

CIRCUS OZ

Friday, March 3, 2017, 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 4, 2017, 2:00 pm



Photo: Rob Blackburn

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OPENING SEASON 2016/2017

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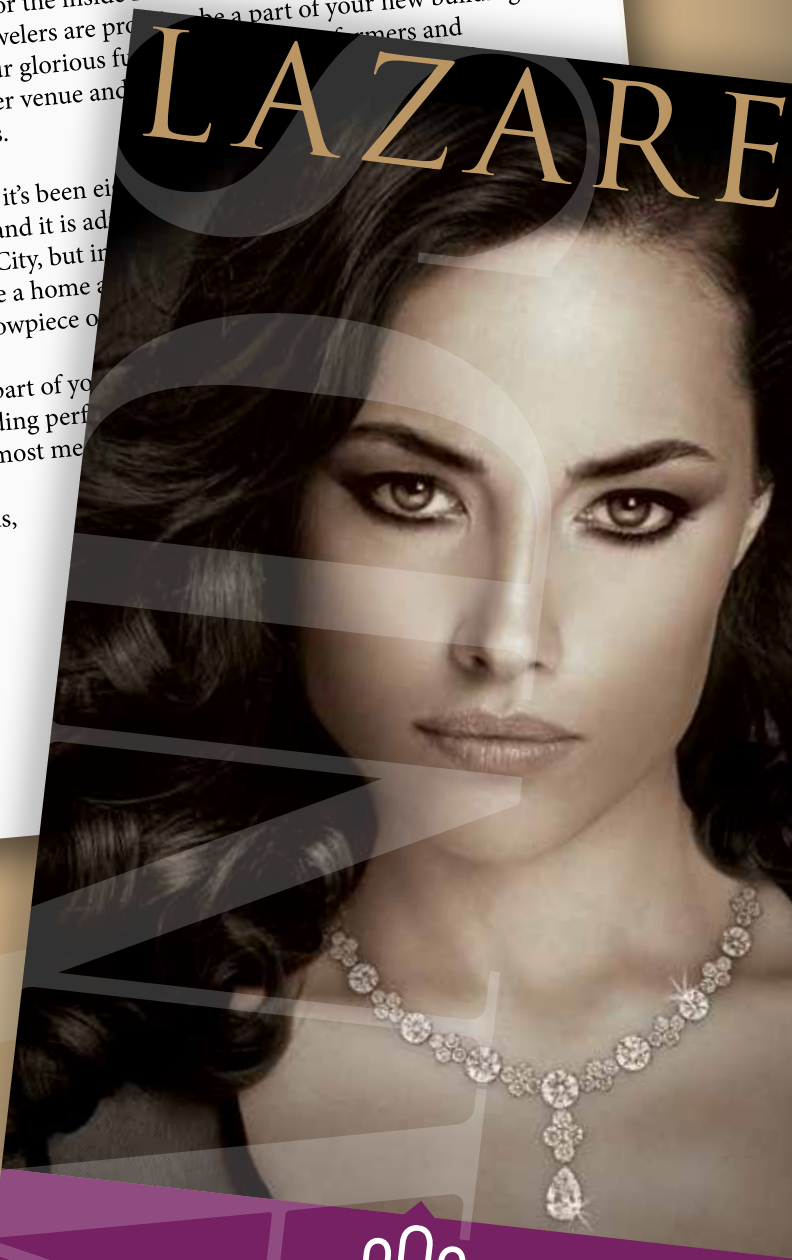
It is hard to believe that it's been eight years since the Hancher performing arts venue and it is still alive, not only in Iowa City, but in the state! And now we have a home for a brilliantly designed showpiece of architecture.

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CIRCUS OZ

STRAIGHT UP

2017 ENSEMBLE

APRIL DAWSON
DAVID TRAPPES
ELKE UHD
FLIP KAMMERER
JO ABBOTT
LUKE TAYLOR
MATT WILSON
NICK MARTYN
SAM ALDHAM
SHARON GRUENERT
SPENSER INWOOD

WITH

ANNI DAVEY, Guest Show Director
BEAU DUDDING, Rigger
EDDIE JAMES, Touring Production Manager
MELLISSA FYFE, Company Manager
REBEKAH GIBBS, Stage Manager
REUBEN HOPKINS, Audio Engineer
TRISTAN BOURKE, Lighting Operator

BEHIND THE SCENES

ANIA REYNOLDS, Musical Director
ANTONELLA CASELLA, Senior Artistic Associate
EMILY BARRIE, Set Designer
LAUREL FRANK, Costume Designer & Founding Member
LAUREN ADAMS, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator
LOU OPPENHEIM, General Manager
MARGARET MURRAY, Production Manager
MATT HUGHES, Programming Director
MICHAEL BAXTER, Props Designer
OLIVIA BLACKBURN, Marketing & Communications Director
PAUL JACKSON, Lighting Designer
ROB TANNION, Artistic Director
TEENA MUNN, International Programming Manager
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ABOUT THE SHOW

Circus exists for everyone in the imagination, but for some people that imaginary space is their world.

