

LA BOITE & CIRCA PRESENT

WHEN ONE

DOOR CLOSES

PROGRAM

CREATED BY YARON LIFSCHITZ, LIBBY MCDONNELL
& THE CIRCA ENSEMBLE



LA BOITE
THEATRE COMPANY

CIRCA

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY & CIRCA
6 - 23 APRIL 2016 AT THE ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE

CAST

PERFORMERS..... NATHAN BOYLE
..... MARTIN EVANS
..... NICOLE FAUBERT
..... BRIDIE HOOPER
..... TODD KILBY
..... BRITTANNIE PORTELLI
..... DUNCAN WEST

PRODUCTION TEAM

CREATED BY YARON LIFSCHITZ
..... LIBBY MCDONNELL
..... THE CIRCA ENSEMBLE
DIRECTORS YARON LIFSCHITZ
..... LIBBY MCDONNELL
DRAMATURG TODD MACDONALD
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & LIGHTING DESIGNER JASON ORGAN
COSTUME DESIGNER LIBBY MCDONNELL
ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY OONAGH SHERRARD
SET DESIGN JASON ORGAN
..... YARON LIFSCHITZ
..... LIBBY MCDONNELL
SENIOR PRODUCER DANIELLE KELLIE
PRODUCTION MANAGER RICHARD CLARKE
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR DON MACKENZIE
SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER & BOARD OPERATOR..... KEITH CLARK
SET CONSTRUCTION & SCENIC FINISHES ANDREW MILLS

FRONT COVER IMAGE BY DYLAN EVANS
REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID KELLY

SPECIAL THANKS

PRODUCTION PARTNER



PHILIP BACON
GALLERIES



DIRECTORS' NOTES

WITH YARON LIFSCHITZ & LIBBY MCDONNELL

Nora, Hedda Gabler and Miss Julie are three heroines of seismic importance. Late in the 19th Century they burst on stage and quite literally changed the world. Their presence called into question assumptions about women and their role in male dominated society.

They were of course written by men. They live within the conventions of the well-made play. In a sense they are trying to escape their forms as well as their men.

The circus we make is definitely not a well-made play. Rather it is abstract, shifting, elusive. Meaning occurs for sure but exactly where or how are mysterious. So it seemed like an interesting

if challenging idea to use our circus languages to ask 'what would happen if Hedda, Nora and Julie all met at the end of their plays in some parallel world?'

Could we use our circus to support a fantasia where we are no longer bound by the well-made play's conventions; instead we can roam with the boundlessness of the imagination?

In *When One Door Closes* we have sought to create a world where alternate histories jostle with past traumas, where powerful women and men can renegotiate their roles, where power and sex and love and desire dance their eternal, infernal amazing dance.



ABOUT LA BOITE

“Theatre That Matters”

La Boite holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences in Brisbane. For the past nine decades La Boite has represented the adventurous and alternative. There has always been a strong focus on the development of new work and artists, and today it is no different.

The stories, ideas and voices of our city and country are many and varied and as such La Boite seeks to represent and engage in this beautiful and rich diversity; the diversity of form, of ideas, ethnicity, gender – of identity.

La Boite presents five productions annually, and delivers a comprehensive Artist-in-Residence program to develop diverse new work. There are so many ways to engage with La Boite for people of all ages and backgrounds from our acclaimed Ambassadors Program for high school and tertiary

students to our new development program La Boite HWY where you can engage on the ground floor with future La Boite artists and projects. We offer adult acting masterclasses and workshops throughout the year, a comprehensive school holidays program and the hugely successful youth training program the Young Actors Company at La Boite and in Moreton Bay.

Theatre has the capacity to embrace difference in so many ways. We push the boundaries of form by collaborating with some extraordinary partners to stretch theatrical, physical and musical boundaries. We play with contemporary circus, opera, classical text, the theatrical and extraordinary international talents. This varied menu aims to enliven and inspire our existing audiences and draw new audiences to share in the La Boite experience – the experience and magic of live performance in our unique Roundhouse Theatre.

ABOUT CIRCA

From Brisbane, Australia comes a bold new vision of contemporary circus. A place where acrobatics and movement meld into a seamless whole.

A celebration of the expressive possibilities of the human body pushed to its extremes. Since 2006 Circa has toured to 34 countries across six continents. Circa’s work has been rapturously received by audiences, presenters and critics around the world. Critics have raved about Circa calling the work “stunning...exquisite... heart stopping” and “electrically charged”.

Circa’s current touring shows span diverse contexts from works for families in traditional arts centres

to European contemporary arts festivals. Its works are highly innovative genre-bending pieces that stretch the practice and perceptions of circus. Circa features a full time ensemble, a concentrated administrative team and a dedicated circus studio.

Circa also runs a Training Centre with an impressive workshop program in Brisbane at our professional studio, in schools and with partners throughout Queensland and beyond. On top of our term based and one-off training activities, Circa has an impressive track record of producing quality workshops for children, young people and adults in a range of community contexts.



