

RS RED
SCARE
THEATRE
COMPANY

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
THE
UNIVERSITY OF AUSTIN

Adam Foundation
AF

RED SCARE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

THE COVEN ON GREY STREET

BY JAMES CAIN



MUST WE THREE MEET AGAIN?

 **CIRCA**
THEATRE

29 April - 27 May



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.

29th April - 27th May 2023

Circa Theatre proudly presents the Premiere season of

THE COVEN ON GREY STREET

BY JAMES CAIN

Director	Harriet Prebble
Set Design	Lucas Neal
Lighting Design	Isadora Lao
Costume Design	Aimée Sullivan
Sound Design	Patrick Barnes

CAST

Sybil	Irene Wood
Daphne	Helen Moulder
Fay	Hilary Norris
Ted	Peter Hambleton

Sybil Understudy	Simone Kennedy
Daphne Understudy	Victoria Nelson
Fay Understudy	Anne Chamberlain
Ted Understudy	Martin Tidy

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Deb McGuire
Producer	Cassandra Tse
Operator	Xanthe Curtain
Graphic Design	Aimée Sullivan
Publicity	James Cain
Marketing Photography	Aimée Sullivan
Production Photography	Roc Torio
Audio Description	Sameena Zehra
Pack In Crew	Jacob Banks, Anne-Lisa Noordover, Hamish Craven, Wren Glover and Rivers Fleming

Running time: 90 minutes including a 15 minute interval

WRITER'S NOTE

Thank you for taking the time to come to the theatre and experience this play together. It means a lot to be supported when times are tight for so many New Zealanders. This script took about five years to write because I got lost along the way. It stayed in the digital drawer of my Google Docs because I couldn't figure out the proper ending for these delicious characters. It was the encouragement of a friend who emboldened me to pick it back up and discover the ending it deserved. Thank you Michael for the gentle push. The adventures of Sybil, Daphne and Fay and the University lecturer Ted were an absolute joy to write once it all clicked into place. I absolutely loved seeing the same joy in the rehearsal room as every member of the team picked up the challenges of the script and made them their own. The dance of everyday conversation I've written is deceptively difficult but Harriet and the cast have found the nuances of the Weird Sisters and Groom superbly, evoking the 6000 years of history between them in glances and tone that has me in stitches and moved in equal measure. I'd like to thank the whole team for their incredible work and for bringing a vivid, fantastical world to life in a way that I never could've imagined. Ultimately the play is about family; about who you choose to invite into your life and the love and pain that comes with it, and the family you're born into, where immense love mixes with the herculean effort of just trying to get along. I'd like to thank my own family for always being there for me, for their love and support and modeling empathy in all that you do, and to my partner Cassandra for all the everyday kindnesses and endless encouragements, the first to read a draft and most honest with feedback. The silliest best friend and my absolute rock. Finally, to our familiar Charles for always weaving around my legs, showing your love with the simple act of touch.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There's something about a powerful woman that is grating to some people. Something about a woman enjoying herself too much, having too much independence, asking too many questions. No matter where we're at in history, there's always someone trying to press their boot onto our necks, whether it's burning us at the stake or taking away our access to affordable and safe reproductive healthcare. This is my second magic-themed play here at Circa Theatre, but spells and prophecies are less interesting to me than the power they imbue their caster with. What happens when a woman cannot be killed? What happens when she outlives all her persecutors? What kind of person does she become after thousands of years of forging her own destiny outside of the expectations of society? What drew me to this script was the chance to inhabit the inner workings of three of the most powerful women in history, and delve into their thoughts, feelings and desires as they exist separate from how they've been represented by men. (And, of course, the chance to let three fabulous actresses shine.)

I want to thank James Cain for trusting me with his script, Conrad Newport for always being a step ahead of everyone else when it comes to believing in me, Ange and Rob Bickford for giving me a safety net when I needed it the most, my "Polycule" for making me feel like I deserve the things that I want, Jayne Ramage for refining and perfecting my feminine rage, and most of all my Mum, who remains the most terrifyingly powerful woman I have ever met.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Circa Council and Circa Management, Ellie Stewart, Michael Stebbings, Aimee Monique Ferzsigán, Verna Adam and The Adam Foundation, Murray Lynch and the team at Playmarket, Dransfield House, Conrad Newport, Jayne Ramage, Ange and Rob Bickford, Eleanor Strathern, Sasha Tilly, Trigg, Stevie Hancox-Monk, Paul Tozer, Luke Hawker, Scott Maxim, Eric Gardiner, John Hodgkins, Nadia Newman, WITCH Music Theatre, Sharon Johnstone, Creative Show-Off, Charlie Tse-Cain, Irene Lake and Aileen Davidson.

WHAT'S ON AT CIRCA

www.circa.co.nz

Skyduck: A Chinese Spy Comedy

18 -27 May

Presented by Skyduck & Co

Directed by Aileen Huynh

Circa One | \$30 - \$55



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! Image by Sam Wang

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

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



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. 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."



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