In this latest production from Circus Oz be prepared to be taken on an improbable journey, where reality dissolves. The performers inhabit a life unconstrained by the laws of physics. They are dream soldiers, making the real world and its laws bend to their aspirations.

Deep from the Down Under at the bottom of the world, Circus Oz has unleashed a mayhem of madcap musicians, acrobats, and manipulators. A two-hour array of physical feats, spectacular skills, and hilarious antics. Aerialists defy gravity, jugglers propel unlikely objects in complicated cacophonies, acrobats fall up and stand over. At Circus Oz nothing is impossible and everyone is extraordinary!

This is Circus Oz. All human, non-stop energy.



COMPANY OVERVIEW

“Champions of independent spirit who will make you laugh, shiver and erupt with glee.”

Circus Oz was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1978. The company has celebrated over three and a half successful decades of international touring, and confirmed its place in the hearts of generations of Australians.

From New York to Hong Kong, Circus Oz has taken its self-crafted performances of wit, grace, and spectacle to 27 countries across five continents to critical acclaim. They have broken box office records at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and represented Australia at scores of international festivals. Along the way they have translated parts of the show into other languages from Hindi and Japanese to Danish.

Circus Oz has a strong belief in tolerance, diversity, and human kindness. For many years the company has engaged in issues associated with social justice and a good time for all, including work each year with many charities, indigenous communities, and the raising of over \$500,000 in donations to support refugees and asylum seekers.

With generous philanthropic support in 2011, Circus Oz created the BLAKflip Program intended to create pathways into the circus arts for emerging and established indigenous artists.

Through “A Good Time for All,” Circus Oz provides over a thousand tickets annually to our Big Top seasons, ensuring those facing hardship can share in the raucous hilarity of a Circus Oz show. When a community can’t come to us, Circus Oz wants to be able to go to them, touring to remote communities that otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to experience an internationally acclaimed circus performance.

In 2014, Circus Oz moved into their custom-designed home in the heart of Melbourne. A fabulous space to experiment, explore, train, and create work, while sharing the joy of circus with their local communities and support the development of contemporary circus.

The Circus Oz show is a rock’n’roll, animal-free circus that adults and children can enjoy together. Expect two hours of breathtaking agility, death-defying stunts, awe-inspiring acrobatic performances, irreverent comedy, and a spectacular live band.



COMPANY HISTORY

Circus Oz was founded in 1978 as an amalgamation of two already successful Australian groups: Soapbox Circus and the New Circus.

The founding members of Circus Oz loved the skills and tricks of traditional circus but wanted to make a new sort of show that a contemporary audience could relate to, adding elements of rock'n'roll, popular theatre, and satire. They wanted it to be funny, irreverent, and spectacular, a celebration of the group as a bunch of multi-skilled individual women and men, rather than a hierarchy of stars. Above all, they didn't want to take themselves too seriously.

They sewed and welded together their own circus tent, got together a collection of old trucks and caravans and went on the road.

Circus Oz was a fresh and original voice in circus, and the company was immediately popular with Australian audiences. Within a few years, they began to tour internationally, with visits to New Guinea and Europe and have been on the road ever since.

The principles that were at the heart of the original Circus Oz philosophy are still reflected in their performances today: collective ownership and creation, gender equity, a uniquely Australian signature, and multi-skilled teamwork.

By the mid 1980s, other contemporary circus and physical theatre troupes began to appear across the world, in the wake of Circus Oz. It was at this time that Circus Oz itself underwent a major skills-development phase through intensive training with acrobats from China's Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe. Many of the skills learnt over the years from the Chinese, such as pole-climbing, hoop-diving, and group bike, continue to flavour their shows, albeit reinterpreted and presented in a distinctly Circus Oz style.

The overall tenor of the performances has remained consistent over the years. There are usually 11 to 13 performers (normally with at least two specialised musicians) who present an intimate spectacle of unrelenting energy, humour, multi-skilled playing, surreal imagery, grace, and strength—fully integrated with a live and original musical score. Circus Oz continues to play at the forefront of international contemporary circus.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

APRIL DAWSON (Performer)

Skills include: Acrobatics, unicycle adagio, flying trapeze, dance, juggling



Growing up in Busselton in Western Australia, April started dancing and practising gymnastics from an early age. She had her first introduction to circus at 15 when she was spotted performing at a local festival by circus owner Matt Yates. She joined Matt and Lunar Circus two weeks later, touring Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and throughout South East Asia. April continued to train and teach dance and acrobatics whenever she was at home.

