiring adventure of three unlikely heroes.

Thanks to Capital E National Theatre for Children for supporting the development of this show through their National Creative Residency programme.



Funny Gurl!

By Anita Wigl'it

*A tale about a Drag Queen's hilarious life!
From day dot to Drag Race and beyond!*

DIRECTOR
Borni Te Rongopai
Tukiwaho

COMPANY
Wigl'it Productions

12 – 22 Apr
Preview 11 Apr
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
& Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$40
(or \$55 pre-show
meet & greet)
Early Bird tickets
available

Get to know Anita Wigl'it, star of *Drag Race: Canada Vs. the World* and *RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under S1* in this kooky, hilarious and tell-all one-woman show, *Funny Gurl!*

Over a fabulous hour, travel back in time to 1989 when a little boy with a big personality was born. Then follow him as he grows up into the glamorous Drag Queen that we all know and love (life stories told in hilarious anecdotes interspersed with dazzling shows!).

This comedy show will give you belly laughs, will make you cry and will definitely make you Wigl'it!!



The Coven on Grey Street

By James Cain

Must we three meet again?

DIRECTOR
Harriet Prebble

STARRING
Irene Wood
Helen Moulder
Hilary Norris
Peter Hambleton

COMPANY
Red Scare Theatre
Company

29 Apr – 27 May
Preview 28 Apr
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available



It's been a long time since the Weird Sisters parted ways and settled down in Hamilton. But Daphne (Helen Moulder) is getting married to Shakespearean scholar Ted (Peter Hambleton), and she's invited Sybil (Irene Wood) and Fay (Hilary Norris) along.

These three witches will find that supernatural hurly-burly is a piece of newt compared to lunch with the whānau.

A comedic riff on everyone's favourite witches, written by James Cain (*Movers*) and directed by Harriet Prebble (*Dungeoning & Dragoning*).

Join Irene Wood, Helen Moulder, Hilary Norris and Peter Hambleton in this delightful romp about sorcery and sisterhood. Produced by Red Scare Theatre Company.

'James Cain's writing is incredibly well-observed' — Regional News



Capital E National Arts Festival 2023

The biggest children's art festival in Aotearoa

DIRECTOR
Justin Haiu

COMPANY
Jandel J & The Funky Friends

SHOW
Motuhake

1 - 6 May
Circa One

Best suits ages 4-8

Purchase tickets
at capitalefestival.nz

Brought to you by



Capital E's National Arts Festival brings you the best of children's theatre and performance from Aotearoa and beyond!

The hearts and minds of tamariki will be filled with playful possibilities as they experience gravity-defying acrobatics, inspiring dance, hilarious antics, playful puppetry, melodic songs and an abundance of joy and imagination.

Motuhake tells the story of a boy who discovers dusty marionettes in his grandfather's attic who magically spring to life! Meet a whole host of unique and hilarious characters as they work together on a journey of overcoming fears and realising potential.

It is an adventure story about friendship, sharing and unity.

'This show was uplifting, funny, kind, tendered and very clever. It had a great message that was skilfully developed.'

— Wayne Leighton

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PRINCIPAL FUNDER
Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

MAJOR FUNDER
creative.nz
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Skyduck: A Chinese Spy Comedy

By Sam Wang

Think Chinese Top Gun with 007 to a J-Pop backing track!

WRITER & PERFORMER
Sam Wang

DIRECTOR
Aileen Huynh

COMPANY
Skyduck & Co

18 – 27 May
Preview 17 May
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

**SKY
DUCK
& CO**

Skyduck: A Chinese Spy Comedy is a quirky and irrelevant parody of China's top secret agents trying to steal America's top-secret fighter jet software in the early 1990s – all while Australia was busy preparing for the Sydney Olympics!

Featuring an outrageous mix of AV, puppets and musical numbers, *Skyduck* hysterically recreates an international action spy comedy on stage utilising every DIY theatre trick in the books.

Written and performed by Sam Wang (*New Gold Mountain, Runaway Millionaires, Life is Easy*), this hilarious, bilingual solo comedy was nominated for 'Best Male Lead in an Independent Production' at the Sydney Theatre Awards 2019 and was mentioned in *Timeout Sydney* as one of the best stage shows of 2019.

