

# Circa Theatre



2024

# What's On

4



**Treasure Island: The Pantomime**  
– Reprise Season!

2 – 13 Jan

5



**PopRox Improv Comedy Nights**

Monthly on Sunday nights Jan–Nov

6



**The Supper Club**

20 Jan – 17 Feb

8



**Lads on the Island**

3 Feb – 2 Mar

10



**Play Readings**

17 Feb, 24 Feb, 7 Jul

11



**Aotearoa NZ Festival**

23 Feb – 17 Mar

12



**Two Guitars**

23 Mar – 13 Apr

14



**Aya and the Butterfly**

13 – 27 Apr

16



**The Golden Ass**

20 Apr – 11 May

18



**End of Summer Time**

4 May – 9 Jun

20



**TRANSMISSION: BETA**

18 May – 15 Jun

22



**The Tiwhas:  
A Matariki Spectacular**

19 – 29 Jun

24



**Sense and Sensibility**

6 Jul – 3 Aug

26



**The Messy Magic Adventure**

9 – 20 Jul

27



**Leave 'Em Laughing**

27 Jul – 17 Aug

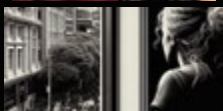
28



**Lizzie**

10 Aug – 7 Sep

30



**The Body Politic**

24 Aug – 21 Sep

32



**Prima Facie**

11 – 28 Sep

33



**Trees, Bees and Me**

28 Sep – 12 Oct

34



**and the Lochburns**

5 Oct – 2 Nov

37



**Cynthia & Gertie Ride Again**

16 Oct – 2 Nov

38



**Sleeping Beauty: The Pantomime**

16 Nov – 22 Dec

40



**The Tempestuous**

6 Nov – 1 Dec

ALL INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



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, Creative New Zealand, and individual donors such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington. Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Simply visit [circa.co.nz/support-us](http://circa.co.nz/support-us) to donate.

Theatre Artists Charitable Trust is a charitable trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 (registration number CC28898).

**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.**

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#### PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



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#### CORE FUNDERS





## Kia Ora and welcome to Circa's 2024 season

Circa Theatre is proud to present another fabulous range of shows in our 2024 programme.

We do hope you enjoy what we have in store for you on stage this year on Wellington's vibrant waterfront, with a range of exciting and diverse plays.

There are also many exciting developments underway including the Great Circa Rebuild for which fundraising continues, and so we may be in a position to complete this year. This includes a brand new bar and cafe, a completely new facade and well overdue upgrades of the building, bringing 'Circa Theatre back to centre stage'.

As always we would like to thank our loyal supporters, play sponsors, practitioners, friends and patrons for helping make the rebuild happen, as well as supporting the 2024 season.

Ngā mihi,  
The Circa Council



*Pictured, left to right from top:  
Susan Wilson, Salesi Le'ota, Neville Carson,  
Linda Wilson, Ross Jolly, Carolyn Henwood,  
Andrew Foster, Simon Leary,  
Gavin Rutherford, Carrie Green,  
Jamie McCaskill, Debbie Fish, Sepe Muaau*

Circa Theatre would like to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the following TACT (Theatre Artists Charitable Trust) Trustees: Charlotte Bates, Debbie Fish, Ian Fraser (TACT Chair – pictured), Dame Carolyn Henwood, James Johnston, Mark Reese.



# Treasure Island: The Pantomime – Reprise Season!

By **Simon Leary** and **Gavin Rutherford**

*Watch out! He's behind yaarrrrrr!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Gavin Rutherford

**MUSIC ARRANGED  
AND DIRECTED BY**  
Michael Nicholas  
Williams

2 – 13 Jan  
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm  
Sun 4pm

\$18 – \$55  
Family Pass available

Proudly sponsored by



Set sail with Orphan Jim, his dog Patch and Aunt Peggy Legg to find the pirate treasure!

Loosely based on the classic story by Robert Louis Stevenson, this summer's pantomime crosses the high seas, faces the Kraken, and navigates lava-erupting volcanoes. It's an all-out adventure that will have the whole family going 'ooooooh' and 'arrrrrrrgh'!

Is the mysterious young witch a trustworthy friend or will she give them the Black Spot? Will Long John Silver steal the map and scupper their plans? Journey from Port Knickerson, past the rocky shores of Johnsonville, to fight off the Bureaucrats of Molesworth Street.

With overboard gags, tropical references, and salty shanties that'll raise your Jolly Roger. Come with us on an expedition to find the greatest treasure of all: love and acceptance.

Naaah. Just kidding. There's actual gold!

