

Thursday, October 7, 2010, 8pm
Friday, October 8, 2010, 8pm
Saturday, October 9, 2010, 2pm & 8pm
Sunday, October 10, 2010, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Circus Oz



Rob Blackburn

This show, like every Circus Oz performance, will be a “once off.” When the performers meet the audience and the band kicks into gear, you never know exactly what will happen—and it will never happen again just the same way. That’s the sheer joy of it.

Kindly refrain from the taking of photographs or videotaping during the show. Cast is subject to change.

Cal Performances’ 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Circus Oz

Performers

Hazel Bock
 Jeremy Davies
 Rowan Heydon-White
 Flip Kammerer
 Michael Ling
 Bec Matthews
 Paul O’Keeffe
 Carl Polke, *Musical Director*
 Ania Reynolds
 Luke Taylor
 Sarah Ward
 Mason West

Production Staff

Anna Pidgeon *Touring Production Manager*
 Antonella Casella *Artistic Associate*
 Darryl Cordell *Set Designer*
 Derek Ives *Associate Director*
 Emil Wolk *Lab Guest Director & Comic Genius*
 Gina Gascoigne *Tour Manager*
 Helen Clifford *Rigger*
 Joe Ferguson *Sound Engineer*
 Laurel Frank *Costume Designer*
 Margaret Murray *Production Manager*
 Marko Respondeck *Lighting Design*
 Michael Baxter *Props Builder & Set Designer*
 Mike Finch *Artistic Director*
 Tim Coldwell *Founding Member, Senior Circus Artist*
 Tristan Bourke *Lighting Operator*
 Zillah Morrow *Stage Manager*
 Tim Elliot & Justin McGinley *Props Makers*

Office Staff

Annie Stephens *Community & Corporate Programs Coordinator*
 Clare McKenzie *Marketing & Communications Coordinator*
 Ebony Bott *Marketing & Communications Director*
 Fiona Poletti *Director of Special Projects*
 Lesley Adeney *Administrator*
 Linda Mickleborough *General Manager*
 Matthew Hughes *Programming Director*
 Mel Fyfe *Operations Manager*
 Nhi Tran *Finance Administrator*
 Rebecca Czapnik *Director of International Market Development*
 Robyn McGregor *Digital Marketing Manager*
 Tara Sanders *Training Coordinator*

ACT DESCRIPTIONS

Aerial Straps & Aerial Tissu

Aerial straps are hanging straps of canvas. To perform on them requires tremendous upper-body strength. Aerial Tissu is a curtain of silken material which has the ability to transform acts of great strength into graceful movement. *Danger factor: Self-preservation depends on complicated wrapping techniques and a strong set of shoulder muscles.*

Sway Pole

It’s a pole, eight meters tall, and it sways. Sound simple? Well, you have to get up it first. Try wobbling on one of these for 10 minutes...then try it while doing a handstand. *Danger factor: Gravity, the dreaded wobbles and motion sickness.*

Pole

A skill we mostly learned from a Chinese genius called Lu Guang Rong, the pole is a spectacular act which can be performed solo, duo, or in groups. *Danger factor: Landing on your head.*

Trapeze

Trapeze is a metal bar suspended by two ropes. Static trapeze is when the trapeze stays still and people move around it. *Danger factor: Slippery hands.*

Adagio

Two people, balancing. Usually one is smaller than the other. *Danger factor: Interpersonal disputes.*

Hoop Diving

This is acrobatics with precision. Precariously balanced bamboo hoops sit atop each other as acrobats dive through them in an array of increasingly implausible moves as the hoops are gradually stacked higher and higher. *Danger factor: Bruises and fallen hoops.*

Teeterboard & Vaulting

These acts are acrobatics on hyperdrive! A giant seesaw or apparatus propels acrobats high into the air with enormous force, and they still manage to twist in all sorts of carefully judged, spectacular directions. *Danger factor: Gravity and sweaty palms.*

Rola Bola

In its simplest form, Rola Bola is a plank on a cylinder on which a person balances. The plank rocks back and forth on the cylinder like a seesaw, but to increase the challenge multiple cylinders are stacked on top of one another in different directions, requiring very nimble, swiveling hips to maintain balance. *Danger factor: Falling off and motion sickness.*

Inline Skating

Something from the streets of Melbourne (and Albury, home of our skater girl). We can verify that somersaults in skates are not impossible. *Danger factor: All that safety gear is not for show.*

