



UtahPresents

DUCK POND CIRCA

OCTOBER 23, 2024



Photo by Damien Bredberg



DUCK POND

CIRCA



Queensland
Government



Australian Government



Duck Pond is co-commissioned by QPAC and The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, The Art House Wyong, Frankston Arts Centre, HOTA - Home of the Arts, Merrigong Theatre Company and Orange Civic Theatre

October 23, 2024 • 7:30PM
Kingsbury Hall

Please silence your phones and other noisemakers

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Hampton Inn & Suites
Salt Lake City-University/Foothill



DOUBLETREE SUITES
BY HILTON
SALT LAKE CITY

DUCK POND

Created by Yaron Lifschitz and the Circa ensemble.

Director, Stage Design	Yaron Lifschitz
Composer and Sound Designer	Jethro Woodward
Costume Designer	Libby McDonnell
Lighting Designer	Alexander Berlage
Associate Director	Marty Evans
Dramaturg/Associate Choreographer	Rani Luther
Voice Over Artist	Elise Greig

Footage of brutal swan fight used with
the kind permission of Carl Bovis.

International representation:

Allen Moon / David Lieberman Artists' Representatives
USA, Canada, Central & South America

TONIGHT'S CAST

Asha Colless	Maya Davies
Malte Gerhardt	Jordan Hart
Oscar Morris	Kimberley Rossi
Sophie Seccombe	Zachery Stephens
Tristan St John	Adam Strom

Please be advised, due to the nature of circus, acrobats are subject
to change.

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at utahpresents.org/levelup

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BOB & MARY GILCHRIST



Photo by Pia Johnson

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Utah has both historical and contemporary relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Given that the Salt Lake Valley has always been a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples, we acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes and is a crossroad for Indigenous Peoples.

The University of Utah recognizes the enduring relationships between many Indigenous Peoples and their traditional homelands. We are grateful for the territory upon which we gather today; we respect Utah's Indigenous Peoples, the original stewards of this land; and we value the sovereign relationships that exist between tribal governments, state governments, and the federal government.

Today, approximately 60,000 American Indian and Alaska Native peoples live in Utah. As a state institution, the University of Utah is committed to serving Native communities throughout Utah in partnership with Native Nations and our Urban Indian communities through research, education, and community outreach activities.

"The mighty Circa" (Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*)

Circa Contemporary Circus is one of the world's leading performance companies. Since 2004, from its base in Brisbane, Australia, Circa has toured the world - performing in more than 45 countries to nearly 2 million people. Circa's works have been greeted with standing ovations, rave reviews and sold-out houses across six continents.

Circa is at the forefront of the new wave of contemporary Australian circus - pioneering howextreme physicality can create powerful and moving performances. It continues to push the boundaries of the art form, blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus. Compelled by the question 'what is possible in circus?' Circa is leading the way with a diverse range of thrilling creations that 'redraw the limits to which circus can aspire.' (*The Age*).

Under the direction of circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz, Circa features an ensemble of exceptional, multi-skilled circus artists who have been a regular fixture at leading festivals and venues in New York, London, Berlin and Montreal with seasons at Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon Theatre as well as major Australian Festivals.

Visit circa.org.au to find a Circa performance near you and discover why Circa has been hailed as nothing short of "... a revolution in the spectacle of circus." (*Les Echos*).

Circa is committed to fostering the next generation of circus artists and runs public circus classes from its studio in Brisbane. Circa

also runs regular circus programs with communities throughout Queensland and around Australia.

As a champion of live performance, Circa was the Creative Lead for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

Discover more about Circa by subscribing to enews at circa.org.au and following the company on social media:

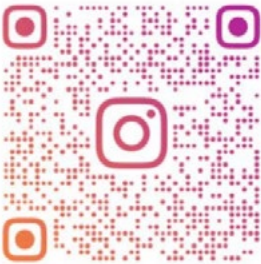
Facebook: [facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus](https://www.facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus)

Instagram: [instagram.com/circapresents](https://www.instagram.com/circapresents)

X: twitter.com/circapresents

Vimeo: [vimeo.com/circapresents](https://www.vimeo.com/circapresents)

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CircaContemporaryCircus>



CIRCAPRESENTS

YARON LIFSCHITZ - 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 80 productions including large-scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre, and circus.

His work has been seen in over forty-five countries and across six continents by nearly two million people and has won numerous awards including six Helpmann awards and the Australia Council Theatre Award. His productions have been presented at major festivals and venues around the world including Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamaleon and all the major Australian festivals. His film work was selected for the Berlin and Melbourne Film Festivals. 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.

He is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Circa and was Creative Director of Festival 2018: the arts and cultural program of the 21st Commonwealth Games.