*'A rollicking night out!' — The Post*



# PopRox Improv Comedy Nights

*Award-winning comedians bring a one-of-a-kind immersive comedy experience to Circa's stunning restaurant area. Get your Rox off, Wellington.*

**DIRECTOR**  
Dylan Hutton

**COMPANY**  
PopRox

7pm – 8.15pm  
Sunday nights at the  
Circa Bar/Restaurant

28 Jan, 25 Feb, 24 Mar,  
28 Apr, 26 May, 28 Jul,  
25 Aug, 22 Sep, 27 Oct  
(Labour weekend),  
24 Nov

\$25 – \$30



Pōneke's premiere bar-hopping comedy collective have found their home at Circa Theatre for 2024! Throughout the year PopRox are bringing their one-of-a-kind comedy experience to Circa's stunning restaurant area with their unique and immersive improvised shows. Expertly performed in front, beside and within the audience, a PopRox show engages audiences and spaces to create rich and hilarious worlds and stories. Award-winning local performers, table seating, snacks and drinks all make for a Sunday evening you won't regret. Get your rox off.

*'The chemistry and the improvising talent of this group cannot be understated'* — Wellingtonista

*'...throughout the show I'm frequently laughing so hard my chest hurts'*  
— Wellingtonista







# The Supper Club

Starring Ali Harper

*A sumptuous smorgasbord of song*

**DESIGNER**

Ian Harman

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Tom McLeod

**COMPANY**

Ali-Cat Productions

20 Jan - 17 Feb

Circa One

Tues - Thu 6.30pm

Fri - Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$30 - \$55

Early Bird tickets  
available

The logo for Ali-Cat Productions features the name 'Ali-Cat' in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below it, the word 'PRODUCTIONS' is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of the word 'PRODUCTIONS'.

You are cordially invited to Circa Theatre's exclusive *Supper Club* where chanteuse Ali Harper will transport you to a bygone era of glamour and elegance - with a twist.

Step back in time and meet Ali's muses as they reveal themselves before your very eyes where everything is possible and anything goes.

Featuring the Jazz Hot Supper Club Band led by Monsieur Tom McLeod with Olivia Campion, Scott Maynard and Blair Latham.

Ali's previous shows at Circa Theatre - *A Natural Woman*, *The Look Of Love*, *Songs for Nobodies*, *A Doris Day Special*, *Legendary Divas* and *Bombshells* - have been much loved by Circa Theatre's audiences so you won't want to miss out on *The Supper Club*.

Gather up your favourite guys and gals, get your glad rags on and grab yourself the hottest ticket in town!

***'Ali is quite simply phenomenal'***

— Theatreview

***'Do yourself a favour, treat yourself to a ticket and witness a masterful artist at work'*** — Backstage



# Lads on the Island

By Sam Brooks

*A comedy of alchemy and errors*

**DIRECTOR**  
NI Dekkers-Reihana

**STARRING**  
Finley Hughes and  
Reon Bell with  
Bronwyn Ensor

**SET DESIGNER**  
Lucas Neal

**LIGHT DESIGNER**  
Michael Trigg

**SOUND DESIGNER**  
Matt Asunder

**PRODUCER**  
Eleanor Strathern

3 Feb – 2 Mar  
Preview 2 Feb  
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available



A comedy of magic, mezcals, and mates.

Ariel and Prospero are just a couple of lads. A couple of lads who really love each other (but not like that). A couple of lads bound to one another – on an island of their own enchanting. Stubborn Prospero is going through a break-up, so Ariel is left to pick up the pieces. They muster up the essentials for survival: chips, booze and an acoustic guitar.

Larger-than-life characters collide with striking sincerity on a backdrop of impressive illusions, stunning design, and reimaginings of NZ classic tracks. *Lads on the Island* is a sharply written ode to friendship – the messy but magic kind.

The premiere season of a new work by multi award-winning playwright Sam Brooks (*Burn Her*) and starring two breakout stars of the 2022–23 season – Reon Bell (*Flames, Wednesday to Come*) and Finley Hughes (*Pinocchio*).

A new New Zealand classic, inspired (very loosely) by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

# Play Readings

PHOTO: NATHAN BEST, AVODAH



## All the things I have

Written by Jackie Davis | Directed by Kerry Palmer | Starring Heather O'Carroll | Sat 17 Feb 2pm | Circa Two | \$16 - \$25 | Fringe

Ruth is fifty-something, living alone in her hoarded house, with only talkback radio and her things to keep her company. When she is forced to confront her hoarding, she starts to unravel as the shame of her way of life is

uncovered. She comes to know that she must face up to her most painful secret in order to survive.



PHOTO: AIMEE SULLIVAN



## Trojan Horse

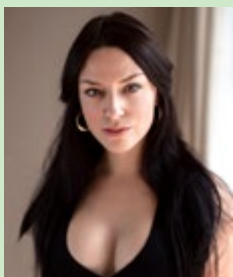
Written by James Cain | Directed by Cassandra Tse | Sat 24 Feb 2pm | Circa Two | \$16 - \$25 | Fringe

Two women, linked by a brutal crime, meet by chance in an antique toy store. What unfolds is a narrative full of twists and turns that will permanently alter the course of their lives. Written by James Cain (*The Coven on Grey Street*),

directed by Cassandra Tse and starring Harriet Prebble, Katherine McRae and Bronwyn Turei, don't miss this reading of a tense new psychological thriller.