'4.5 stars... a hilarious and nostalgic thrill ride through time and pop culture'
— Artshub

'4.5 stars... Four characters, three cultures, two languages, one great show'
— State of the Arts

'Delightfully funny! Sam Wang's immersion in his homemade espionage action thriller is a pleasure to behold... I can guarantee you won't have seen anything else quite like it.' — Audrey Journal

KIA MAU FESTIVAL

**MĀORI + PASIFIKA +
INDIGENOUS**

**LIVE + DIGITAL
PERFORMANCE**

Kia Mau Festival is a biennial,
contemporary Māori, Pasifika and
international Indigenous live and
digital performance experience.

Nau mai, haramai!

Nau mai, hoki mai ki a Kia Mau!

RETURNING JUNE 2023

**YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO**
SCAN TO
SEE OUR FULL
PROGRAMME



KIA MAU

MOANA NUI

**MĀORI + PASIFIKA +
INDIGENOUS**

**DIGITAL ART
EXPERIENCE**

Moana Nui is a curated digital experience of live performance from Kia Mau Festival.

Cinematic soundscapes and the power of our writers are all unleashed in demand and online.

RETURNING JUNE 2023

**YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO
SCAN TO
EXPERIENCE
MOANA NUI**





The Emperor's New Clothes

By Sacha Copland with music by Tristan Carter

*A high-risk, high-return dance show
not for the faint of heart.*

DRAMATURG
Sameena Zehra

COMPANY
Java Dance Theatre

21 Jun – 1 Jul
Preview 20 Jun
Circa Two

Tue – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$38

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

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Do you find numbers seductive? Have you ever calculated your own net worth? Did you take EVERYTHING into account? Everything?

Are you brave enough to admit to all your assets and liabilities and look directly at the bottom line?

Come to *The Emperor's New Clothes* to witness every organ, nerve and muscle in the human body vibrating. We will offer you outrageous dancing, profit, loss, live music and the deconstruction of power at a price.

The economy meets the human body in a tour-de-force danced and spoken by 41-year-old choreographer Sacha Copland.

This is a show for lovers of the human body.

CONTENT ADVISORY: nudity, strong language, sexual violence, economics.

*'addresses the big world issues,
historical mishaps and our frailties
and idiosyncrasies'* — Theatreview



The Adventures of Tahī and Kōwhai

By Little Dog Barking Theatre Company

Will love win the day?

DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Coats

COMPANY
Little Dog Barking
Theatre Company

4 – 21 Jul
Circa Two

School Holidays
(4 – 16 Jul)
Tues – Wed
10am & 11.30pm
Thurs – Sat
10am, 11.30am & 5pm
Sun 4.30pm

Term 3 ECE and
School Performances
(18 – 21 Jul)
Tues – Fri
10am & 11.30am

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

This July school holidays, Little Dog Barking Theatre Company invites you to a prequel to 2021's *The White Tree*. Follow the adventures of that story's most popular comic characters, Tahī and Kōwhai, as these two young hoiho work to create their first home together. Facing a number of challenges along the way, can these two yellow-eyed penguins find a way to be together?

Combining the languages of puppetry, music, English, Te Reo and NZSL, this comic heart-warming tale will thrill and inspire both the young and the young-at-heart.

Featuring an original score by Liam Reid, set design by Tolis Papazoglou, and puppets by Sue Hill.

'The crowd favourites of the night are our gorgeous Hoiho' — Theatreview

'Little Dog Barking are masters of connection through ease and simplicity' — Theatreview



Prima Facie

By Suzie Miller

Something has to change

DIRECTOR
Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

STARRING
Mel Dodge

COMPANIES
Kavanah Productions
& BRAVE Theatre

24 Jun – 22 Jul
Preview 23 Jun
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

Proudly supported by



Australian High Commission
New Zealand

SweeneyVesty

Tessa is a criminal defence lawyer at the top of her game and loving it: defending, cross-examining, and playing the rules of the law to win. But when the tables turn she finds herself at the mercy of the very system that she has dedicated her life to. Shadows of doubt are illuminated, making us question, who is our legal system serving?

Turning our courts of law into a different kind of stage, this sharp, witty and gripping one-woman show written by Suzie Miller has sold out throughout Australia, the West End, and is soon to land on Broadway. This phenomenal production starring Mel Dodge (*Miss Brontë*) and directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford (*Rants in the Dark*) continues an urgent conversation for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This show includes themes of sexual assault. Recommended for audiences 12+

Prima Facie was first produced by Griffin Theatre Company in May 2019 at the SBW Stables Theatre

'This play is the reason you go to the theatre' — Courier Mail

'An urgent and compelling work... run, don't walk' ★★★★★ — Time Out





The Sun and the Wind

By Tainui Tukiwaho

Prepare yourself for a birthday party you'll never forget.

