

The Secret Lives of Extremely Old People



Written by Rachel McAlpine

Directed by Robin Payne

Is life worth living after 90?
Ask the experts!

CIRCA
THEATRE

25 Nov - 17 Dec 2023

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



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
proudly presents
the Premiere season of

25 November – 17 December 2023

The Secret Lives of Extremely Old People

Written by Rachel McAlpine

Director **Robin Payne**

Scenographer **Tolis Papazoglou**

Lighting Design **Alexander R Dickson**

Script advisor **Murray Lynch**

CAST



Peggy
Annie Ruth



Tom
Lloyd Scott



Puti
Grace Hoete



Gilbert
Gary Young



Zinnia
Anna O'Brien

Running time 90 minutes (approx) No interval.

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

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Curiosity made me write this play: is life worth living after 90? First I got answers from local nonagenarians. Then I compiled 5 characters from multiple stories. The help of everyone named in this programme has been crucial, and Robin Payne and Murray Lynch have given heroic support. My inspiring sources remain anonymous.

Rachel McAlpine



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It's said "the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person". I have loved the wisdom of our role models, the generosity of my collaborators, and the fortitude of Rachel McAlpine during this tertiary level crash course.

Robin Payne



PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer/Production Manager	Simon Manns
Stage Manager	Eric Gardiner
Intern Extraordinaire	Millie Fuller
Co-Intern	Joey Sheppard
Technical Operator	Niamh Campbell-Ward
Graphic Designer	Tiziana Stoto
Publicity	Colleen McColl
Photographer	Stephen A'Court

CIRCA TEAM

General Manager	Caroline Armstrong
Treasurer	Gavin Rutherford
Programme Co-ordinator	Linda Wilson
Operations Manager	Deb McGuire
Philanthropy and Partnerships Mgmt	Chrissy Boulton
Sales & Marketing Manager	Jane Carruthers
Social Media Manager & Marketing Assistant	Anna Barker
Front of House Manager	Harish Purohit
Box Office Manager	Lani Swann

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following for their very generous support for this production. Murray Lynch & Playmarket, Toby Papazoglou, Mary McCallum, Sunny Amey, Dame Kate Harcourt, Des Kelly, Vicky Yannoutsos, Perry Piercy, John Smythe, Jane Kitchenman, the Noy family, Dr Gill Greer, Jude Thorpe, Kristen Phillips, Mabelle Dennison, Andy Brophy - original music, Circa Staff, Age Concern NZ, Dementia NZ, Crows Feet Dance Collective, Driving Miss Daisy, Kerry Palmer, Jedda Kelly, Miranda Harcourt, Tim Gordon, Gail Cowan, Bek Coogan, Jane Smiler, Kate JasonSmith, Mairanga White, Unity Books

AND

All the nonagenarians who shared their stories for this play.



WHAT'S ON AT CIRCA THEATRE

Treasure Island - The Pantomime

15 Nov – 17 Dec | Circa One | \$15 – \$55

By Gavin Rutherford & Simon Leary

Directed by Gavin Rutherford

Music Arranged and Directed by Michael Nicholas Williams



X marks the spot, me hearties! 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 Patch and Aunt Peggy Legg to find the pirate treasure.

2024 Programme Launch

As of Monday 27th November, our 2024 Programme will have been announced. From musicals to classic plays and even Roger Hall, make sure you head to our website or grab one of our brochures from the foyer to find out what shows are coming up next year at Circa Theatre!



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."



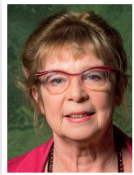
ANDREW FOSTER,
CIRCA COUNCIL
CO-ORDINATOR

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

04 801 7992 | www.circa.co.nz