PHOTO: SAM MILLEN



## Swimming Lessons

Written by Lizzie Tollemache | Directed by Rachel Lenart | Sun 7 Jul 4.30pm | Circa Two | \$16 - \$25

A funny and ferocious neurodivergent odyssey, from gut punching denial to celebration.

...And how it's extremely annoying that there's a bit more to healing than getting a diagnosis, waving round a crystal and

overusing the word 'boundaries'.

Rallying cry. 90s nostalgia. Embracing of the messy bits in all of us.

Book tickets at [circa.co.nz](http://circa.co.nz)



PHOTO: ISADORA LAO



Adapted from the book *Aliens and Anorexia*  
by Chris Kraus

## Gravity & Grace

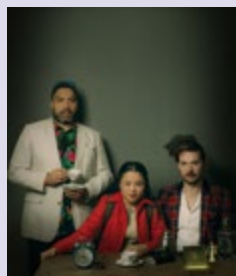
By Eleanor Bishop and Karin McCracken |  
Directed by Eleanor Bishop | Thu 7 Mar, 6.30pm  
| Fri 8 Mar, 8pm | Sat 9 Mar, 4pm | Sun 10 Mar,  
2pm & 6.30pm | Circa One | \$53-\$59 | Choose  
Your Price Sun 10 Mar, 2pm

Brimming with intellect, humour and rich visuals, the show follows Kraus through the production of an ill-fated film in Auckland in the 90s, her bold move to punk New York in the 70s, and to a disastrous appearance at a Berlin film market. See its world premiere this Festival.

PARTNERED BY



THANKS TO



## Our Own Little Mess

Directed by Leo Gene Peters and Jane Yonge |  
A Slightly Isolated Dog | Thu 22 Feb, 6.30pm | Fri  
23 Feb, 8pm | Sat 24 Feb, 4pm & 8pm | Sun 25  
Feb, 4pm | Circa One | \$53-\$59 | Choose Your  
Price Sun 25 Feb, 4pm

Our Own Little Mess is a genre-bending live performance and immersive audio adventure. Follow the sprawling and seemingly unconnected lives of five characters as they navigate life's big mysteries, from Wellington and Auckland to New York and Beijing, from the mundane to the unknowable, in this world premiere.

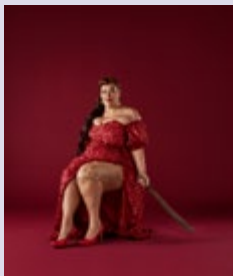
PARTNERED BY



THANKS TO



PHOTO: TOAKI OKANO



## The Savage Coloniser Show

By Tusiata Avia | Directed by Anapela Polata'ivao |  
FCC Theatre | Thu 29 Feb, 6.30pm | Fri 1 Mar, 8pm |  
Sat 2 Mar, 4pm & 8pm | Sun 3 Mar, 4pm | Circa One  
| \$63-\$69 | Choose Your Price Sun 3 Mar, 4pm

Ockham Award winner Tusiata Avia's *The Savage Coloniser Show's* unapologetic and clear-eyed examination of race and racism, the colonised and the coloniser, is full of bold humour, courage and lacerating truths. This is theatre that is as provocative as it is necessary – a red-hot Festival ticket you should not miss.

PRESENTED BY





# Two Guitars

By Jamie McCaskill

*This isn't Te Ao Māori! This is a TV show!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Carrie Green

**23 Mar – 13 Apr**  
**Preview 22 Mar**  
**Circa One**

**Tues – Thurs 6.30pm**  
**Fri – Sat 8pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$30 – \$55**  
**Early Bird tickets**  
**available**



'You be a You Māori. And I'll be a Me Māori. And Billy will be a Him Māori.'

Billy and Te Po are two pretty meke musicians about to smash the biggest night of their lives. But backstage, the super tūturu competition they're in has them thinking: 'umm...are we Māori enough for this gig?'

Award-winning playwright Jamie McCaskill is joined by Golden Guitar winner Cameron Clayton in this musical journey that explores the world of third-gen Māori who've missed the reo bus and find themselves a bit lost.

*'This play has power because it explores very deep human concerns that have a huge effect on lives and identities'*  
— Tania Kopytko, Theatreview

*'Comedy is a great vehicle to convey deeper issues and this is well exemplified in Two Guitars by Jamie McCaskill'* — Tania Kopytko, Theatreview

*'Meaningful, funny, challenging... everything that good theatre should be. Recommend.'* — Audience feedback





# Aya and the Butterfly

**Based on a book by Dr Maysoon Salama**

*A child's journey to happiness with puppetry, music and more!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Bridget Sanders

**COMPANY**  
Birdlife Productions

13 - 27 Apr  
Circa Two

Tues - Sat  
10am and 11.30am  
Sun 4.30pm

\$15  
Under 2s free  
Family pass (4 tickets) \$50

**ACCESSIBILITY**  
We are including  
one relaxed and one  
NZSL performance.  
See [circa.co.nz](http://circa.co.nz) for dates

Award-winning children's theatre company, Birdlife Productions, brings this heart-warming and joyful story to the stage – about a little girl who finds happiness through her experience of the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly. This work is based on the book of the same name by Ōtautahi/ Christchurch based author, Dr Maysoon Salama, who wrote the story for her young granddaughter Aya, and all the tamariki of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Expect exquisite puppetry, live music, lots of joining in and giant caterpillar fun, as well as a poignant experience for children and their whānau.

