

Friday, February 15, 2013, 8pm
Saturday, February 16, 2013, 2pm
Sunday, February 17, 2013, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Circus Oz



Rob Blackburn

From the Ground Up

*Circus Oz is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts,
Arts Victoria, and the City of Melbourne.*

Circus Oz *From the Ground Up*

Artistic Director & Show Director Mike Finch
Senior Circus Artist & Founding Member Tim Coldwell
Touring Show Director Ed Boyle
Musical Director Carl Polke

Performers
Chad Albinger
Hazel Bock
Jeremy Davies
Ghenoa Gela
Kai Johnson-Peady
Flip Kammerer
Bec Matthews
Stevee Mills
Carl Polke
Ania Reynolds
Luke Taylor
Mason West
Shane Witt
Dale Woodbridge

Musicians Bec Matthews, Carl Polke, Ania Reynolds

Production Manager Margaret Murray
Touring Production Manager Angela Dufty
Lighting Technician Tristan Bourke
Sound Designer Chris Braun
Riggers Pete Sanders, Chad Albinger
Stage Manager Anna Pidgeon
Operations & Tour Manager Mel Fyfe
Set Designer Darryl Cordell
Costume Designer Laurel Frank
Props Designer/Maker Michael Baxter

The performances are made possible, in part, by the Macquarie Group Foundation.

Cal Performances' 2012–2013 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

WHEN SOAPBOX CIRCUS and the New Ensemble Circus merged in 1978, **Circus Oz** was born. As one of the world's very first full-scale contemporary circuses, all the animals involved were human (although suspicious kangaroos and flocks of flying cockatoos have been sighted on stage from time to time). The show grabbed traditional circus skills, like trapeze, juggling, and high wire, and flung them together with live music and a blatant disregard for the impossible—to create something entirely original.

The critics called it post-modern. The performers kept their tongues firmly jammed in cheeks. Circus Oz, in its combination of hilarity and intelligence, spectacle, irony, beauty, and—yes—occasional dagginess, could only come from Australia. It wears its collective heart on its sleeve, passionately supporting gender equity and social justice, but always combined with a good pratfall.

In the beginning they were a collective and the company did everything, fixing up the battered old trucks they toured in and sitting down between shows to sew their first canvas tent on borrowed sewing machines. Now they tour with shipping containers and a gang of highly skilled supporting crew, but they have never lost their commitment to that original spirit of multiskilling and anarchic-but-disciplined creativity.

Circus Oz has struck an acrobatic chord with audiences from Hobart to Arnhem Land, from Fremantle to the Sydney Opera House, and all points in between. Since 1980, they have toured to 26 countries across five continents, wherein each place, inevitably, audiences have never seen anything quite like it before. They have played sell-out seasons on 42nd Street in New York and one-off gigs at refugee camps on the West Bank. They have performed at the Royal Festival Hall in London, in a glass opera house in the Brazilian rainforest, the Tivoli in Copenhagen, in a tent erected in the Plaza de Toros Monumental in Barcelona, and another in a walled compound in Bogota, where the crowds almost rioted to get in! As they say, people seemed to like it and one thing led to another....

This show, like every Circus Oz performance for 34 years, will be a once off. When the performers meet the audience and the band kicks into gear, you never know exactly what will happen. That's the sheer joy of it.

PERFORMERS



Chad Albinger (*Rigger & Performer*) strives daily to bind disparate elements in unlikely harmony—the perfect cup of tea. He knows it's out there.



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



Jeremy Davis (*Performer*) has been a core member of Canberra's Warehouse Circus, co-founded circus company Kronik, and has co-created many independent theater productions. He runs

Melbourne's major independent circus training space, Blue Circus Studios. He has also toured puppetry to 42nd Street in New York. This is his second stint with Circus Oz.