April's credits include Sydney International Motor Show, P&O Cruises, Village Roadshow, Melbourne Circus Festival, Red Earth Arts Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Perth Fringe, Western Australian Circus Festival, and the Wonderland Spiegeltent.

April moved to Melbourne four years ago and has been performing as one half of Two Up Circus with partner Kyle Raftery, where they tour to primary schools across New South Wales with their school show. She has also been performing for The Little Red Trapeze Company at numerous festivals and community events.

DAVID TRAPPES (Performer)

Skills include: Juggling, tumbling, comedy, group acrobatics



Deciding at the age of 11 to become a circus performer, David has not looked back since. Growing up as a part of a youth circus he went to Canada to spend two years at 'l'École de Cirque de Québec' as part of the professional program. Throughout this time David has developed himself not just as an acrobat and juggler but as an artist, musician, comedian, and performer. Little by little, with some hard work of his own and the help of all the amazing people who he's worked with along the way, David has been lucky enough entertain audiences around the world both as a solo performer and as a part of companies such as Casus Circus and now Circus Oz.

ELKE UHD (Performer)

Skills include: Dance trapeze, roue Cyr, dance, acrobatics



Elke is a passionate, young and energetic contemporary circus performer, currently based in Melbourne, Australia. Elke grew up in a small town on the coast of Western Australia and was heavily immersed in dance, theatre, and circus from a young age. At age 17, Elke made the decision to further her artistic passion in circus by entering the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). Here she discovered a thriving passion for dance trapeze and Cyr wheel. She spent her three years at NICA working towards seamlessly blending her past experiences with theatre and dance into her study of these two disciplines. Elke graduated in November 2015, and has been working within Australia, as well as overseas in the year since.



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FLIP KAMMERER (Performer)

Skills include: Acrobatics, straps, inline skating, juggling, teeterboard, bass guitar



Flip is a born and bred bush baby, originally from Albury.

From the age of 8 she attended the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, and performed with them in leading theatres and festivals both nationally and internationally.

After graduating from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Flip performed in Brisbane, worked with Circus Monoxide, and coached with Flipside Youth Circus before joining Circus Oz in 2008 for the first time.

Flip is currently completing a Bachelor of Forensic Psychology at RMIT.

She has been fortunate to experience a great deal, whether it be break'n in a breakdance battle, performing on 42nd Street in New York City, or skating in the extreme games.

JO ABBOTT (Musician)

Skills include: Piano, keyboards, accordion



Jo has been an active member of the music scene since arriving in Melbourne in 1998, after spending a year playing music in various bands in Ireland and Spain.

She is a graduate of QLD Conservatorium and Victorian College of the Arts. She is an accordion specialist in traditional French musette, gypsy swing, and chanson (Belle Musette, Django Rhythm), and as a pianist is versatile in various guises—from accompanist in cabaret, jazz, and classical genres to ensemble member with jazz and big bands.

While a student in Brisbane, Jo worked as composer/performer with Music for the Heart and Mind, a popular contemporary classical concert series, the initiative of composer Rob Davidson. Jo also worked as accompanist/Musical Director for Annie Lee (Kransky Sisters) for various shows including *Woman in Voice* and *The Amazing Travelling Reincarnation Show*. In 1997 she was invited to participate as composer/performer/Musical Director in a show touring to the Hong Kong Fringe Festival in 1997 with Kerensa Johnson, who devised and performed in the show *Sita Dances* resulting in a follow-up season in Brisbane.

Recent career highlights include Performing with Yana Alana in the Auckland International Cabaret Festival 2015 and in the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2015 (awarded best Cabaret Adelaide Fringe 2015); *Death by Soprano*—2016 regional Victorian Tour, 2015 Adelaide Fringe Festival, 2015 and Melbourne season 2014. She has done a promotional recording for *Once—The Musical* (Kelly Dickerson, MD); invited to be the pianist for the opening concert of *Play Me, I'm Yours* (Arts Centre, Melbourne); Melbourne Spring Fashion Festival first runway show; Musical Director/arranger/performer for *Kids Thrive*, 2014/15; performing with the Nicholas Cabaret Orchestra conducted by Eric Klay in 2014. Jo was awarded the Margaret Schofield Prize for best accompanist in the heats in the National Liederfest Competition, 2015.

Jo has worked with many wonderful artists including Alan Lee, Doug de Vries, Sandro Donati, Isabel Hertaeg, John St Peters, Sarah Ward, Martin Mackerras, Annie Lee, and Robert Davidson and performed at numerous venues and



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LUKE TAYLOR (Performer)

Skills include: Juggling, cigarbox juggling, group acrobatics

Luke's interest in circus was first sparked when he joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus at age 12. Here he founded his circus career, touring all over Australia and internationally including a season on Broadway in New York with the show, *The Gift*.