Ideal for families and children aged 3 to 9 years, and all lovers of puppetry!

*'Everything about this show is perfect!'*  
— Birchwood ELC, August 2023





## BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA

### Annual Membership – \$75

Express your love for theatre by taking up a \$75 annual membership to our Friends of Circa programme. An affordable way to support Circa Theatre, you will receive:

- Two tickets at our special Friends price (\$38 per ticket) for the first two weeks of each production
- A monthly newsletter with special behind-the-scenes access and content
- Access to our exclusive Booking Service where Box Office staff will call to arrange your tickets
- Invitations to Q&As with artists and performers, and other special events
- 10% discount on Circa merchandise
- Invitation to join our social group where Friends can discuss the latest Circa shows
- Automatic entry into our Friends of Circa monthly giveaway of two Circa Theatre tickets

## BECOME A SUPPORTER OF CIRCA THEATRE

Partners, donors and sponsors play an important role at Circa Theatre and every gift makes a difference. To become a donor, or to join Friends of Circa, please contact us in one of the following ways:

- **Online** by visiting [circa.co.nz/support-us](http://circa.co.nz/support-us)
- **Box Office** by calling us on 04 801 7992 or by emailing [circa@circa.co.nz](mailto:circa@circa.co.nz)
- **In Person** by visiting Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington



# The Golden Ass

Adapted by Michael Hurst,  
with additional text by Fiona Samuel

*A Tale of Epic Proportions*

**DIRECTORS**  
Michael Hurst  
& John Gibson

**COMPANY**  
Giant Font

20 Apr – 11 May  
Preview 18 & 19 Apr  
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri – Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available

## GIANT FONT

Coming at you full force via ancient Rome, Michael Hurst's free-wheeling adaptation of the notorious original is a wild ride through a timeless world of bandits, goddesses, witches, circuses, sandals, slaves and sex.

Ambitious young author Lucius travels to a strange town to research his book on Witchcraft. Full of his own importance, he is made to undergo a magical transformation that teaches him the perils of getting what you ask for.

Turned to an ass, he now experiences the world anew in a string of hilarious and harrowing adventures, learning more as a donkey than he ever did as a man.

Laugh-out-loud funny and subversively philosophical, *The Golden Ass* is a powerful plea for empathy in a world gone mad.

*'An ass-stonishing tour de force... riveting, salacious and very funny'*  
— Mike Mather, Stuff

*'A marvellous, skilful performance. This is a show to watch out for'*  
— Charlotte Grimshaw, NZ Listener



# End of Summer Time

By Roger Hall

*Life teaches an old dog new tricks*

**DIRECTOR**  
Ross Jolly

**4 May – 9 Jun**  
**Preview 3 May**  
**Circa Two**

**Tues – Sat 7.30pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$30 – \$55**  
**Early Bird tickets**  
**available**



Sir Roger Hall's latest one-man show again features lovable curmudgeon with a heart of gold, Dickey Hart. Rugby fanatic Dickey first entertained audiences in the late 90s in *C'mon Black!* which toured the country to sell-out crowds. Dickey Hart reappeared in 2013's *You Gotta Be Joking!* and his change of lifestyle, going from the country into town, again kept us highly amused.

Now it is 2023. Older now, Dickey has moved into an Auckland apartment with wife Glenda ... to be nearer the grandchildren. He tries valiantly and hilariously to confront life in the great big, bad city and very funny, sticky situations abound. Then suddenly Covid strikes, and Dickey finds himself isolated and starting to go downhill.

Thankfully he rallies – a little older and a lot wiser – and so a positive, enlightened future can now be enjoyed by the valiant, resilient Dickey... and by crikey he gives it heaps! Because even this crusty old dog can learn new tricks.

Sir Roger Hall, our most successful and popular playwright, has been making us laugh with hit comedies – *Glide Time*, *Spreading Out*, *Four Flat Whites in Italy*, *Who Wants to Be 100?*, *Last Legs* – for over five decades. Now he pens another winner!

Actor Gavin Rutherford ensures Dickey Hart is truthful, likeable and funny. After all, he played the character brilliantly back in 2011 and has been the iconic 'Dame' in countless Circa pantomimes.

Ross Jolly has directed six of Hall's sold-out Circa productions.

'Once again clever Sir Roger Hall strikes comedy gold ... funny, insightful, entertaining... *End of Summer Time* is a great night out. Don't miss it!