Koedal (Crocodile) and Waumer (Frigate Bird) woman **Ghenoa Gela** (*Performer*) is a strong Torres Strait Islander from Rockhampton, Central Queensland. Her background is in Torres Strait Islander dancing, and since getting a diploma in careers in dance has been an independent artist on both small and large scales of performance. She aspires to inspire.



Kai Johnson-Peady (*Performer*) first started circus in 2001, when he joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School at age nine. He graduated in 2009 and went on to become an acrobatics coach for their circus. In January 2012, Kai toured nationally with the school show *Bouncing Around*. In March 2012, he toured to Bahrain and Colombia with Tom Tom Crew (Strut 'n Fret). He joined Circus Oz in August 2012.



Flip Kammerer (*Performer*) 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, and break-dancer. Flip has been fortunate to have many varied experiences, from performing on Broadway to competing in extreme sports.



Bec Matthews (*Musician & Performer*) has recorded and performed with many Melbourne-based bands, musical theater companies, and orchestras. She is currently percussionist, performer, composer, and co-musical director for the highly acclaimed cabaret act Yana Alana and Tha Paranas, who won six Green Room Awards, including Best Ensemble, Original Songs, Musical Direction, and Production in 2010. Bec was previously the Musical Director for the Women's Circus.



Stevie Mills (*Performer*) spent her childhood bouncing on trampolines, hanging from monkey bars and cartwheeling instead of walking. This led to a successful career in gymnastics and a Bachelor of Circus Arts at the National Institute of Circus Arts, which she completed in 2010. She still prefers cartwheeling to walking!



Accolades resplendent, **Carl Polke's** (*Musical Director & Performer*) unique brand of award-winning musical mayhem has shrieked across companies like Legs on the Wall, Urban Theatre Projects, and 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!

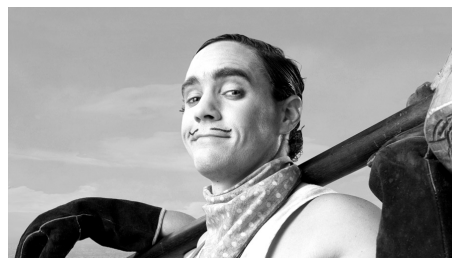


Ania Reynolds (*Musician & Performer*) has worked extensively as a composer and musical director for Polyglot Puppet Theatre Company

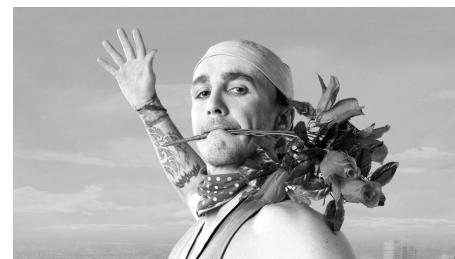
and Westside Circus, in addition to various other theater companies. As a musician, she has performed nationally and internationally with such groups as Croque Monsieur, Johnnie and the Johnnie Johnnies, Yana Alana and Tha Paranas, and Papa Chango, and has performed on a paddle-steamer, in a bumblebee suit, at an Olympic Opening Ceremony (in Hamilton), and at a wizards' convention—although not all at the same time!



Luke Taylor (*Performer*) began his circus career at age twelve, when he joined the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Since then he has gallivanted around the world, including performing on Broadway in New York. Luke decided to hone his skills by completing the Bachelor of Circus Arts at National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne. Since then, he has performed in various Australian festivals and circuses.



Mason West (*Performer*) started at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus at age seven. After leaving high school at age 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*.



Shane Witt (*Performer*) started his circus career as a member of Albury's Flying Fruit Fly Circus, and went on to become a trainer there. He has spent several years touring internationally with the Tom Tom Crew and has also been a guest trainer for the Circus Oz ensemble on a number of occasions.



Dale Woodbridge (*Performer*) is a Gamilaroi man from Mungindi. He attended ACPA, where he majored in dance. Prior to his tertiary studies, Dale was a state gymnast as well as a participant in Circus West. Circus Oz allows Dale to use all of his skills in the most fabulous way.