

DIRECT FROM SELL-OUT SEASONS IN NEW YORK, LONDON AND EDINBURGH COMES TOM TOM CREW

Judith Wright Centre and Strut & Fret present
TOM TOM CREW

WINNER – STAR OF THE FESTIVAL & ARGUS ANGEL AWARD – BRIGHTON FESTIVALS 2008

‘A raucous good time...no ordinary circus outing...impressive...mesmerising...infectious’ Time Out, New York

“If you're not applauding, stomping, cheering, whistling and kickin' to the beats by the end, you've missed the point. This is high-energy, high-impact entertainment ... it must be seen” The Advertiser

Direct from selling out 21 consecutive shows at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and seasons in New York, London, Sydney and Adelaide, **Tom Tom Crew** will premiere in Brisbane at Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 25 November until Saturday 12 December 2009.

Described as a “slap-in-the-face collision of super-charged circus and heart-pumping music”, **Tom Tom Crew** is excited to “finally show Brisbane crowds what the fuss is all about”, says Director Scott Maidment (Strut & Fret).

“After touring all over the world this year we can’t wait to bring this fantastic production back home to an Australian audience, particularly here in Brisbane as that’s home to many of the crew,” Maidment said.

“Brisbane crowds can expect to be blown away; **Tom Tom Crew** is a non-stop hour of high-energy acrobatics, phenomenal beat-boxing, master turntabalism and indescribable drumming,” he said.

“This is circus at its most extreme, and the dynamic explosiveness of the human body can only be matched by the sheer power of musical rhythms,” he said.

World renowned percussionist **Ben Walsh** drives the soundtrack with explosive rhythms and pulsating beats created from his self-made drumkits, mashed together from chemical drums, 80s Asian gadgets and over 2000 cable ties.

Completing the live soundtrack are acclaimed local artists, mix-master **Sampology**, who has performed alongside the likes of DJ Shadow and Cut-Chemist and Peaches, and beat-boxing wiz-kid **Tom Thum**.

At just age 18 **Tom Thum** was crowned the World Duo Champion at the 2005 World Beat Boxing Championships in Germany, and more recently secured a second place victory at Scribblejam, America’s most prestigious hip-hop competition.

Flipping, flying and slamming up the stage are Flying Fruit Fly Circus graduates **Daniel Catlow** and **Shane Witt**, along with some of Australia’s freshest new circus talent.

Intense acrobatics, aerials and tumbling combine as the circus performers catapult six metres into the air off a giant see-saw and drop from the rafters holding only an aerial strap.

Since its premiere at *Woodford Folk Festival* in 2006, **Tom Tom Crew** has carved its name onto the A-List of festival acts worldwide and will explode into action at the Judith Wright Centre from Wednesday 25 to Saturday 12 December.

-ENDS-

Date	Wednesday 25 November until Saturday 12 December 2009
Time	Tue – Sat 7.30pm + Sat 2pm + Sun 29 Nov 5pm
Venue	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Full \$35, Concession \$30, Groups 10+ \$28, School Groups 10+ \$22 (includes one teacher comp)
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

**For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS

TOM TOM CREW

'Turntablism, ridiculously impressive beatboxing, high energy drumming and acrobatics... make a slick modern day circus show. Tighter than a jerry curl, and never shifts out of top gear' ★★★★★ *The List (UK)*

'This is not sterilised physical theatre, this is circus for the 21st Century' ★★★★★ *Three Weeks (UK)*

'An unusual blend of high-energy acrobatics and high-energy hip-hop...much more than testosterone-fueled frolicking, as cartwheeling and breaking give way to astonishing moves...(They) happily wage war with the laws of physics' *New York Times*

'60 minutes of great beats, wowing physical feats and lively, sweaty fun' *Metro (UK)*

"An urban, streetwise version of Cirque du Soleil" *The Guardian (UK)*

'Something of a cross between Stomp and La Clique' *Whatsonstage.com (UK)*

'A must-see' *Daily Telegraph (UK)*

'The new wizards of Oz' *Evening Standard (UK)*

'It's difficult to describe the indescribable' *British Theatre Guide*

TOM THUM

'Tom Thum appears to have swallowed an entire orchestra and several backing singers' *The Guardian (UK)*

'There are not enough superlatives to describe the wonder of this beatboxing virtuoso - I am still trying to figure out how he got those sounds out of his mouth' *The Daily Telegraph (UK)*

'The mic master seems to have an orchestra living in his throat: trumpet blasts, guitar strums and samples from classic songs including Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" effortlessly spout from his mouth' *Time Out (NY)*

'It is the virtuosic beatboxer Tom Thum who really sends everyone wild.'" *www.thestage.co.uk*

BEN WALSH AND THE OMNICHORD

'The drummer and his 360° "drum kit of death" was an awe-inspiring thing to watch, as was the tender musical homage to a Japanese electronic harp' *Pink Paper Magazine (UK)*

'Ben Walsh, musical director... offers a singalong ode to an electronic Japanese harp and plays eight drums simultaneously' *New York Times*

SAMPOLOGY

'Tip-top turn-tableism from an angelic-looking Aussie scratch prodigy who goes by the name of Sampology. Sampology blends and hand mixes his turntables like Chopin must have played the piano' *www.whatsonintheatre.co.uk*

'Sampology juggles his beats with improv cool' *Evening Standard (UK)*

'I challenge anyone not to be hugely impressed with the technical ability of Sampology, even if you have no clue about the style of music or 'the decks'' *www.playsToSee.com*

'On the decks you have Sampology who has turned spinning records into an art form as he combines sound and vision to create a multimedia sensation' *British Theatre Guide*

