

SKYDUCK & CO AND SQUARESUMS&CO PRESENTS

SMAY DUCK



A CHINESE SPY COMEDY



"A HILARIOUS AND NOSTALGIC
THRILL RIDE THROUGH TIME
AND POP CULTURE"
ARTSHUB

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY

SAM WANG



"FOUR CHARACTERS, THREE
CULTURES, TWO LANGUAGES.
ONE GREAT SHOW."
STATE OF THE ARTS

DIRECTED BY

AILEEN HUYNH

LIGHTING DESIGNER

KELSEY LEE



18-27 MAY
CIRCA THEATRE
BOOK AT CIRCA.CO.NZ



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

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.

SquareSums&Co and
Skyduck & Co proudly present
the Wellington season of

18 May – 27 May 2023

SKYDUCK

A CHINESE SPY COMEDY

BY SAM WANG

DIRECTOR	AILEEN HUYNH
WRITER & PERFORMER	SAM WANG
PRODUCERS	SUMS SELVARAJAN & SAM WANG
LIGHTING DESIGN	KELSEY LEE
AV DESIGN	SAM WANG & AILEEN HUYNH
SOUND DESIGN	TAUESE TOFA

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER	D. ANDREW POTVIN
PUBLICITY & MARKETING	ALYSSA MEDEL
OPERATOR	JANIS CHENG
STAGE MANAGER & SUBTITLES	AMANDA GRACE LEO
TECHNICAL SYSTEMS	SAM MENCE
GRAPHIC DESIGN	ALLEN MEDEL & ALYSSA MEDEL
POSTER PHOTOGRAPHY	JOHN RATA
PHOTOGRAPHY	LYNDON KATENE

RUNNING TIME: 70 MINUTES

WRITER'S NOTE

This show began as a 20-minute graduation solo at Toi Whakaari in 2012.

Nearly 10 years later, it's back home in Wellington as a fully fledged mainstage production.

As an avid fan of Robert Lepage and Michel Gondry, the show brief was simple - to create an international action spy comedy on stage using every DIY theatre trick possible.

Consequently, the script was not just hard to read. It was impossible. Every half page, there was another AV transition, another musical number, another random puppet interjection coupled with a transforming set or gadget. Not to mention, half the show was in Mandarin with subtitles.

Thankfully, a few brave people accepted the challenge, starting with our director, Aileen Huynh, when we first presented it in a tiny gallery in Newcastle, Australia.

Since then, we've been lucky enough to scale up the show with a growing team as our stages have gotten progressively bigger, culminating with this season at Circa.

We hope you enjoy it and thanks for having us back.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you CIRCA Theatre for welcoming us so warmly and readily into your home. After 5 years of developing Skyduck which started at a small experimental arts festival in 2018 to now here in Wellington bigger and brighter than ever before, we are so excited to be able to share this show with you all!

Sam approached me with his piece shortly after we had met in 2017. Bonded by a similar love for irreverent and quirky comedy it seemed like a good fit. From there I've been on the most gloriously wacky and outrageous journey dissecting the depths of Sam's one-of-a-kind mind. This show is immensely special to me. Being part of it constantly reminds me why I love theatre, the joy, the escape and to be truly entertained! There have been countless days working on set and props in Sam's workshop, building and editing videos together and doing script revisions. It has been as hands-on as it gets and at times all-consuming, allowing for a hugely rewarding creative experience.

Kelsey Lee came on board during our independent season at Belvoir 25A with a lighting design that truly made Skyduck soar. As the production evolved and began its international tour to NZ, Andrew Potvin and Sam Mence made all our technical dreams come true. Thank you for your brilliance.

I would like to extend that thanks to the rest of our Wellington Skyduck team and to the production team at CIRCA who have made this possible, and finally, of course, to YOU - thank you for being here and going along for the ride!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Company of *SquareSums&Co* and *Skyduck & Co* would like to sincerely thank: Wellington Council, Arisa Yura, Amy Huynh, David Chan & Quinn Chan, Kevin Ng, Erica Long & Long Story Productions, Lap Nguyen, Daryl J Wong, Metro Productions, Grouse Lighting, Creative Ambiance Stage Technologies Ltd, Andrew Potvin Design & Management Ltd, Indian Ink Theatre Company, Toi Whakaari, This is Not Art Festival, Belvoir St Theatre 25A, and Auckland Arts Festival



WHAT'S ON AT CIRCA

www.circa.co.nz

Kia Mau Festival 2023

2 - 17 June



- **AJA** - Kia Mau Festival will be opened by award winning musician, singer and songwriter, AJA. Circa One | 2-3 June | \$25 - \$45
- **Mokomoko** - Written & Directed by Sherilee Kahui. Circa Two | 6-10 June | \$20 - \$30
- **Waiwhakaata – Reflections in the Water** - Written by Niwa Milroy & Cian Parker & Directed by Eddie Elliott. Circa One | 7 - 10 June | \$25 - \$45
- **O le Pepelo, Le Gaoi Ma Le Pala'ai – The Liar, the Thief and the Coward** - Written by Ui Natano Keni (Samoan/Aotearoa) & Sarita Keo Kossamak So (Khmer/ Aotearoa) & Directed by Ui Natano Keni (Samoan/Aotearoa). Circa One | 15 - 17 June | \$25 - \$45
- **Flames: A Hip-hop Musical** - By Roy Iro, Reon Bell and Sepelini Mua'au & Directed by Sepelini Mua'au. Circa Two | 13 – 17 June | \$20 - \$30

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



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.

Image by Roc Torio

Prima Facie

24 June – 22 July

By Suzie Miller

Directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

Starring Mel Dodge

Presented by Kavanah Productions & BRAVE Theatre

Circa One | \$30 - \$55



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? Winner of The Olivier Award for BEST NEW PLAY 2023.

Artwork by Mahani Del Borrello Photography by Michelle Jacobson



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."



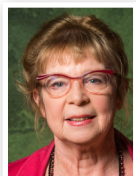
ANDREW FOSTER,
CIRCA COUNCIL
CO-ORDINATOR

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."



SALEESI L'E'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