— Ross Jolly



**TRANSMISSION**

**BETA**





# TRANSMISSION: BETA

By Stuart McKenzie

*The fight against Covid became a war with each other*

**DIRECTORS**  
Miranda Harcourt  
& Stuart McKenzie

**18 May – 15 Jun**  
Preview 17 May  
Circa One

**Tues – Thurs 6.30pm**  
**Fri – Sat 8pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$30 – \$55**  
Early Bird tickets  
available

Supported by



A Shakespearean tragedy in three acts — from the elimination of the virus to the elimination of a government.

Stuart McKenzie and Miranda Harcourt's powerfully acclaimed verbatim play *TRANSMISSION* mutates!

*TRANSMISSION* (BATS Theatre 2021; published by Playmarket) recorded the white-knuckle battle to eliminate Covid-19 in Aotearoa. Drawn from ongoing interviews with iconic players, *TRANSMISSION: BETA* narrates the mutation and upsurge of the virus. An emotional roller-coaster, the new show charts the violent protests and economic turmoil that followed the vaccination rollouts and mandates; and ended with the downfall of a Prime Minister.

Starring Sophie Hambleton as ex-Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, *TRANSMISSION: BETA* features the voices of ex-Minister of Finance Grant Robertson; economist Bernard Hickey; front-line police officer Fetu Malosi; Assistant Commissioner of Police Richard Chambers; vaccine scientist Kjesten Wiig; Chief Executive of Waipareira Trust John Tamihere; epidemiologist Michael Baker; business leaders, medical experts, protesters and MIQ inmates.

A major new work, *TRANSMISSION: BETA* takes the temperature of a nation.

'I felt like I was preparing people for war. In a way, I guess we were.' — Jacinda Ardern

*'Gripping, amusing, insightful, unexpected, moving – and needs to go viral'*  
— Theatreview

*'a window into the unfathomable responsibility of political power, humane and complex'* — The Spinoff



# The Tiwhas: A Matariki Spectacular

*'Simply the Best' and for 'Absolutely Everybody'*

**DIRECTOR**  
Jthan Morgan

**COMPANY**  
The Tiwhas

**19 - 29 Jun**  
Circa Theatre  
Restaurant & Bar

**Tues - Thur 7pm**  
**Fri - Sat 8pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$40 - \$75**

**THE  
TIWHAS!**

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Join the Tiwhas as they return home to Circa Theatre to celebrate the Māori New Year. Fill your wairua cup at Circa's hearth, as the queens dazzle you with their all new cabaret setlist of galactic hits! Including waiata Māori, old school classics and pop that spans decades!

Coming together to share kai\*, memories and laughter with your whānau is the biggest part of Matariki, so come celebrate with your new extended whānau – The Tiwhas!

*\*With a meal included in the ticket price, Circa has everything sorted so you can celebrate Matariki in style! (Meal times and prices to be announced.)*

Manawa maiea te putanga o Matariki. Come celebrate the rising of Matariki with us.

*'The synchronised dance moves leave me trying to fathom how they can move so effortlessly, sing with such power and play to the audience without missing a beat'*  
— Theatreview

*'The evening is full of high energy numbers melting into poignant ballads with luscious harmonies'* — Theatreview



# Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen and Penny Ashton

*'What point is there to life but to share one's joys!'*

**DIRECTOR**  
Penny Ashton

**SET AND  
COSTUME DESIGN**  
Ian Harman

**PRODUCER**  
Gavin Rutherford

6 Jul - 3 Aug  
Preview 5 Jul  
Circa One

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri - Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$30 - \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available



A classic tale of sisters, suitors and losing your senses.

Six spectacular women breathe life into 24 characters in this colourful romp through the British Regency period.

Left destitute upon their father's death, sensible Elinor and madly passionate Marianne are seeking true love and happiness – but just what secrets are the gentlemen hiding behind their flannel waistcoats?

Based on Jane Austen's masterpiece, *Sense and Sensibility* is the latest rambunctious rewrite by Penny Ashton (*Olive Copperbottom*, *Promise and Promiscuity*) and is Ashton's directorial debut. Austen fans and novices alike will delight in the hilarity, throbbing hearts and vivid theatricality of this bold production.

*'Comedy is hard... – it's serious stuff  
– and this is bloody funny'*  
— Flat City Field Notes

*'...Ashton's adaptation is perfection'*  
—Theatreview



# The Messy Magic Adventure

By David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache

*Cult classic kids' show returns!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Greg Cooper

**COMPANY**  
Rollicking  
Entertainment

Circa Two

9 - 20 Jul  
11am and 1pm

\$15  
Under 2s free  
Family pass (4 tickets) \$50

Spray and Wipe are two very sensible cleaners. Until the day that one mistake turns *everything* topsy-turvy.

Now magic is on the loose and the audience must help get it back in the box, as the house gets messier and messier!

Rollicking Entertainment's cult classic kids show delivers the best of circus, slapstick and magic in this very special adventure for children and their families.