Juggling

Juggling is throwing more things in the air than you have hands and then catching them! Add back somersaults, more hands, stacks on, some argy bargy and then more things. A tricky variation is using feet instead of hands! *Danger factor: Dropping something...on someone...or on yourself!*

Group Bike

Get someone fairly brave to ride a *very* strong bike around and around in a circle. Stacks on! *Danger factor: Getting your pants caught in the chain.*

Touring

It takes enormous fortitude to stay on the road and in the air for most of the year. There’s the horrible food, the dehydration, the little bottles of gin.... *Danger factor: Let’s not even go there!*

Music

The music is the colorful heart of the show and everyone plays at least a little bit. The band at its core has no limits. All music is originally composed individually and collectively by the band and is created to fit the acts, sometimes following the mood, sometimes driving it along. *Danger factor: Daredevil drumsticks flying in the eyes.*

THE COMPANY



Since she can remember, **Hazel Bock** has always loved being on stage. At age 11, she taught herself to juggle, and she hasn't looked back since! After completing training at the National Institute of Circus Arts, she went on to perform with Circus Catharsis, Circus Monoxide and New Zealand's Circus Quirkus. Chocolate is her favorite food group.



Flip Kammerer is a born and bred bush baby from Albury, where she began her circus career with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. She is a multiskilled acrobat, tumbler, circus trainer, performer, musician, skater-girl and break-dancer. Flip has been fortunate to have many varied experiences, from performing on Broadway to competing in extreme sports.



Jeremy Davies has been a core member of Canberra's Warehouse Circus, co-founded circus company Kronik and co-created many independent theater productions. He has also toured puppetry to 42nd Street in New York. He runs Melbourne's major independent circus training space, Blue Circus Studios. This is his second stint with Circus Oz.



Michael Ling started young, joining the Flying Fruit Fly Circus at age nine. "Lingy" has spent the past 23 years performing all over the world with Circus Oz, with the odd break to renovate his house and to try his hand at rigging. He loves his new role as dad to little Olive.



Rowan Heydon-White started swinging around on a trapeze at an early age, but it wasn't until after she graduated from Charles Sturt University, earning a B.A. in communication theater and media, that she decided it was time to return to the world of circus. She has performed throughout New Zealand, winning the "People's Choice Award" at the World Buskers Festival in 2009.



Bec Matthews has performed and recorded with many Melbourne-based bands, musical theater companies and orchestras. She is percussionist, performer, composer and musical director for the highly acclaimed cabaret act Yana Alana and Tha Paranas and has recently worked as musical director for the Women's Circus. Bec has also been Head of Percussion at the Peninsula School.



Performing since age 11, **Paul O'Keeffe** has toured the world from Kalgoolie to 42nd Street, performing in circus, dance, puppetry, musicals and physical theater. Paul co-created extreme circus company Kronik and also set up the Kronik Professional Circus Studio in Melbourne. He has co-managed Canberra's Warehouse Circus, run independent circus troupes and performed for a range of companies. This is his third year with Circus Oz.



Accolades resplendent, Musical Director **Carl Polke's** unique brand of award-winning musical mayhem has shrieked across such companies as Legs on the Wall, Urban Theatre Projects and the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Transcending fashion, form and function, Carl's sweetly distilled synthesis of intellect and intuition is tonight delivered through the Vehicle of the Guitar Solo!



Ania Reynolds has worked as a freelance musician, composer and musical director with several arts companies, including Polyglot Puppet Theatre Company, Westside Circus and NICA. As a musician, Ania has performed at various festivals and events around the country with such bands as Croque Monsieur, Johnnie and the Johnnie Johnnies, and Yana Alana and Tha Paranas.



Luke Taylor began his circus career at age 12, when he joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Since then, he has gallivanted around the world and performed on Broadway. Luke decided to hone his skills by completing a Bachelor of Circus Arts at NICA. Since then, he has performed in various Australian festivals and circuses.



Sarah Ward is a powerhouse singer who can impersonate anything from rap to opera to cabaret and has written original lyrics for this Circus Oz show. In 2007, Sarah created the fierce and fragile cabaret poet Yana Alana and her award-winning show with Tha Paranas. She received the "Best Cabaret Artiste" Green Room Award in 2009. Sarah has composed music for short films and co-musically directed for the Women's Circus. She was also one half of hip-hop act Sista She.



Mason West started at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus at age seven. After leaving high school at 16, he moved to New Zealand, where he trained and worked as the head rigger for three years at CircoArts. As a performer, he has worked throughout New Zealand and even landed a lead role in the BBC production, *The Lost World*.