COMPANY
Taurima Vibes

28 Jul – 26 Aug
Preview 27 Jul
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available



Proudly supported by



In the midst of a birthday celebration, Wereta and Martha are caught off guard when two unexpected guests crash through the door intent on robbing the elderly couple. But things don't go as planned when the elderly couple mistake the would-be thieves for their deceased son and his wife.

Come with us as we explore the dangers of love and secrets. Of loving someone too much, not enough and being starved of it.

Join the minds behind such shows as *Black Ties*, *Larger Than Life* and *Peter Paka Paratene* for a truly heart breaking and surreal theatre experience.

Taurima Vibes – Winners of the 2018 Wellington Theatre Awards – Excellence Award for Community Engagement.

Taurima Vibes is an important intermediary organisation that creates brokership opportunities for a vast array of communities across Aotearoa. As brokers we are committed to bringing spotlight to marginalised community, undervalued and historically unheard communities and bridging the gaps between the privileged and under resourced, using the creative arts as our main communication mechanism. We are creators, advisors and consultants leading in advocacy, strategic community engagement and creative sector development for the arts and well-being across the motu.

Audience care: Although trigger warnings are not necessary for most of this show, moments of *The Sun and the Wind* contain graphic reference to suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviour. We will offer time for whakatau to decompress and sit in collective debrief after each performance. Mental health contact details are listed in our programme.



Public Service Announcements - Election 2023

Written by Thom Adams, Jamie McCaskill
and Anya Tate-Manning

*Election night at the Beehive – tensions are high,
inflation is higher.*

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Dan Williams

29 Jul – 26 Aug
Preview 28 Jul
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available



Can Labour survive another round in
the thunderdome?

Will Luxon make it to the election?

Can the Greens and Te Pāti Māori
spring hope eternal?

Is Seymour on the edge of glory?

And Winston's back. Back again.
Winnie's back. Tell a friend.

Public Service Announcements is
Wellington's longest recurring
political satire, started in 2011
by James Nokise and Anya
Tate-Manning. Over the last 13 years,
PSA has celebrated 18 full original
productions. This new chapter
features some favourite faces, and
some exciting new ones. Irreverent,
silly, up-to-the-minute political satire
with lots of laughs.

'Welcome satirical levity in testing times'
— Theatreview

*'PSA just gets sillier and more savage
(ratchet, sassy, nasty) as it goes on. But
it's all in good fun – and what fun it is.'*
— Regional News



Essential To The Stage

A Writing Workshop

Sat 5 Aug
Circa Two

10am – 4pm

Free
Registrations are
essential

Circa Theatre is delighted to be hosting this fourth workshop for NZ playwrights, convened by acclaimed New Zealand writer, actor and director, Fiona Samuel (*The Louise Nicholas Story*, *Bliss*, *Ghost Train*, *Piece of My Heart*).

Following on from the highly successful *Breaking and Entering*, *Women on the verge* and *Twelve Angry Women* writing workshops, Circa Theatre is hosting a fourth writing workshop, *Essential To The Stage*, on Saturday 5 August. A similar format will apply: a day's workshop followed two weeks later by a public reading of work inspired by the workshop with a guest curator (date TBC).

Fiona's award-winning career spans theatre, film, radio and television and she graduated from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School in 1980 with a Diploma in Acting.

***Please register your interest with
programming@circa.co.nz by Saturday
14 July 2023. Only 20 places available.***



Mr Fungus Dreams

By Fergus Aitken and Thomas Monckton

A magical adventure story

DIRECTORS

Thom Monckton
and Amalia Calder

COMPANY

Mr Fungus & Friends

19 Sep – 7 Oct
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 11am

\$10 – \$16
Under 2s Free

Visual theatre and absurd comedy for all ages, from the people that brought you the sold-out season of MR FUNGUS in 2021... along with some other brilliant friends!

What time is it?

Time to Play?

Time to Sleep?

Time to Dream?

When we wake up, are we the same as we were before?

A magical tale of adventure, resilience and self-reliance.

Our mischievous MR FUNGUS embarks on a journey of discovery, reminding us that even though things may not always be as they seem, we always have what we need.

‘Engaged, smart and skilled physical humour for all ages... a real gem...’

— Theatreview

‘The wonderful deadpan humour made me, as an 83 year old, laugh as much as the numerous children near me...’



ONO

A brand new polylogue by six Māori and Pasifika playwrights.