**Rollicking**  
Entertainment

*'Gleeful physical comedy, the entire audience appears to be having a ball... Highly recommended'* — Theatreview





# Leave 'em Laughing

Created by Jane Keller  
and Michael Nicholas Williams

*A musical memoir*

**DIRECTOR**  
K.C. Kelly

**COMPANY**  
Hurst First  
Productions

**27 Jul - 17 Aug**  
**Preview 26 Jul**  
**Circa Two**

**Tues - Sat 7.30pm**  
**Sun 4.30pm**

**\$25 - \$38**

Thirty-six years ago Jane Keller followed her heart and emigrated to New Zealand bringing her fabulous talents to our shores.

Comedy ensued.

Over the years Jane's five sold-out solo shows dealing with such diverse topics as love, loss, motherhood, auditions, ageing, weight, nudity, divorce, middle age revenge porn, boomers, and in 2021 an intimate history of the Gershwins - delighted audiences nationwide.

Join Jane and pianist Michael Nicholas Williams as they revisit highlights of their 25+ years of collaboration in this marvellous musical memoir. Guaranteed to make your heart sing and leave you laughing.

*'Jane Keller is a terrific performer with comic timing to die for'*  
— The Dominion Post

*'Keller's singing is impeccable. Her easy-to-listen-to clarity gives flight to whimsy, comedy, satire and pathos'*  
— The National Business Review





# Lizzie

By Steven Cheslik-deMeyer, Tim Maner,  
and Alan Stevens Hewitt

*The smash-hit musical*

**DIRECTOR**  
Ben Emerson

**CO-DIRECTOR &  
CHOREOGRAPHER**  
Greta Casey-Solly  
(Te Atiawa)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
Hayden Taylor

**MUSIC & LYRICS**  
Steven Cheslik-deMeyer

**LYRICS, BOOK, &  
ADDITIONAL MUSIC**  
Tim Maner

**MUSIC &  
ADDITIONAL LYRICS**  
Alan Stevens Hewitt

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**  
Joshua Tucker

10 Aug – 7 Sep  
Preview 9 Aug  
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri – Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available

## WITCH

By Arrangement with  
ORiGiN™ Theatrical  
on behalf of Broadway  
Licensing

Revenge, betrayal, sex, murder! What really happened in the house of Borden?

On a sweltering summer in 1892, a wealthy businessman and his wife were found murdered in their own home. Their daughter, Lizzie Borden, was the prime suspect.

*Lizzie* is the punk-rock musical reimagining of the gripping true-crime case of Lizzie Borden, exploring the heady and heated events leading up to the infamous trial that became a media sensation.

Brought to life by a powerhouse cast of four women and a searing live band, *Lizzie* is a suspenseful, queer, and rebellious new musical laced with political depth and a mischievous sense of humour that'll keep you on the edge of your seat.

WINNER of 8 'Best Musical' Awards.

★★★★★ 'A "tour de force" of musical theatre' — North West End UK (2023)

★★★★½ 'Must-see show [...] an absolute banger'  
— Sydney Morning Herald (2022)



# The Body Politic

By Elspeth Sandys

*Witty, wry and compelling*

DIRECTED AND  
DESIGNED BY  
Andrew Foster

24 Aug – 21 Sep  
Preview 23 Aug  
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available

Supported by

**The Hon Robert  
Smellie, KC**



Weaving contemporary themes local and international, *The Body Politic* explores the collapse of democracy around the world in a satirical examination of lives in a Wellington apartment complex.

Residents of 'Green Meadows' find themselves at loggerheads over matters of culture, race, religion, and power-sharing. Is it to be a democracy or a dictatorship? Will the latest arrival, a Samoan lawyer with a troubled past, be accepted at the vetting meeting? And will Miriam, the single mother, stay loyal to Clarice, who controls the Body Corp?

Sandy's wry observations capture the vibrancy and diversity of our capital in the age of disruption, shining a light on the power struggles and personality clashes that are an inevitable part of living in an inner-city apartment, where the running of even a mini democracy can lead to intimidation and threats of legal action.

Elspeth Sandys has published nine novels, two collections of short stories, two memoirs and a non-fiction work centred on her cousin Rewi Alley. She has written extensively for the BBC and RNZ. Her stage plays have been performed in the UK and NZ.

*'Sandys has been an observer or participant in some of the most significant moments and movements of New Zealand writing. She's recorded our culture, aspirations, identity.'*

— NZ Herald



# Prima Facie

By Suzie Miller

*Something has to change*

**DIRECTOR**  
Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

**STARRING**  
Mel Dodge

**COMPANIES**  
Kavanah Productions  
& BRAVE Theatre

11 – 28 Sep  
Preview 10 Sep  
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri – Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available

Back after its sell-out season in 2023!

This vital, witty, gripping, multi-award-winning solo show is touring New Zealand and is back at Circa Theatre for a limited time.

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?

This phenomenal production starring Mel Dodge and directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford continues an urgent conversation for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This show includes themes of sexual assault. Recommended for audiences 12+.

*'This play is the reason you go to the theatre'* — Courier Mail

*'An urgent and compelling work... run, don't walk'* ★★★★★ — Time Out

Bookings open 1 May. Until then, for priority bookings email [circa@circa.co.nz](mailto:circa@circa.co.nz).