Luke then spent a year with Lunar Circus (a WA based circus) touring Western Australia and the Northern Territory. This included performing, teaching workshops, and taking turns driving a large bus across the Nullarbor.

After finishing up his stint with Lunar Circus Luke decided to further hone his skills, completing the first Bachelor of Circus Arts at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). Here Luke refined his solo juggling and extended his group acrobatic skills. Over this period Luke also increased his professional experience, both solo and in small groups, including a group acrobatic show for the Discovery Channel in Singapore.

Since graduating from circus school Luke has performed with various Australian Circus's including Circus Oz, Circa, Circus Risque, and Throw Down. Luke has also co-founded his own circus show *Caravan* with several other circus school graduates. *Caravan* was performed at the Melbourne Fringe Festival, The Hobart Summer Festival, and the National Circus Festival.

MATT WILSON (Performer & Musician)

Skills include: Acrobatics, hand-balancing, slapstick comedy, clown, juggling, high falls, human cannonball, flying trapeze, hoop-diving, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, percussion and vocals



Matt has worked professionally for over 23 years as a circus acrobat, actor, stuntman, singer, musician, and director. He has performed with companies including Circus Oz, Arena Theatre, Malthouse Theatre, Dislocate, Rock'n'Roll Circus, Circus Monoxide, Legs on the Wall, and many more.

Most recently Matt toured as stunt double for Barry Humphries's farewell performance *Eat, Pray, Laugh* and also as the lead role in *The Republic of the Trees*, for the Castlemaine State Festival.

As well as teaching performance and coordinating many projects at the National Institute of Circus Arts, Matt has directed several student productions and has recently taught at Westside Circus and Circus Oz.

Over the years, Matt has climbed, fallen, swung, tumbled, flown, juggled, and crashed his way through his career.

Highlights include: bungee jumping off the Sydney Opera House on New Year's Eve 2000; being shot out of a cannon over the audience in the New Victory Theatre in New York; and falling off an elephant dressed as Dame Edna (that's Matt as Edna, not the elephant!)

Matt (a.k.a 'Crashmatt') thinks performing in the circus is just the best thing!

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NICK MARTYN (Musician)

Skills include: Drums, percussion, synths, vocals



Born and bred in Melbourne, Nick is a drummer, composer, and performer extraordinaire who has played music everywhere except Antarctica for the last 12 years. Since leaving music school in 2007 with a bachelors degree, Nick has recorded and performed with countless Australian artists including Gotye, Harry Angus, Husky, and Daniel Merriweather.

As a founding member of soul extravaganza Clairry Browne & The Bangin’ Rackettes, Nick toured internationally non-stop and won several awards including ABC Radio National’s ‘Album of The Year’ (2012) and International Songwriting Competition’s ‘Song of the Year’ (2011). More recently he has toured Australia with NYC punk icons James Chance and The Contortions and is currently the drummer of choice for top Australian live acts Oh Pep! and D.D Dumbo.

Since 2016, Nick has developed a solo project under the name Las Mar, a one-man live show utilising his drumming and vocal skills combined with synthesizers and live electronics. As *Las Mar* he has self-produced and released the album *Euphemist*, as well as an EP and several music videos.

Nick also keeps busy with “punk trad jazz” larrikins The Lagerphones who have been busy touring Japan and Australia and have independently released two albums. Nick has produced music for blogs and online magazines including *Standart* and *goodcoffee.me* and has appeared on several episodes of the Australian hit TV series *Offspring* as, you guessed it, a drummer.

SAM ALDHAM (Performer)

Skills include: Corde Lisse, flying trapeze, acrobatics, hoop diving, juggling



Sam started his career in circus in 2004 working at Club Med resorts as a flying trapeze performer and instructor. After travelling through resorts in Asia and France as a flyer and catcher he returned to Melbourne where he joined Flying Trapeze Australia. He performed and taught in festivals including Summer Fun Festival in Melbourne, Tasmanian Circus Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, and Moomba Festival Melbourne. He also traveled to Abu Dhabi for a month-long summer festival.

Sam attended the National Institute of Circus Arts from 2009 to 2011, training in corde lisse (vertical rope), comedy acrobatics, and hoop diving. In 2011 he formed Three High Acrobatics with his acrobatic partners Chris Carlos and Taka Seki. Their first full-length show premiered in the Melbourne Fringe Festival. After winning the 2012 Gasworks Circus Showdown competition with their production *Knock Off*, Three High Acrobatics toured to festivals throughout Australia, and created another award-winning show, *Cirque du Bloke*.