'DJ Sampology keeps the beats fresh and the energy high' *nytheatre.com*

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

BIOGRAPHIES

TOM TOM CREW tomtomcrew.com

Tom Tom Crew exploded into action at the 2006-2007 *Woodford Folk Festival*. This fusion of breaks, beats, flips and awe inspiring physical spectacle sold-out at the 2007 *Adelaide Fringe Festival* and has continued to amaze and delight audiences nationally and worldwide. Debuting internationally, the show carved its name onto the A-List of UK festival acts at the 2007 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival* and finished off the year with a season at the prestigious *Sydney Opera House*. Tom Tom Crew returned to Adelaide 2008 for a further sell-out season, performed at the *Hoopla Street Theatre Festival* and revisited the UK for a month long season at the *Brighton Fringe*, where they picked up *Star of the Festival* and *Argus Angel Awards*. 2009 highlights include a regional tour of South Australia, a visit to the *Rotorua Arts Festival* and a tour of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, a Broadway debut at the *New Victory Theatre* in New York, a five-week season in London for the *Udderbelly* at the *Southbank Centre* and a 21-date season at *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*.

BEN WALSH is the brain-child behind electronic hit *The Bird* and has trained extensively in the ancient drumming arts of many international cultures, including Indian *Tabla* and Japanese *Taiko* - which is described as *Kung Fu with drums*. He performed with Japanese drumming outfit *Taikoz* and was a founding member of the Australian/Indian fusion group *DHA*, as well as the highly acclaimed *Circle of Rhythm*. Ben and *Strut & Fret* have toured his solo works *First Sound* and *Circuit Breaker* throughout Australia and internationally to the *Hong Kong Arts Festival*, *Taipei Dance Forum* and *Esplanade Theatres*, Singapore. Recent projects include a commission to score *Fantastic Planet*, an original animated film, and a new work called *Orkestra of the Underground* for the 2009 *Sydney Festival*.

DANIEL CATLOW is a graduate of the *Flying Fruit Fly Circus*, having spent 10 years specializing in acrobatics, teeterboard and tight wire. He has performed throughout Australia and internationally, including Canada, Hawaii, New Zealand, Holland, the UK and New York on Broadway. Daniel has been involved with various different companies including *Strut & Fret*, *CIRCA* and *Flipside Circus (Trainer)*. He performed a month long season of 'How Many Sleeps' in Brisbane during 2008, and during the 2009 *Streets of Melbourne* (Melbourne's inaugural street theatre festival). He also appeared in 'A Barrel of Monkeys', for the *Perth Winter Arts Festival* and *Federation Square's* holiday program. Daniel recently starred in commercials for *FUJI Xerox* which aired in Japan, performing teeterboard with *Shane Witt*.

SAMPOLOGY (Sam Poggioli) burst onto the Australian DJ scene in 2003, fast establishing himself as one of the country's most talented, technically proficient, versatile and unique DJ/producers. Sam has played alongside some of the world's best hip hop and dance music artists including *Grandmaster Flash*, *DJ Shadow & Cut Chemist*, *Q Bert*, *The Freestylers*, *Roots Manuva*, *Q Tip*, *Pendulum*, *DJ Craze* and *Peaches* to name a few and has performed in venues like *The Key Club* on sunset strip in LA, performing with *Soma Rasa* at the international music conference *MUSEXPO 2006*. *Sampology's* performances demonstrate his prowess on the 1s and 2s, showcasing him as one of the world's most gifted and exciting young DJ/VJs today. Says *Peaches*, "Sampology makes me wanna break dance".

SHANE WITT is a graduate of the *Flying Fruit Fly Circus*, where he continues to work as head coach and teacher. Shane has performed throughout Australia and internationally, including return seasons to Broadway, New York, Canada, Hawaii with *Flying Fruit Fly Circus* productions. Shane is a highly accomplished acrobat and tumbler, specialising in *Teeterboard*. Together with *Daniel Catlow*, they are Australia's leading artists of this apparatus having performed for numerous awards nights, corporate functions, events and festivals around the globe. He also appeared in *Barrel of Monkeys*, for the *Perth Winter Arts Festival* and *Federation Square's* holiday program and has appeared in commercials for *FUJI Japan* performing with *Daniel* on the teeterboard. Shane has also performed in the 2006 *Commonwealth Games* and 2000 *Olympic opening ceremonies*.

SCOTT MAIDMENT (Director) is the Creative Director of one of Australia's most vibrant and prolific young companies, *Strut & Fret Production House*. Combining theatre, circus, aerial and spectacle, Scott has produced major events and productions for festivals including *Brisbane Festival*, *Adelaide Cabaret Festival*, *Melbourne International Comedy Festival*, *Adelaide Fringe Festival*, *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, *Dublin Fringe Festival*, *Brisbane International Film Festival*, and many more. Scott directed the award-winning *Secret Death of Salvador Dali*, as well as *Feasting on Flesh*, *Barrel of Monkeys*, *Now I'm 10* and *Storm in A Teacup* (*Flipside Children's Circus*). Scott was also recently the *Artistic Program Consultant* for *Awesome Festival*.

TOM THUM is one of Australia's most prolific beat-boxers, having been awarded Australia's best beatboxer four years in a row in the *OzHipHop* awards and winning the team battle *Beatboxing World Championships* in 2005 alongside *Joel Turner*. In 2006 Tom received second place at the *Scribble Jam* beatbox battles, America's most prestigious hip-hop competition. Tom is constantly touring and performing at many national and international festivals and gigs, but also remains a solid member of the local *Brisbane Hip Hop* scene as a breakdancer, graffiti writer, emcee and producer. He also has a collection of fierce animals.

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