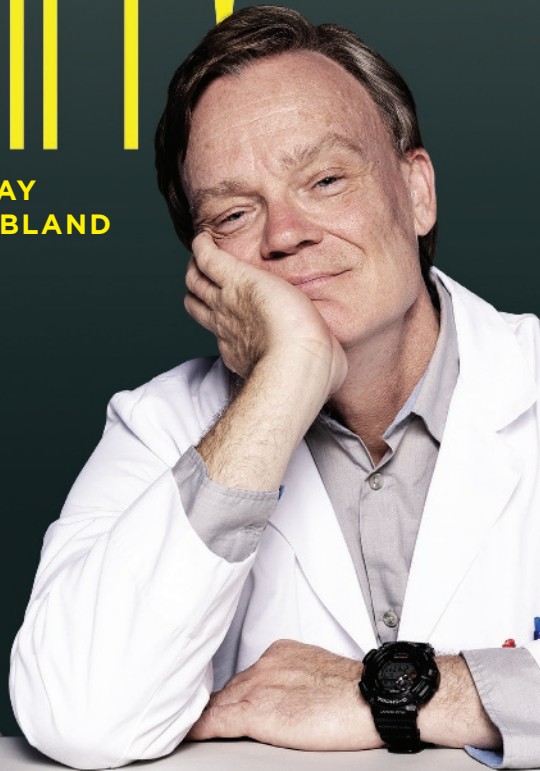


NIGHTSONG PRESENTS

I WANT TO BE HAPPY

A PLAY
BY CARL BLAND



 CIRCA
THEATRE

7 - 30 Sept 2023



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 **Creative New Zealand**, and **individual donors** such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington.

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY

Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Simply visit **circa.co.nz/support** 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: Donation

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.



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



Circa Theatre staged its first production in April 1976 and in the succeeding years gained a reputation as one of New Zealand's liveliest and most innovative theatres. Circa also pioneered a collaborative system supporting creative artists who are the life-blood of our theatre. They emphasise the qualities of commitment and self-help which we greatly admire and which contribute to bringing our audiences professional theatre which is diverse and of the highest professional standard.

Circa Theatre is administered by a working council comprising:

Neville Carson, Debbie Fish, Andrew Foster, Carrie Green, Carolyn Henwood, Ross Jolly, Simon Leary, Salesi Le'ota, Jamie McCaskill, Gavin Rutherford, Linda Wilson, Susan Wilson.

In November 1994 Circa moved to its new premises at 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington, and in 2018 Circa completed its cafe/bar and foyer renovations for all patrons to enjoy.

Theatre concept and design: Grant Tilly

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



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 Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager at partnership@circa.co.nz or visit circa.co.nz/support

Toi Uru Kahikatea (Arts Development) Investment Programme

Circa Theatre is supported by Creative New Zealand's Toi Uru Kahikatea (Arts Development) Investment Programme. The programme provides annual or multi-year funding (up to three years) to established New Zealand artists, arts practitioners and arts groups and organisations, to support regular or continuous programmes of activity.

Circa Theatre
and Nightsong
proudly present

7-30 September 2023

I WANT TO BE HAPPY

A play by Carl Bland

Directors	Ben Crowder & Carl Bland
Set Design	Andrew Foster
Lighting Design	Sean Lynch
Costume Design	Elizabeth Whiting
Composer	John Gibson

CAST

Binka	Jennifer Ludlam
Paul	Joel Tobeck
MyOne & Whistler	Milo Cawthorne

Running time: 70 minutes

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Will Smith - Tungsten Projects
Stage Manager	Amanda Joe
Technical Operator	Niamh Campbell-Ward
Guinea Pig Realisation	The Costume Studio
Prop and Puppet Maker	Phil Gregory
Publicity and Marketing	Elephant Publicity
Set Construction	Grant Reynolds
General Manager	Anders Falstie-Jensen
Producer	Chloe Klein
Dramaturge	Philippa Campbell
Graphic Design	Daughter & Son, & Helen Cisowski
Photography	Ralph Brown

NIGHTSONG BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rachel Antony, Helen Atkins, Carl Bland, Janet Clarke, Ben Crowder,
Greg Fahey (chair) and Hilary Lewis.

KIA ORA KOUTOU



Welcome to Nightsong's new work I Want To Be Happy by Carl Bland.

It's been a great pleasure to work with Jen, Joel and Milo again - and also to be collaborating with many of our long term designers and associates. However this show has also brought some new people into the company and this has been a delight. As we write this, we are in the cold of a rehearsal shed and very much looking forward to the warm embrace of a dark theatre where alchemy can occur.