With over 10 years experience as a circus performer and trainer, and with a background in theatre, Sam hopes to continue his career in the circus industry performing, teaching, and creating.



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SHARON GRUENERT (Performer)

Skills include: Adagio, double trapeze, flying trapeze, straps, hand-balancing, tumbling, Chinese pole, slapstick

Sharon is a circus artist specialising in blending performance art with acrobatics, and has worked all over the world for the past 18 years.

Born the youngest and smallest, Sharon was inspired to be brave and always challenge herself physically. She loves to tell stories using only her body and hopes to communicate the sheer joy of being physical.

Sharon has flown around and been thrown around with companies such as Cirque du Soleil, Circus Monoxide, Dislocate, and Strange Fruit. Most recently she co-produced her own show, *Full Cream Circus*.



SPENSER INWOOD (Performer)

Skills include: Aerial ring, acrobatics, flying trapeze, static trapeze, Chinese pole

Spenser has been following her passion for circus since the age of eight. Her formative years of performance development were carried out at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus where she gained ten years of national and international experience.



After graduating from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, she continued to perform both in Australia and across the globe, working closely on the development of her swinging trapeze act with experienced circus artist Anna Shelper. Whilst developing this act, Spenser received a grant for creative act development from the Australia Council for the Arts.

Between 2007-2013, Spenser taught circus classes in Melbourne for the Women's Circus, Circus Oz, and the Circus Spot. In addition to her teaching she worked as an assistant director and director with Melbourne-based companies and had her directing debut with *What Do I Want?* for the Women's Circus in May 2013.

Spenser joined the Circus Oz ensemble in August 2013 on the *Circus Oz Goes Bush* tour of Arnhem Land.

ANNI DAVEY (2016 Guest Show Director)

Anni Davey joined a youth theatre company, SWY, in Fremantle, Western Australia, in 1983. In 1985 she joined Death Defying Theatre and began on a performance path trod by acrobats and activists, through traditional agit-prop and feminist street theatre to international stages. She joined Circus Oz as a performer in 1987 and has continued working there in many different capacities ever since, including as Guest Director, Assistant Director, Operations Manager, and Acting General Manager (1998 and 2009). In 2014 she project managed the creation of their new building by Creative Victoria in Collingwood.



In the early 1990s, Anni was involved in the formation of two independent performing companies, both highly regarded as creating seminal works in circus and in musical theatre. Club Swing toured their aerial show *Appetite* around

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Australia and internationally from 1994 to 1999, and produced a second show, *Razorbaby* (1999), that showed to acclaim in Melbourne and Sydney. *Crying In Public Places* toured three a-cappella theatre shows (*Crying In Public Places*, *Jump!*, and *Skin*) around Australia and internationally until 2001.

Anni's directing practice, in development since 2006, includes a fruitful collaboration with Sarah Ward as Yana Alana. Their shows together have won nine Green Room awards for Cabaret including Best Director (twice), and Best Diva. Yana Alana's latest show, *Between The Cracks*, premiered in January 2013, enjoyed a sell-out season at 45 Downstairs in July, and earned a Helpmann award for Best Cabaret Artist in 2014.

In 2015 Anni and her twin sister, Maude, joined forces to create Retro Futurismus, a new cabaret prognostication which premiered to acclaim at 45 Downstairs. In 2013 Anni directed Maude's retrospective, *My Life In The Nude*, which enjoyed sell out seasons at La Mama and in 2014 at 45 Downstairs. In 2012 she directed *The Rat Trap* by Polytoxic, co-produced by the Queensland Theatre Company. She has also directed *The Blue Show* for Circus Oz in 2011; *Peep* and *Carousel* for One Trick Pony (winner Green Room award for Innovation and Excellence in Circus 2012); *In The Heart Of Darkness*, *A Piece For An Odd Place*, and *The Want* for The Stain; *Down Pour* for A4 Circus Ensemble; *Short Black* for Sosina Wogayehu; *Kissing A Stranger* and *I Heart Jack* for Anna Lumb; *Domestic Bliss* for Quiche Lorraine; and *A Plane Without Wings Is A Rocket* (2006) and *The Antechamber* (2007) for The Women's Circus. In 2010 Anni was awarded one of three fellowships by the Australia Council as an Emerging Circus and Physical Theatre Director. She is Chair of the Board of the Australian Circus and Physical Theatre Association (ACAPTA).

ANIA REYNOLDS (Musical Director)

Ania has worked as a freelance musician and composer after completing an Advanced Diploma of Music Performance in 2003 at the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE.



She worked with Polyglot Theatre from 2000 on projects including *Stop That House!* (2004), *We Built This City* (2004-2010), *Checkout!* (2007), *The Big Game* (2008-09), and *Tangle* (2010-12) which she toured to New York in July 2012 as part of the Lincoln Center's Summer Outdoor Festival.