**TAHI New Zealand
Festival of Solo
Performance**

**CO-DIRECTED BY
Nicola Hyland
(Te Atihaunui-a-Pāpārangī
and Ngāti Hauiti)
and Sally Richards**

**EXECUTIVE
CO-PRESENTING
PARTNER
Taki Rua**

**7 – 16 Sep
Preview 6 Sep
Circa Two**

**Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm**

\$30 – \$35

ONO is a collection of six new monologues by Māori and Pasifika writers especially commissioned for TAHI New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance 2023. Six unique voices from Aotearoa.

ONO follows the success of TAHI's collection of monologues *Batch*, *Whānau* and *Joy*.

'Not only have this group of artists created a thoughtful and thought-provoking meditation on the theme of joy, but they have also created a joyful production that engages and enlightens while it entertains.' — Regional News (*Joy*, 2022)

'a profoundly insightful and engaging sextet of memorable encounters.' — Theatreview (*Joy*, 2022)

TAHI

taki rua

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
HE RŌPŪ TAUTOKO TĪTŪ
WHAKAARI O AOTEAROA



Verbatim

Written by William Brandt

Devised by Miranda Harcourt
and William Brandt

'If. That's a very big word.'

TAHI New Zealand
Festival of Solo
Performance

9 – 16 Sep
Preview 8 Sep
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 8.30pm
Fri – Sat 6pm
Sun 2pm

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

TAHI

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
HE RŌPŪ TAUTOKO TŪ
WHAKAARI O AOTEAROA

Verbatim premiered in 1993 and broke new and important ground. William Brandt and Miranda Harcourt presented an uncensored insight, with first-hand accounts, into the impact of violent crime in Aotearoa. This work still strongly resonates today. We might ask what has changed? *Verbatim* is an opportunity to interrogate the lack of social change.

With the expert skill of actor Renee Lyons we meet those interviewees. Lyons revisits her powerful solo performance from ten years ago.

'The subtle power of Lyons' less-is-more embodiment of each person brings us to the heart of their experiences, compelling us to interrogate the whys and wherefores and ask ourselves at what point in the causal chain an intervention might have made a positive difference.' — Theatreview

'a punchy piece of theatre' — NZ Herald



I Want To Be Happy

By Carl Bland

STARRING

Jennifer Ludlam

DIRECTORS

Ben Crowder

Carl Bland

SET DESIGNER

John Parker

SOUND DESIGNER

John Gibson

COSTUME DESIGNER

Elizabeth Whiting

COMPANY

Nightsong

7 – 30 Sep

Preview 6 Sep

Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm

Fri – Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$30 – \$55

Early Bird tickets
available

In a small enclosure, longing for the Andes, a small guinea pig plans her escape. And dreams of being free.

Jennifer Ludlam plays Binka in this blackly funny adventure from Nightsong (*Mr Red Light*, *Te Pō*, 360).

I Want To Be Happy positions Nightsong's striking visual aesthetic against the domesticity of the everyday.

Even the tiniest of lives are full of huge events. Love, loss, triumph and disaster.

'It's the kind of theatre that makes film look boring, and turns first-time punters into lifelong patrons' — Up Your Arts, *Mr Red Light*

'Jennifer Ludlam's performance is a masterclass in bringing a character to life' — Theatreview, *Mr Red Light*

'This level of creativity and innovation is exactly what people have come to expect from Nightsong' — NZ Herald, *A Stab in the Dark*

Script development support provided by Auckland Theatre Company.





The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

'To be natural is such a very difficult pose to keep up'

DIRECTOR
Jonathan Price

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Meg Rollandi

7 Oct – 4 Nov
Preview 6 Oct
Circa One

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

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

'Gwendolen, it is a terrible thing for a man to find out suddenly that all his life he has been speaking nothing but the truth. Can you forgive me?'

The game's up! John Worthing is Jack when he's in the country and Ernest when in town. But he's not the only player with a ploy, and some of his nearest and dearest are already two steps ahead.

Oscar Wilde's greatest work for the stage returns to Circa for a season of blistering wit, mistaken identities, and human hypocrisy so keenly observed you'd think it was written yesterday. A troupe of Wellington's finest comic actors take the stage like a jazz band tearing through a bop classic.

Colourful, naughty, subversive, smart and fabulous, this *Earnest* finds a new home in an age still obsessed with appearances. This is Wilde with his top button undone and false lashes on. This is for anyone who's used a filter, lied in a job interview or exaggerated on their Tinder profile.