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



# Trees, Bees and Me

**Catriona Tipene and Ryan Cundy**

*A charming Kiwi adventure for the young and young at heart!*

**DIRECTOR**  
Catriona Tipene

**COMPANY**  
Horse With No Name

**28 Sep – 12 Oct**  
Circa Two

**10am and 11.30am**

**\$15**  
**Under 2s free**  
**Family pass**  
**(4 tickets) \$50**



**HORSE**  
WITH NO NAME

Mimi, Poppa and Trey are on a magical quest to Mount Rubbishmore to save the world from the villainous Litter Bug! Mimi is still learning how to be a hero, but Poppa is there to guide her. Together, they explore how the whenua is part of their whānau.

A Kiwi tale, featuring iconic NZ creatures, landscapes, and fresh waiata by NZ singer-songwriter Benny Tipene. Brought to the stage by the multi-award winning theatre company Horse With No Name, and made beautiful through costumes by Wellington Theatre Awards 2021 Costume Designer of the year GRIDLEY by Victoria, *Trees, Bees and Me* is a journey for the kiwi kids and the whole family!

**Acclaim for previous show, *Land of the Long Long Drive*:**

*'Horse With No Name have come up with one of the best children's theatre shows that Wellington has seen in quite some time'* — Deborah Rea, Theatreview







# and the Lochburns

William Duignan

*A perfectly pitched family drama*

DIRECTOR  
Andrew Paterson

5 Oct – 2 Nov  
Preview 4 Oct  
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm  
Fri – Sat 8pm  
Sun 4pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
**PLAYMARKET**  
HE Kōwhiri Raukōwhiri  
HE Kōwhiri Raukōwhiri

Gus Lochburn is a celebrated pianist. But this weekend he is being moved into a care home.

His three grown children have the weekend to pack up his life, their childhood, and the memories of their mother into neat boxes. It's been five minutes – they are already at each other's throats.

Between fights and fugues comes magic, memory, and music.

Starring a celebrated cast of actor-musicians, performing soaring symphonies and jazz standards. *and the Lochburns* is brought to life by an exceptional band of award-winning theatremakers, including married duo Andrew Paterson and William Duignan, and designer Meg Rollandi (NZ National Curator, Prague Quadrennial 2023).

Regress back to childhood squabbles, pubescent spats, and fights over pizza slices, in one nostalgic night of loss and laughter.

This touching new play is a world premiere not soon forgotten.

*'We were all blown away by the play ... utterly captivating'*  
— Audience member, 2023 reading

# CIRCA THEATRE RESTAURANT & BAR

*A unique heritage, waterfront eatery*

Enjoy innovative cuisine made from the freshest local ingredients as a pre-theatre experience or your next evening out. Please contact us for reservations on [circa@kapura.co.nz](mailto:circa@kapura.co.nz).



## FUNCTIONS VENUE

Host your next function at Circa and enjoy great food and service in a venue like no other. For enquiries please contact [circa@kapura.co.nz](mailto:circa@kapura.co.nz).

## ACCESSIBILITY AT CIRCA

Circa Theatre strives to make theatre of the highest quality available to all members of our community. We offer a range of different accessible performances to suit audience members with different needs and requirements. These include NZSL Interpreted Performances for Deaf audience members, Audio Description for visually impaired patrons and Relaxed Performances for people who benefit from a more relaxed environment, including people with an autism spectrum disorder and people with intellectual or learning disabilities. For more information please visit [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz) or contact [access@circa.co.nz](mailto:access@circa.co.nz).

## BOOKINGS

Bookings can be made in person at the Box Office, by phone on 04 801 7992 or online anytime at [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz). Please note that all Visa and Mastercard transactions incur a \$2 contribution towards the standard card fees.

## EARLY BIRD TICKETS

Book in advance, secure your seats and enjoy \$10 off on Adult tickets \$45 (normally \$55) and BConcession tickets \$35 (normally \$45).

Note: Only applies to selected shows and is available for the first two weeks of public sale. Keep up to date at [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz).





# Cynthia & Gertie Ride Again

By Helen Moulder

*Music, mayhem and madness*

**DIRECTOR**  
Jeff Kingsford-Brown

**COMPANY**  
Willow Productions

16 Oct – 2 Nov  
Preview 15 Oct  
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$30 – \$55  
Early Bird tickets  
available



WILLOW  
PRODUCTIONS

The great (definitely fading) travelling opera singer Miss Cynthia Fortitude, played by Helen Moulder, is giving a musical lecture for the inaugural meeting of IBOG, the Island Bay Opera Guild. Her long-suffering accompanist Miss Gertrude Rallentando is nowhere to be found, so Cynthia must battle on without her. 'I wanted to honour the character of Gertie,' Helen says. 'My good friend, Rose Beauchamp, who played Gertie for thirty years with me in *Hens' Teeth*, *The Legend Returns* and *Cynthia & Gertie Go Baroque*, sadly died last year, and I wanted the delicious character of Gertie to live on somehow.' Gertie does not appear in this show of course, but is very present in all sorts of ways!