Thank you Wellington for coming along. Enjoy the show.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ben, Carl, Chloe and Anders

WRITER'S NOTE:

**"This morning I woke up and a memory came flooding back
It was heartbeats. Fur. Wet noses. Warm milk. The smell of love.
The memory was a happy one.
But it made me unhappy"**

The memory of a past love is bittersweet. You know you can never have that moment again. The pain of that loss, can stop us from celebrating the beauty of that love. Animals are our guide here. Their ability to live in the present. To endure. Be ever hopeful. To tap into a deep ancestral presence. They teach us. What we thought was lost is not. All the people we love are by our side.

This show is dedicated to Peta Rutter.



THE BOARD AND WIDER NIGHTSONG WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

Theatre Artists Charitable Trust, the Circa Council, Kirsty Brownfield, Lesley-Anne Carey, Ali, Michelle, Jade, and Jess at Elephant Publicity, Takahide Nakazawa, Andrew Grainger, Janette Partington, Carolyn Henwood and the team at Circa Theatre, John Parker, Alf Jamieson, Babs, Thomas Braid, Auckland Actors, Antonia Richardson, RBA Management, Creative New Zealand, Rachel Marlow, and all the champions and donors who have made this season possible and continue to ensure Nightsong's future.

Carl Bland's writing of the script was supported by Creative New Zealand and Auckland Theatre Company.

WHAT'S ON AT CIRCA

TAHI New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance

Verbatim

9–16 Sep | \$30 – \$55

Written by William Brandt

Devised by Miranda Harcourt and William Brandt

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.

TAHI



ONO

7–16 Sep | \$30 – \$35

Co-directed by Nicola Hyland (Te Atihaunui-a-Pāpārangi and Ngāti Hauiti) & Sally Richards

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*.



Mr Fungus Dreams

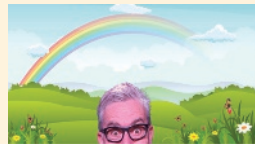
19 Sep–7 Oct | \$10–\$15; Under 2s Free

By Fergus Aitken and Thom Monckton

Directed by Thom Monckton and Amalia Calder

Presented by Mr Fungus & Friends

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! A 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.



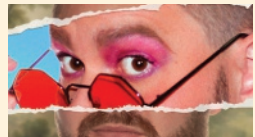
The Importance of Being Earnest

7 Oct–4 Nov | \$30–\$55

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Jonathan Price

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.



Also in September... *An Honest Conversation Series!* Talk, dance and be honest - Concept: Sacha Copland; Company: Java Dance Theatre - Sun 24 Sep 7pm; \$16–\$25.

www.circa.co.nz



CREATIVE NEIGHBOURS

It is an exciting time for Circa Theatre and Te Papa as we build our cultural partnership on the Wellington waterfront.

"We have much in common and, with our mutual talents, we can work together to make many opportunities for people to come to the waterfront and enjoy exhibitions and live performances."



CAROLYN HENWOOD,
CIRCA CO-FOUNDER
& CIRCA COUNCIL MEMBER

A TRUE ARTISTIC TREASURE

"Circa has become one of our true artistic treasures and is now a platform for artists from across the country to engage with audiences. A place for Wellingtonians to see the best theatre our country has to offer."



ANDREW FOSTER,
CIRCA COUNCIL
CO-ORDINATOR

A NIGHT OUT TO REMEMBER

"Circa's vision is to present our audiences with the best work from New Zealand and the world. This year we've got an incredible breadth of programme and a range of voices that will entertain, challenge and inspire audiences."



SALESI LE'OTA,
CIRCA COUNCIL



WE LOVE WELLINGTON

"In our first 10 years, Circa staged over 20 plays by Wellington writers set in Wellington or relating to its people and places. We have continued this pattern and now in our programme you will always find a play by a Wellington writer with a story about Wellington and its people – their triumphs and tribulations."

SUSAN WILSON, DIRECTOR/CIRCA COUNCIL



FUNCTION VENUE HIRE AT CIRCA THEATRE

For information about hosting your next function at Circa, please contact circaadmin@circa.co.nz.



BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA AND GET GREAT BENEFITS!

Express your love of the theatre by taking out a \$75 annual membership to our Friend of Circa programme. To join, simply visit circa.co.nz or phone our Box Office on 04 801 7992.



CIRCA THEATRE RESTAURANT & BAR

Enjoy a fresh and seasonal blackboard menu with a selection of outstanding New Zealand wines at our fully licensed Café & Bar before or after any theatre show.

Race to the
curtain-raiser on

THE GREAT CIRCA REBUILD



On the **waterfront**
Circa Theatre takes centre stage

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Donate now: www.circa.co.nz/on-the-waterfront/

Concept art: Inside Design



CIRCA THEATRE

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