Ania's first brush with the circus was with Westside Circus' *Urban Heroes* (2000). She continued with Westside Circus as a musician, musical director, and composer until joining Circus Oz in 2010.

Ania has also worked for the National Institute of Circus Arts, the Women's Circus, Asking For Trouble Physical Theatre, Melbourne Workers' Theatre Company and Asphyxia's *The Grimstones*, and has scored several short films.

In 2010 Ania won a Green Room Award for Best Musical Direction in Cabaret for *Yana Alana And Tha Paranas In Concert*. She currently plays with afrobeat group Papa Chango; surf/garage/rock band Johnnie and the Johnnie Johnnies; and genre-busting progressive-polka-experimental-kozmigroov-post-funk-symphonic-hard-rock-avant-ska sonic conceptualization collective, The Whoopee Project.

JESSICA LANG DANCE

Thursday, March 23, 7:30 pm

Jessica Lang Dance has rocketed to prominence with contemporary work fueled by classical ballet and striking design. Lang has teamed up with famed architect Steven Holl—who designed two art buildings on the University of Iowa campus—to create *Tesseract of Time*, one of the pieces on the evening's program.

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ANTONELLA CASELLA

(Senior Artistic Associate)



Antonella's work in contemporary circus encompasses performing, directing, teaching, managing, industry development, and lobbying. Her involvement in contemporary circus began as a performer with Brisbane's Rock'n'Roll Circus (now Circa). Other companies she performed with include London's Circus Space and Circus UK, and the leading British contemporary touring circus of the early 1990's, Snapdragon Circus. While in the UK, she was also a street performer, appearing at Covent Garden, Edinburgh Festival, and various other UK busking pitches. In 1991, Antonella joined Circus Oz as a performer, and toured to Europe, USA, South America, and Australia.

In 1994, Antonella returned to Brisbane to start Vulcana Women's Circus, and continued as its artistic director for seven years, during which she directed and co-directed many successful shows, developed a cross-sector community outreach programme with a range of women's health centres, and established Vulcana as a key Queensland community cultural development service provider. At the same time she continued her career as an aerialist and acrobat with Strut & Fret Production House.

In 2002, Antonella returned to perform with Circus Oz. After three years of throwing herself back into the centre ring, Antonella moved to the Circus Oz artistic department, where, as Artistic Associate, she now works with the Artistic Director, Senior Circus Artist, and the ensemble on implementing the company's vision for their shows.

LAUREL FRANK

(Costume Designer & Founding Member)



Laurel designs and makes costumes for theatre, circus, cabaret, dance, parades, events, and puppetry. She regularly puts together teams of professional costume makers, prop makers, and milliners to achieve large and small projects.

She is a founding member and the resident costume designer for Circus Oz and has sent them on countless Australian and international tours. She also runs the wardrobe department for them, managing the archive, current show usage, and photo shoots for ongoing publicity. Her ongoing work for Circus Oz has been documented and collected by the Performing Arts Museum in Melbourne.

Laurel has designed and made costumes for many other circus companies and solo performers, including the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and the National Institute of Circus Arts.

She has designed for many parades and events in Australia and overseas, and from 2010 to 2015 she designed and managed the costume component of the Moomba parade. She has designed and produced costumes for several children's television series including *L'IL HORRORS*, a puppet series for Channel 7 (TV). She has also produced costumes for documentary films and advertising over the last decade.

Another branch of Laurel's work is museum display, including reproducing and displaying historic costume for the National Museum in Canberra, the

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Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8 pm

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The Boston Pops celebrates one of the key composers of the Great American Songbook. Enter a world of speakeasies and bathtub gin, of flappers and Tin Lizzies, of jazz and a man named George Gershwin. The Pops will bring its own unique swagger to the rarely-heard original orchestration of *Rhapsody in Blue* and then present a reconstruction of Paul Whiteman's tight and jazzy version of *An American in Paris*.

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Courtesy of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. credit: Stu Rosner

Immigration Museum Melbourne, the State Museum in Carlton, the Jewish Museum in Sydney, and the Bendigo and Ballarat Regional Museums.

LOU OPPENHEIM (General Manager)

Never having been one to have a set career path, Lou originally studied Engineering and Arts, majoring in computational linguistics. From there she worked for the Boston Consulting Group, which took her from steel mills to telecommunications and most things in between, in New Zealand to Boston. During this time her violin travelled with her, and dabbling in pro-amateur orchestras resulted in a career highlight performance at Carnegie Hall, New York.



Deciding in 2003 to make the leap in to a full-time role in the performing arts, Lou joined the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra firstly in a strategic planning role and then moved backstage to the role of Director of Operations, working in this role until the start of 2013, at which time Lou joined the mob at Circus Oz. Highlights to date include moving to new premises in Collingwood and hitchhiking to her first gig through the snow.

