

## CIRCA'S INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED WORK MAKES AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

Judith Wright Centre and Circa present the Australian premiere of  
**CIRCA**

*...so knee-tremblingly sexy, beautiful and moving.* \* \* \* \* **The Guardian, UK**

Direct from critically acclaimed seasons in Germany, Edinburgh and London, Brisbane's own contemporary circus ensemble **CIRCA** will perform their new self-titled show for the first time in Australia at Judith Wright Centre on Wednesday 3 March 2010.

Remixed from three of the company's most acclaimed works, *The Space Between*, *Furioso* and *by the light of stars that are no longer...*, **CIRCA** will make its Australian premiere before playing a season at the Barbican in London.

**CIRCA** Artistic Director Yaron Lifschitz, who at 19 years was the youngest director to be accepted into NIDA and directed the likes of Toni Collette and Cate Blanchett before he turned to the world of circus, says the new work showcases the "physical poetry" for which the company is renowned.

"For me, the show is pure physical poetry; an exquisite mixture of sound, light, projection, movement, bodies and incredible circus skills," Yaron said.

"There are moments that are dynamic and exciting as acrobats fly through the air; then there are moments that are still, lyrical and beautiful as the performers balance precariously on each other or hang in suspension," he said.

Capturing the lyricism and beauty of which Yaron speaks is a routine where, under a single spotlight, an acrobat performs on someone else's shoulders, set to Gavin Bryars' string music.

In another scene, a lady walks in red high-heels up and down the body of a standing male performer, a routine that Artistic Director Yaron Lifschitz describes as "legato - very soft yet at the same time very controlled".

**CIRCA** also features moments of absurdity, often juxtaposed against emotionally-charged music. In one scene, a performer feeds a balloon through her nose and out her mouth to a seductive rendition of Radiohead's *Paranoid Android* recorded by ARIA Award-winner and Grammy-nominee Sia.

Director Yaron Lifschitz references Andy Warhol when he describes the intensity and immediacy of circus, and says **CIRCA** showcases the company's signature style and the strength of its seven performers.

"Andy Warhol once said that 'sex and parties are two things that you need to be there for – things that involve you and other people'. Circus is something to add to that list," Yaron said.

"You have to be in the room for circus to mean anything. It's risky, it's intimate, it's intense and it's dramatic. The **CIRCA** experience is all of these things," he said.

"**CIRCA** encapsulates our company's style; the work is beautiful and sophisticated and our performers are powerful. To be a performer in Circa you need the body of an athlete, the soul of an artist, a joyous spirit and a fearless heart," he said.

Only 200 seats are available for the Australian premiere of **CIRCA**, which will play the Judith Wright Centre for one night only on Wednesday 3 March 2010.

**-ENDS-**

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 3 March 2010
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Full \$35, Concession \$25, Groups of 10 \$25 per person, School groups \$18 per student + 1 free teacher per 10 students
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

## BIORGRAPHIES

**Artistic Director Yaron Lifschitz** is a graduate of the University of NSW and NIDA where he was the youngest director ever accepted into its prestigious graduate director's course. Since graduating, Yaron has directed over 60 productions including large scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre and circus. His work has been seen in 18 countries across 5 continents by over 500 000 people. He was foundation artistic director of the Australian Museum's Theatre Unit, Head Tutor in Directing at Australian Theatre for Young People and has been regular guest tutor in directing at NIDA since 1995. He is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Circa. With Circa, Yaron has created works such as *by the light of stars that are no longer...*, *The Space Between* and *61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes*. His recent works have been reviewed as being "stunning", "exquisite" and "the standard to which all other circuses can aspire". Yaron lives in Brisbane with his son, Oscar, and is currently completing a Masters in Creative Writing. His passion is creating works of philosophical and poetic depth from the traditional languages of circus.

**Performer Freyja Edney** has been training and performing aerials since the age of 8. Freya spent 7 years at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, graduating in 2007. Since graduating Freyja has taught at the Fruit Flies and at Little Devils Circus as well as facilitating and teaching many workshops. Freyja's performance experiences include performing at the 2005 World Expo in Aichi, Japan. At the 2006 Commonwealth Games 'Cultural Festival'. Touring the east coast of Australia throughout 2007 as part of the national tour of 'Circus Girl', and touring nationally and internationally with Circa in 2009, joining the ensemble full time at the end of 2009.

**Performer Darcy Grant** joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus at age 13. After touring Australia and overseas for six years, Darcy went on to teach at the Little Big Tops in Melbourne. Darcy is an acrobat, tumbler, unicycle rider, diabolist and hand balancer. Darcy is also a highly skilled circus trainer and regularly leads Circa's community training programs. In addition to this he also has a strong partnership with the Blackrobats the Indigenous youth circus from northern Australia, running intensive training and performing with them at the Byron Bay Blues Festival. Darcy has been a member of Circa for six years.

**Performer Emma McGovern's** passion for the physical art forms have led her on a journey through dance, physical theatre, circus, and martial arts. Studying Dance at the Conservatorium of Arts in Lismore in 1999, then merging into the world of circus. She has been working professionally for the last 6 years both in Australia and overseas with a variety of companies including Circus Monoxide, Aerial Angels, Strutt n Fret, CIRCA, and Topchick management. Her specialities include - Corde Lisse, Tissu, Duo trapeze, and Aerial ring. Other skills and training include Hand Balancing, Adagio, Hand to Hand, Tumbling, Capoeira, and Flying Trapeze.

**Performer Emma Serjeant** is a shining graduate of Australia's National Institute of Circus Arts, majoring in hand balancing under the guidance of internationally renowned Master Trainer Lu Guang Rong. In March 2007, Emma was one of Australia's first invitees to the annual European circus school gathering, La Piste Aux Espoirs Festival in Belgium, proudly representing her university and country at this prestigious international event.

**Performer Jesse Scott** has been involved in the circus industry since he could walk. As a member of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus for 11 years, Jesse was taught under the guidance of some of the worlds best circus trainers including Master Trainer Lu Guang Rong. After graduating in 2004, Jesse has worked as a freelance performer both nationally and internationally with companies including Legs on the Wall, The Australian Opera and CIRCA. A major influence in Jesse's career has been his strong involvement with the Brewarrina Youth Circus, passing on his skills and knowledge to the members of Australia's largest indigenous youth circus.

**Performer Lewis West** born on Australia Day 1988 as the youngest of four boys, Lewis has been constantly moving since birth. He began with gymnastics, then bounced between trampolining, breakdancing and various circus disciplines in the aerial, manipulation and acrobatic streams. He has been a part of the Warehouse Youth Circus, the circus stunt crew Team Loko and graduated from the National Institute of Circus Arts in 2008. When not training circus he can be found spinning on his head.

**Performer Scott Grove** has been performing professionally as an acrobat since he was 15 years old. He joined The Leaping Loonies in 1995 and spent the next 13 years performing in and co-directing their shows. He has toured all over Australia and Asia doing shows at schools, theatres, clubs, shopping centres and corporate events, and spent 4 summer seasons in Europe and the UK performing at festivals. Over the years he has also worked with various other projects including the English National Ballet, the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony, Flying Trapeze Australia and the Tom Tom Crew. He has a wide range of skills including knockabout acrobatics, tumbling, teeterboard, pitching, handstands, flying trapeze and russian swing. Off stage he spends most of his time surfing, playing music and eating large quantities of food.

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