*'Helen Moulder's determined, dotty and totally delightful Cynthia... an unbeatable gem of a comic character'*  
— Laurie Atkinson, Dominion Post

*'A most enduring clown, an irreverent and fanciful diva'*  
— Thomas La Hood, Theatreview



# Sleeping Beauty: The Pantomime

**Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford**

*A family comedy where a stitch in time saves  
nine thousand years*

**DIRECTOR**  
Gavin Rutherford

**MUSIC ARRANGED AND  
DIRECTED BY**  
Michael Nicholas Williams

**16 Nov - 22 Dec**  
**Previews 13 - 15 Nov**  
**Circa One**

**Tues - Sat 6.30pm**  
**Sun 4pm**

**\$30 - \$55**  
**Family Pass available**  
**Early Bird tickets**  
**available**



Aurora is the people's princess of Wellingtonia – with a curse.

On her first birthday an evil spell is cast: one day she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel, sending her into an unbreakable deep sleep.

With the help of sassy fairies that watch over her and a surprise visit from two interdimensional travellers, Aurora must venture through the time-space continuum to stay conscious and reclaim her throne from evil forces.

An original pantomime that takes a beloved fairytale and adds equal amounts of song, dance, and sci-fi to bubble up a perfect potion the whole whānau will love.

A high-energy romp of comedy and capers – *Sleeping Beauty* is anything but a snoozefest.

Celebrating 20 years of Circa Theatre pantomimes.

*'The script, the music, the acting, the audience participation, it was superb'*  
— 2023 audience feedback



# The Tempestuous

*A shrew'd new comedy by Will Shakespeare  
and Penny Ashton*

**WORKSHOP DIRECTOR**  
Ben Crowder

**COMPANY**  
Penash Productions

**COSTUME DESIGN**  
Elizabeth Whiting

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**  
Robbie Ellis

6 Nov - 1 Dec  
Preview 5 Nov  
Circa Two

Tues - Sat 7.30pm  
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 - \$38.50

Sicily's beloved King Enzo is dead.

Now Princess Rosa, a stropky spinster, must navigate the tempestuous waters of belching stepfathers, lusty suitors, popping cod pieces and menopausal witches, to face her destiny.

Award-winning comedian Penny Ashton (*Promise and Promiscuity*, *Olive Copperbottom*) presents her latest literary solo musical with this Shakespearean frolic. She'll spark 13 characters into life in an Elizabethan tale of magic, meddling and puffed bull's pizzles.

*'...a well-crafted and deftly performed production of a witty and intelligent show. I very much appreciate the skilful use of Shakespearean material throughout.'* —Theatreview

*'... a funny and clever romp... an excellently written script that Shakespeare himself would be proud of'* — Theatrescenes



# The Great Circa Rebuild

Circa Theatre is at the heart of Wellington's arts community. Located on our incredible Wellington waterfront, our building is considered part of Wellington's identity and an icon. The time has come for ensuring Circa Theatre takes centre stage again by completing repairs and renovations, and replacing the frontage with one that is resilient, fit-for-purpose, and sustainable for generations to come.

The stunning design by Sebastian Bernhardt of Inside Design, includes a '*Valerium*', a kinetic art installation, by internationally renowned designer Kayne Horsham of Kaynemaile. Their light-weight bio-based architectural fabric, inspired by the chainmail armour in *The Lord of the Rings*, is hard-wearing and will move with a wiri, reflecting the waters of our energised harbour-side location.

Circa is artist-focused, and most of our income goes directly to creative artists rather than bricks and mortar. We are therefore asking for your help to raise the \$2.7 million needed to bring our vision to life. We extend our deepest thanks to the Wellington City Council and the Lottery Community Facilities Fund for their considerable investment into this project. But we still urgently need your help to get us over the line.

**Please consider making a gift today. All your donations will make a difference.**

*If you have any questions about the project, or you wish to make a larger contribution, please contact Chrissy Boulton on [partnership@circa.co.nz](mailto:partnership@circa.co.nz)*



Race to the curtain-raiser on  
**THE GREAT  
CIRCA REBUILD**

Concept art: Inside Design



**Your Theatre needs  
you, Wellington!**

Please help us to get over the line.



*Scan now to help*

**FIND OUT MORE HERE**

[circa.co.nz/package/on-the-waterfront/](https://circa.co.nz/package/on-the-waterfront/)

**CIRCA THEATRE**

04 801 7992 | [www.circa.co.nz](http://www.circa.co.nz)

Did you notice the AI imagery used in the Circa Theatre 2024 programme? Circa supports new technologies that enable artists to create their work, especially when these tools can reduce costs for local artists. However we acknowledge the conversation around AI is complex, and we support continued legislation to ensure artists remain in control of how and when their work is used, and are compensated fairly for the use of their work, including in the development of AI tools. The conversation will continue to evolve and we welcome your feedback.