MICHAEL BAXTER (Props Design)

Baxter is a designer, fabricator, and maker of sets and props for circus, theatre, dance, film, and television. He is a collaborator in creative developments and occasionally performs physical comedy, clown, and music.



After first training as a crayon maker, removalist, town planner, and yacht rigger, Baxter was initiated into the performing arts in 1988, producing and performing in a trapeze dance show in the Melbourne Fringe.

He sailed around for a while, then became a manager of a nursery and organic market garden in Tasmania, working extensively in bushland and water conservation and management. This led to an honours degree in environmental design followed by three years teaching in the University of Tasmania's architecture department and working on a masters degree in design. Over this period Baxter became closely linked to the National Circus Festival based in Tasmania, and returned to the circus, co-founding *Raradada Physical Theatre* in 1999, once again producing and performing.

In 2001 Baxter returned to Melbourne and joined Circus Oz as a designer and maker. Over the past decade, he has specialised in the creation of unique and unusual equipment, props, and sets for a host of companies including Circus Oz, Polyglot, Dislocate, Strange Fruit, NICA, Strut n Fret, Circa, the Candy Butchers, and the Melbourne Fringe, as well as various arts festivals, film, and television productions, and a myriad of fabulous individuals.

ROB TANNION (Artistic Director)

Rob is a versatile and award-winning director, creator, and choreographer who works internationally across the genres of circus, physical theatre, musicals, and dance.



After bursting onto the London scene in 1995, performing in the Emmy award-winning *Enter Achilles* by DV8 Physical Theatre, Rob chose to focus most of his professional career away from his Australian homeland.

MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL EVENTS AT HANCHER AUDITORIUM

ANDREW BIRD AND MY BRIGHTEST DIAMOND

The Auditorium

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 7:30 pm

Presented by Hancher, Mission Creek Festival, and SCOPE Productions



ANDREW BIRD

The A.V. Club calls Andrew Bird a “musical polymath [who] is the quintessential word-of-mouth artist.” So, take our word for it: Bird is the real deal. A multi-instrumentalist, a compelling singer-songwriter, and a heck of a whistler, he has quietly built a loyal fan base happy to shout its approval of his eclectic music. Of the songs on his most recent record, *Are You Serious*, Bird says, “Here I am with my most unguarded, direct, relatable [music] to date. Go easy on me.” Fans old and new will no doubt heed this Bird’s call.

Photo: Reuben Cox



MY BRIGHTEST DIAMOND

The sheer force of Shara Nova’s beautiful voice and adventurous artistic spirit combine to create My Brightest Diamond. Nova’s career and influences are multi-faceted. Raised in a musical family of traveling evangelists, she has studied operatic voice and classical composition. She was a member of the band AwRY and Sufjan Stevens’ Illinoisemakers. She has collaborated with Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, and University of Iowa alum and Pulitzer Prize winner David Lang, among many others from across the musical landscape.

Photo: Bernd Preiml

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FREE READING BY KELLY LINK

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 6–7 pm

Strauss Hall

Short story writer Kelly Link invites readers into the slipstream with stories of the fantastic. Link has collected a Hugo Award, three Nebula Awards, and a World Fantasy Award. Her most recent collection, *Get In Trouble*, was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize. Step into the wondrous with one of today’s most thrilling spinners of tales.

Photo: Copyright 2014 Sharona Jacobs Photography

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During his time as Artist in Residence in London's Southbank Centre, Rob co-founded and co-directed *Stan Won't Dance* before moving into working on large-scale commercial productions throughout UK, Canada, and China.

Rob accidentally fell in love with circus in 2005, and has not looked back since. With a solid international reputation as a visually creative director, Rob is passionately driven to keep pushing, exploring, and breaking the artistic and technical boundaries of what makes circus such an amazingly diverse, accessible, and entertaining art form.

As a director, he has been invited to create shows across the globe, particularly throughout Europe, and Central and South America. His experience spans everything from intimate solo shows to large scale productions; from outdoor events to Big Tops; from international festivals to prestigious European theatres.

Prior to returning home to take over the artistic direction of Circus Oz, Rob was the Artistic Director of Organizacion Efimera in Madrid, alongside working as the Resident Director for the Spanish circus company Circo de los Horrores.

Rob has been excited to return to live in Australia, and the chance to reconnect with his culture – its issues and unique humour; to reinvest in the national and local arts scenes with his international cross-cultural experiences and outlook, at the same time as being invigorated and inspired by them.