YARON LIFSCHITZ

Director

Artistic Director Yaron Lifschitz is a graduate of the University of New South Wales, University of Queensland and National Institute of Dramatic Arts (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 34 countries, across six continents by over 900 000 people. In 2016 Yaron was the recipient of the prestigious Australia Council Theatre Award.

He was founding Artistic Director of the Australian Museum's Theatre Unit, Head Tutor in Directing at Australian Theatre for Young People and has been a regular guest tutor in directing at NIDA since 1995. Yaron is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Circa and the Creative Lead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

With Circa, Yaron has created works such as *by the light of stars that are no longer...*, *CIRCA*, *Wunderkammer*, *How Like an Angel*, *"S"*, *Beyond*, *Opus*, *Carnival of the Animals* and most recently *The Return* which world premiered in 2015. 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. His passion is creating works of philosophical and poetic depth from the traditional languages of circus.





LIBBY MCDONNELL

Director

Libby works across disciplines as a designer, choreographer, director and performer. With her dynamic visual sensibilities her work is always firmly connected to choreographic exploration, her curiosity about humans and the fantastical. As Creative Associate with Circa, Libby has designed costumes for all of Circa's major creations since 2010 and has show directed and managed tours in Australia and abroad. In 2015 Libby co-directed and choreographed *Before Your Eyes*. This performance experience launched MA Scéné Nationale's 2015/2016 seasons in Montbéliard, France. It was an immersive performance activating 88 local participants as performers and was created in 4 weeks by working extensively within the community. Libby has recently been appointed Associate Director at Circa. As a choreographer Libby co-directed a new two act ballet for Ballet Theatre of Queensland in 2013 and has been resident choreographer and designer for Blue Roo Theatre Company since 2010, a company making performance with adults and young people who experience disability. Libby specializes in design for physical performance and has worked as a dancer and performer on film and in theatre. Libby has an Associate Degree (Dance) from the Queensland University of Technology.



TODD MACDONALD

Dramaturg

Currently Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre Company, Todd completed acting training at NIDA in 1994 and has worked extensively across the theatre, film, television and voice over industries. Todd was the Artistic Associate at Queensland Theatre Company from 2011-2014 and has worked as associate producer and company member with David Pledgers' company NYID, touring internationally. In 1999 he co-founded the award winning venue and production company The Store Room Theatre in Melbourne. He maintains a performance practice as a director, deviser and performer and recently developed a solo performance work *The Button Event* that premiered at the 2014 Brisbane Festival.

Theatre credits include: *Prize Fighter* by Future Fidel (Dir- La Boite/Brisbane Festival 2015), *Medea* Adapted by Suzie Miller (Dir-La Boite 2015), *The Mountaintop* (Dir-QTC 2014), *Kelly* by Matthew Ryan (Dir-QTC 2012/15), *The C Word* by David Burton and Claire Christian (Dir-Metro Arts), *The Button Event* devised with Bagryana Popov (Performer-QTC 2014), *Vanya at Avoca* by Chekhov devised by Bagryana Popov (Performer- Castlemaine Festival/La Mamma 2015), *Venus in Fur* (Performer-QTC 2013), *Bare Witness* (Performer – La Mama National Tour), *Progress and Melancholy* (Performer- 45downsatirs), *Blowback*, *Training Squad* and *Strangeland* by David Pledger (Performer- NYID).





JASON ORGAN

Technical Director & Lighting Designer

Jason Organ graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1988. He has worked as a technician, rigger, lighting designer and production manager. During this time he has lit all manner of productions from pantomimes and product launches to ballet, festivals, military tattoos, circus and live television; contemporary dance and circus being his favourites.

Jason is co-founder of JLX productions, a lighting design and technical consultancy, based in Brisbane Australia.

Jason first worked with Yaron in 2001 on *Sonata for Ten Hands*. He subsequently lit *Regarding the Joy of Others*, *Man in a Room Juggling*, *Anyway I'm Not Alone*, *Figaro Variations*, *Tango*, *Power* and *Wunderkammer*. Since January 2010 he has been working exclusively with Circa, lighting and production managing their international tours.

OONAGH SHERRARD



Composer

Oonagh has been creating music, sound and stories for theatre, film, dance, radio, installation and live performance for twenty years. As a musician she has performed with orchestras, new music ensembles, Javanese gamelan, free improvisation, folk, world music, jazz and electronica collectives.

Oonagh completed post-grad studies in composition at Sydney University under the tutelage of Peter Sculthorpe, Ann Boyd and Ross Edwards. She is a classically trained cellist and has also studied North Indian music with Ashok Roy and the Arabic Oud with the Australian School of Arabic Music. In 2002, through Sydney organisation Women In Film and TV, Oonagh was under the mentorship of composer and musician David Bridie. Oonagh graduated from Macquarie University, with an arts degree in literature, aboriginal history and law.







NATHAN BOYLE

Performer

Nathan Boyle has been a natural performer his whole life. After terrorising his parents at a young age with handstands and cartwheels, his parents saw his passion for performing and acrobatics and enrolled him in gymnastics. His passion for acrobatics took him to sports acrobatics where he represented and won titles for New South Wales at many national championships.

