



CIRCA
THEATRE

24 June - 22 July 2023

Kavanah Productions & BRAVE Theatre

PRIMA FACIE

Something has to change

THEATRE ARTISTS CHARITABLE TRUST

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

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.

Kavanah Productions & BRAVE Theatre Present

PRIMA FACIE

Written by Suzie Miller

Directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

Starring Mel Dodge

Original Music & Sound Design	Briar Prastiti
Set & Costume Design	Ian Harman
Lighting Design	Marcus McShane
Projection Design	Rebekah de Roo
Producer & Publicist	Yael Gezentsvey
Stage Manager	Fay Van Der Meulen
Technical Operator	Niamh Campbell-Ward
Sound Advisor	Chris Ward
Production Assistant	Anna Secker

Artwork by Mahani Del Borello, Photography by Michelle Jacobson,
Production Photography by Dianna Thomson, Videography by Josh Dahlberg.

Pack In Crew

Set: John Hodgkins, Nathalie Tworek, Iain Cooper, Scott Maxim, Nathan Arnott
Lighting: Anne-Lisa Noordover, Tom Smith, Tony Black

Thank You

Te Herenga Waka VUW Theatre Department, Circa Theatre Box Office Team,
Storm Gezentsvey, Good Fortune Coffee, Cathie Sheat, Maryanne and
David Cathro, Isabella Murray, Black & Blond Hairstylists, Linda Wilson,
Dame Carolyn Henwood, Circa Council, BATS Theatre

Runtime: 1 hour 40 minutes, no interval

Audience Care Note: *Prima Facie* is a one-woman show that deals with the important theme of sexual assault and how the legal system deals with these cases. A sexual assault is described within the play. The actor is fully clothed at all times. The scene is stylised and is treated with sensitivity. There are court scenes including the character Tessa taking the stand as a witness.

If you need to leave during the show the usher will lead you to the chill out zone in the foyer. Further resources are available online at safetotalk.co.nz

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

Prima Facie is an Australian play about the Australian legal system. But its themes are global. There are references to the Australian legal system, some of which differ to the way New Zealand Courts do things e.g. lawyers don't wear wigs except for ceremonial occasions in New Zealand. Since 2021 New Zealand has brought in some changes to the laws around sexual assault cases. These changes have been summarised and you are welcome to read them in the foyer after the show.

WRITER'S NOTE

Prima Facie: a (Latin) term meaning 'on the face of it'

The idea behind *Prima Facie* has been playing out in my mind since my law school days, years before I was a playwright. It was there waiting for me to find the courage to write, and for the right social environment to provide a space for it. In light of the #MeToo movement, *Prima Facie* was able to be realised. Years of practicing as a human rights and criminal defence lawyer did nothing to silence my feminist questioning of the legal system, because while I firmly believe that 'innocent until proven guilty' is the bedrock of human rights, it always felt that its application in sexual assault cases served to undermine rather than to uphold any real fairness.

I offer this play to all women and to those who want to be part of the conversation as a small token of my own part in the greater conversation. Our daughters and their daughters need to know that sexual assault is not a silent shame that victim-survivors must carry, and that the communities and systems of this globe need be interrogated and modernised with that in mind.

The stories of women sexually assaulted are not easily turned into "legal" truth. The kinds of violence that women are subjected to – mostly by someone they know, mostly in private – are the kinds of violence law has most trouble believing in. In Australia, the 1.7 million women who have been sexually assaulted rarely receive justice from the criminal justice system. Instead, women's stories are filtered out of the system as they meet one hurdle after another. On the other side of the criminal trial, where the outcome is supposed to be justice and redress, little remains. Nine out of every ten sexual assaults are not reported to police. Of those few that are reported, nine in ten end up with no conviction. Ninety-nine cases, ninety-nine stories out of a hundred, don't make it through the legal system.

Suzie Miller's plays have been produced in over 40 productions around the world and won multiple awards. *Prima Facie* won the 2018 Griffin Award; the 2020 AWGIE for Drama; the 2020 David Williamson Award for Outstanding Theatre Writing; the 2020 Major Overall AWGIE Award; and the 2023 Olivier Award for Best New Play. It has been translated into more than 25 languages.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At this time the Arts and Humanities Departments in our universities are under threat and here, right now, we have a play that is literally changing the world. The NT Live version of *Prima Facie* is now mandatory viewing for high court judges in Northern Ireland before they sit on the bench, with plans to introduce it to more judges. After seeing the play, members of the Women Barristers of the Old Bailey set up a movement called Tessa – Examination of Sexual Assault. Here in New Zealand, lawyers get two Continuing Professional Development points if they see this production of *Prima Facie* including a Q & A with me and my creative team. It feels significant that artists, creatives, thinkers, visionaries and storytellers, who often struggle to make a living wage, will be educating our lawmakers and those who uphold the law.

When I first read *Prima Facie* I was struck by the clarity and rhythm of the writing. The zeitgeist of this time has been captured and Suzie Miller has harnessed the conversations that need to be continued. Art can change the world.



Australian High Commission
New Zealand

SweeneyVesty

WHAT'S ON AT CIRCA

The Emperor's New Clothes

21 June–1 July

By Sacha Copland with music by Tristan Carter

Presented by Java Dance Theatre

Circa Two | \$30–\$38



Also.... An Honest Conversation Series! Talk, dance and be honest - Concept: Sacha Copland; Company: Java Dance Theatre - Sun 30 Jul 7pm; \$16 – \$25.

The Adventures of Tahi and Kōwhai

4–21 July

By Little Dog Barking Theatre Company

Directed by Jacqueline Coats

July School Holiday – 4–16 July (Relaxed Performance – Wed 5 July)

Term 3 ECE and School Performances - 18–21 July

Circa Two | GA \$15; Under 2s free; Family pass \$50 (4 tickets);

School Performance prices: Please enquire at circa@circa.co.nz



The Sun and the Wind

28 Jul – 26 Aug

By Tainui Tukiwaho

Presented by Taurima Vibes

Proudly supported by Shoreline Partners

Circa Two | \$30 – \$55



Public Service Announcements – Election 2023

29 Jul–26 Aug

By Thom Adams, Jamie McCaskill and Anya

Tate-Manning

Directed by Gavin Rutherford

Presented by arrangement with Playmarket

Circa One | \$30 – \$55



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.

We need
your help for

THE GREAT CIRCA REBUILD



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

Support us here: www.circa.co.nz

Concept art: Inside Design



CIRCA THEATRE

04 801 7992 | www.circa.co.nz