TIM COLDWELL

(Senior Circus Artist & Founding Member)



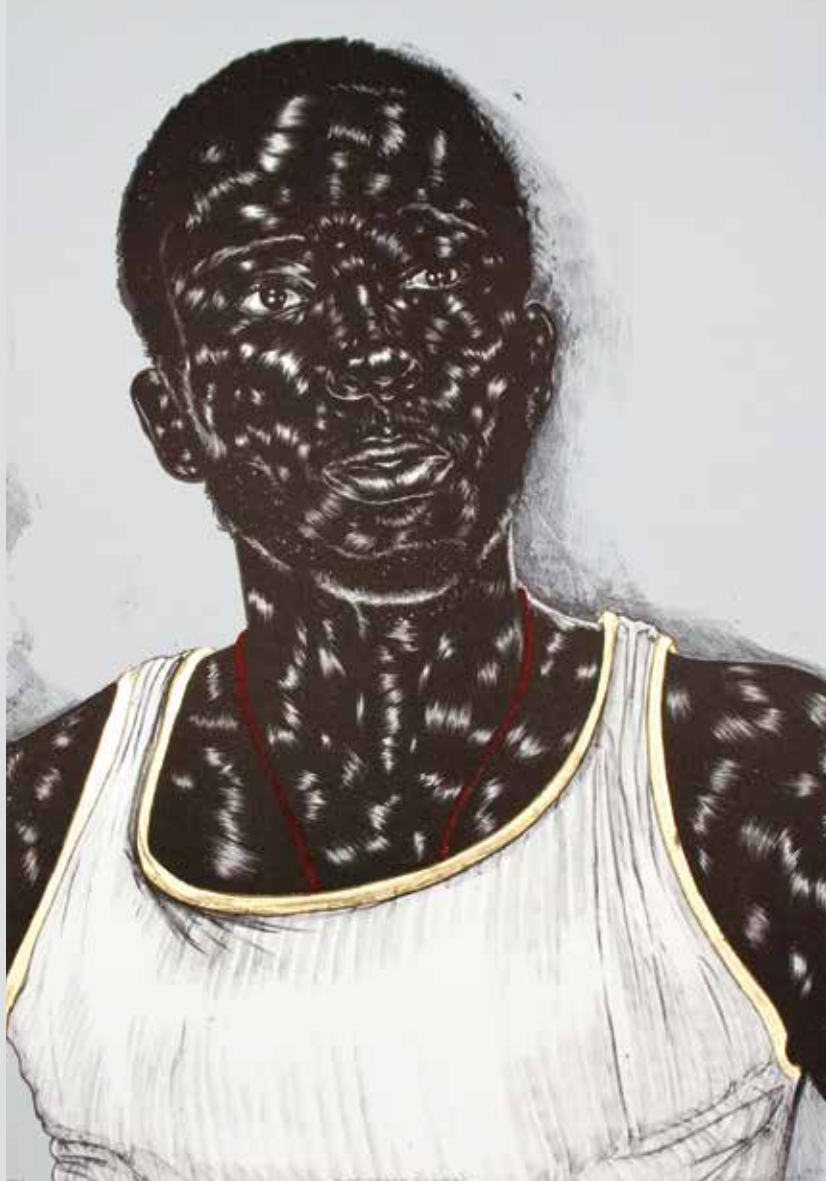
In addition to being an acrobat, trumpeter, and clown with Circus Oz, Tim is also a member of the Board of Directors, the Executive in Charge of Production, and, from time to time, tent designer, props engineer, inventor, and director.

He has previously been the Artistic Director and Chair of the Board.

Tim started with Ashton's Circus in 1974 and co-founded New Circus in Adelaide later the same year. He toured with New Circus and Circus Royale and co-founded Circus Oz in 1978. Tim used to stand on his head on a high wire, and ride the group bike. He also originated and performed the signature Circus Oz Roofwalk Act. In between touring, Tim designed and oversaw the construction of the company's spectacular, state-of-the-art Big Top, which had its first performances in Sydney in 2002.

Elsewhere Tim has worked as a technical advisor and stunt performer for film and television, walked across the Torrens River on a highwire to open the Adelaide Festival, performed the Roofwalk Act on several international TV shows, and played trumpet and tuba in a couple of bands.





COME TOGETHER:

Collaborative Lithographs from Tamarind Institute

FEBRUARY 18–MAY 17, 2017

Black Box Theater, Iowa Memorial Union

Funding for this exhibition was provided in part by the Richard V.M. Corton, M.D., and Janet Y. Corton Exhibition Fund, the John S. and Patricia C. Koza Art Exhibition Fund, and the UIMA Members Special Exhibition Fund.

Toyin Ojih Odutola
(American, born in Nigeria, 1985–)
Birmingham (middle), 2014
Four-color lithograph with gold leaf
Museum of Art Purchase Fund, 2016.114a-c
©Toyin Ojih Odutola. Courtesy of the artist
and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York



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