After accepting his position at The National Institute of Circus Arts, (NICA) Nathan specialised in cloudswing, adagio, bungee trapeze and teeterboard. A memorable moment for Nathan whilst at NICA was performing at an International Circus Festival (CIRCA festival) in Auch, France in 2009.

Nathan joined Circa as a full time ensemble member in 2011 and has since entertained audiences nationally and internationally. Some highlights for Nathan so far has been creating and world premiering "S" at Brisbane Festival and travelling around Australia performing *CIRCA* on the National Roadworks Tour in 2012. He is excited for all the new adventures still to come.



MARTIN EVANS

Performer

Martin Evans came to circus by a more roundabout route than most. After watching nothing but circus videos during his lunchbreaks at Australia's only nuclear reactor, Marty left behind his published scientific career, embracing his physical sports background to pursue a career in circus.

His first taste of circus came at the University of Sydney in 2010 as he tried to entertain himself during free periods by learning to throw people into the air and trying to catch them again. Marty trained at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in Melbourne where he met his flyer Maggie Fayne. He is a fiercely determined and hard working hand-to-hand base that enjoys exploring new challenges and techniques.



NICOLE FAUBERT

Performer

Nicole Faubert has a background in both dance and gymnastics. At the age of 15, at the end of her competitive career in acrobatic gymnastics, Nicole was introduced to the world of circus and hasn't looked back since! She started off with flying trapeze and various aerial apparatus' and hand to hand before she began studying at the National Circus School of Montreal where she specialized in handstands, duo straps and Banquine.



BRIDIE HOOPER

Performer

Bridie Hooper tumbled into Spaghetti Circus at the age of 11, where her imagination became entirely unleashed. She was taught to bend, fly and dream, and at 16, Bridie ventured south to the banks of the Murray River to join the Flying Fruit Fly Circus.

In 2008 Bridie bid Australian soils 'adieu' to complete her studies at the Montreal National Circus School where she also had the chance to perform in the Vancouver Olympics Opening Ceremony, at Festival CIRCA, and in the Montreal Completement Cirque Festival in 2010 and 2011. Upon graduating in 2012 Bridie toured Quebec with Vague de Cirque, performed in GOP Variété Dummy and returned to Australia to work for Circa. After an already smashing year with Circa, Bridie is dead keen to see what will happen next.



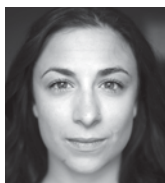
TODD KILBY

Performer

Todd Kilby from the New South Wales coastal city of Newcastle was born into the life of surfing and all things beach. He is a black belt in Taekwondo and has both trained and performed with “Circus Avalon” and “Hands Free Physical Theatre” with whom he won a CONDA (City of Newcastle Drama Award) for stunt choreography.

He joined the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in 2008 and whilst there worked with the Tangentyre Council in Alice Springs teaching in the local Indigenous Youth Circus Arts Centre. While specializing in Chinese Pole and Hoop Diving he has also been trained in Teeterboard, Adagio, Tumbling and Knockabout. Todd is a multifaceted performer with a uniquely Australian style combining circus, dance, martial arts and drama. Todd has a passion and love of performing and entertaining audiences through exploration and raw human energy.

For Todd, Circa is an elephant of awesome in the Savanna of Circus.



BRITTANNIE PORTELLI

Performer

Brittannie Portelli has over 10 years experience in elite sport, and so had the perfect foundations to transition into circus. After competing internationally in both aerobic gymnastics and synchronized swimming, she wanted to combine her love for physical movement with her passion for performing. She completed the three-year Bachelor Degree Program at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in 2010 where she specialised as an aerialist. Shortly after graduating, at the age of 20, she started working with Circa as a full-time ensemble member.

Whilst at Circa, Britt has toured extensively and has many highlights including 3 Helpmann awards, an eight-month season of *Wunderkammer* at the Chamaleon Theater in Berlin, an Australian tour of *CIRCA* and performing in New York City and Montreal. Britt was involved in the creation and premiere of “S” at the Brisbane Festival 2012 as well as one of the 14 acrobats to perform in the world premiere of *Opus*.



DUNCAN WEST

Performer

Duncan West possibly surprisingly, is a fairly circumspect individual. He was attracted to the bright lights of the performing life slowly, like a moth to a candle, and while occasionally singing around the edges is somewhat surprised that he hasn't burst into flames just yet.

He started training acrobatics in 2010 after watching his younger brother (and chief inspiration) perform his graduation show at NICA.

In need of a new hobby, he starts teaching himself Chinese pole from youtube and a couple of years later starts training hand-to-hand with a very generous electrical engineer who happened to be a (very) patient, ex-circus base. Training was done in the afternoons after work and was done purely for the joy of it, the friendship and the feeling of conquering new skills.

He joined Circa in 2013 and since then he has circus-navigated the globe, performing from New Zealand to Namur and from Orange to Athens. Offstage he spends most of his time, baking, eating, reading and trying to work out which country he's currently in.



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Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



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