When everyone shouts 'Be yourself!', *The Importance of Being Earnest* asks, now where's the fun in that?



The Bicycle & the Butcher's Daughter

By Helen Moulder & Sue Rider

A family, food and five surprising characters!

DIRECTOR
Sue Rider

STARRING
Helen Moulder

COMPANY
Willow Productions

25 Oct – 11 Nov
Preview 24 Oct
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$45
Early Bird tickets
available



WILLOW
PRODUCTIONS

Olivia Paterson has taken over as CEO of the family meat exporting company. Her daughter is a vegan. Her sister wants to open an art gallery. Her father wants things to stay as they are.

Olivia wants to feed the world, but when the media get hold of a fake story, what is more important – her plans for the company's survival or her relationship with her family? As Olivia strives to keep her balance, 11-year-old Grace might just provide an answer.

A new solo comedy-drama featuring a tour de force performance from actor Helen Moulder.

Contains some strong language.
Recommend 15+

'This is theatre at its most intimate. Confronting, often hilarious, audacious, always clever.'
— Manawatu Guardian

'[Helen Moulder's] audience expect a quality production and they get it every time.' — Theatreview



CIRCA THEATRE RESTAURANT & BAR

A unique heritage, waterfront eatery

Enjoy innovative cuisine made from the freshest local ingredients as a pre-theatre experience or your next evening out.

Please contact us for reservations on 04 801 7996.

FUNCTIONS VENUE

Host your next function at Circa and enjoy great food and service in a venue like no other.

For enquiries please contact circarestaurant@circa.co.nz.

ACCESSIBILITY AT CIRCA

Circa Theatre strives to make theatre of the highest quality 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.

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 ticket deals where you can save \$10 on Adult (\$45) and Concession (\$35) tickets.

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.





Treasure Island – The Pantomime

By Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford

X marks the spot, me hearties!

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

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

18 Nov – 23 Dec
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$18 – \$55
Family Pass available

Proudly sponsored by



Batten down your hatches. Circa's celebrated summer pantomime returns and this year it's for the gold. Our playful Panto team maroon themselves on the rocky shore of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale.

Set sail with Orphan Jim, his dog Patches and Aunt Peggy Legg to find the pirate treasure.

Is the mysterious young witch a trustworthy friend or will she give them the Black Spot?

Will Long John Silver steal the map and scupper their plans?

Journey from Port Knickerson, past the rocky shores of Johnsonville, to fight off the Bureauc Rats of Molesworth Street.

With overboard gags, tropical references and salty shanties that'll raise your Jolly Roger and take you on an expedition to find the greatest treasure of all: Love and acceptance.

Naaah. Just kidding. There's actual gold!

Watch out! He's behind yaarrrrrr!

'It was hilarious, and the fast pace, excellent singing and acting, great sets and lighting, and clever story all combined to make it a tremendous and wonderful experience'

'The writers are so clever, weaving topical humour (and a bit of innuendo!) into the slapstick and child-friendly jokes that delight the little ones'

'A real Christmas/New Year treat'

'It was amazing, I went twice'



The secret lives of extremely old people

By Rachel McAlpine

COMPANY
90 plus

CREATIVE TEAM
Robin Payne
Annie Ruth
Mary McCallum
Anne Manchester
Rachel McAlpine

25 Nov – 16 Dec
Preview 24 Nov
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55
Early Bird tickets
available

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

 BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET THEATRE
HE RŌPŪ TAUTOKO TĪTO
WHAKAARI O AOTEAROA

Writer Rachel McAlpine was shocked to the core when her GP predicted she would live to 99. Like most people, she had opinions about very old age but no experience. So she interviewed a bunch of local nonagenarians. Their revelations broke all the stereotypes.

The secret lives of extremely old people erupted from those conversations. Characters all have their own agenda. They riff, they rant, they rebel, they remember. Tragedy hovers in the background and death is drawing close. So why do they keep saying they are lucky? Deeper than data about old age, their stories are startling, exhilarating, and moving.

Content advisory: Sex, death and euthanasia are discussed but they do not occur on stage. Old-fashioned swearing.

"I'm glad to be alive but not opposed to dying" — Mona

"I'm an actor – obviously. I'm 71 and I'd rather die than be really old, old like 90. Not interested, not going to happen."
— Actor

"I like balloon volleyball. That's my favourite. It's a blood sport." — Peggy

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your help for

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On the waterfront
Circa Theatre takes centre stage

Concept art: Inside Design

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CIRCA THEATRE

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