JETHRO WOODWARD – COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Jethro Woodward is a Melbourne-based composer, musical director, arranger, musician and sound designer recognised for his expansive and highly layered film, theatre and dance scores. A multi Green Room Award winner and Helpmann nominee, he has worked with some of Australia's leading major and independent companies including; Malthouse Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Opera Victoria, Chamber Made Opera, Back to Back, Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin, Australian Dance Theatre, Aphids, Stuck Pigs Squealing, Rawcus, Kage and more.

A composition graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts, Jethro draws upon his detailed understanding of contemporary music and its uses in live performance, including innovative uses of technology, combining live instrumentation with prerecorded, electronic, musical and sound elements into a seamless flexible and responsive score.

Jethro regularly tours his work internationally and has won Green Room Awards for his work on; *The Bloody Chamber* (Malthouse Theatre), *Moth* (Malthouse Theatre/Arena Theatre), *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* (Malthouse Theatre/Arena Theatre) and *Irony Is Not Enough* (Fragment 31). As a guitarist and singer, he regularly performs with Meow Meow and Paul Capsis, and has been a member of the band Cordarzine over the past 15 years. He most recently was the composer of *Rapture* at Sydney Festival 2021, directed by Michael Kantor and starring Paul Capsis and iOTA.

LIBBY MCDONNELL – COSTUME DESIGNER

Libby is a designer and choreographer and she is currently Head of Design at Circa. Libby works in diverse genres and forms. At the heart of her work is people and movement.

Libby has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Visual Art from Queensland College of Art -Griffith University and an Associate Degree in Dance from Queensland University of Technology. Her professional career has included performing and making independent dance work, as an Artistic Director of Ballet Theatre of Queensland and Choreographer for Blue Roo Theatre Company. For eleven years Libby has worked with the team at Circa to imagine, develop and deliver their productions locally, nationally and internationally. During her time at Circa she has designed costumes for over thirty productions, co-directed 3 main stage productions and led many of the company's engagement projects including the pilot of the Circability program.

Libby is based in Brisbane with her family.

ALEXANDER BERLAGE – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Alexander Berlage is an award-winning director and lighting designer. He is co-artistic director of the Old Fitz Theatre. Alexander has won the Sydney Theatre Award Best Direction of a Musical for the past two years in a row – for *AMERICAN PSYCHO* and *CRY-BABY* at Hayes Theatre Co.

As a lighting designer, Alexander has worked for Sydney Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Circa, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Sydney Chamber

Opera, Sydney Dance Company, Griffin Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Hayes Theatre Co., Australian Theatre for Young People, and Redline Productions.

His smash-hit, sold-out production of AMERICAN PSYCHO won 9 Sydney Theatre Awards including Best Direction of a Musical, Best Production of a Musical, and Best Lighting Design of an Independent Production and more. Alexander's production of GLORIA was nominated for 2 Sydney Theatre Awards. Alexander's production of CRY-BABY received rave reviews, sold out and won 4 Sydney Theatre Awards including Best Direction of a Musical, and Best Production of a Musical. The same year, his productions of THERE WILL BE A CLIMAX, HOME INVASION and CRY-BABY received a combined total of 12 Sydney Theatre Award nominations. For THERE WILL BE A CLIMAX, Alexander was nominated for Best Direction of an Independent Production and Best Independent Production.

Alexander's directing work includes: DIARY OF ONE WHO DISAPPEARED, FUTURE REMAINS (with Sydney Festival), RESONANT BODIES (Sydney Chamber Opera); YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, AMERICAN PSYCHO, CRY-BABY (Hayes Theatre Co.); GLORIA (Outhouse Theatre Co.); THERE WILL BE A CLIMAX (Redline Productions/NIDA); HOME INVASION (An Assorted Few/Old 505); and THE VAN DE MAAR PAPERS (An Assorted Few/PACT).

Alexander holds a Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Production) and a Master of Fine Art (Directing) from the National Institute for Dramatic Art, Sydney. In 2019, Alexander was awarded a Mike Walsh Fellowship.

CIRCA ARTISTS



ASHA COLLESS

Growing up in Wollongong, Asha was introduced to circus at the age of six, taking classes at Circus Monoxide. Being in the air and flipping herself around quickly became her favourite thing to do, and this is where her love of performing came alive. At nineteen she decided to take her training

further and study at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), specialising in hula hoops and silks. Asha also loves swimming at the beach, being in nature and a good book.



MAYA DAVIES

For as long as she can remember, Maya has always said “when I grow up, I want to join the circus”, and that’s exactly what she did. She grew up between Australia and the United States, but Maya’s circus training began at Cirkidz, in Adelaide at the age of seven. She has always excelled in both the arts and athletics, and was thrilled when she discovered that circus could be the perfect hybrid of both. This eventually led her to the National Institute of Circus Arts where she specialised in Partner Acrobatics and Chinese Pole, graduating with a Bachelors of Circus Arts. She is devoted to continue using circus as an art discipline; to tell stories, create striking performances, and explore physicality through an imaginative lens.



MALTE GERHARDT

The combination between concentration and explosiveness of partner-acrobatics has inspired Malte since he started to train circus arts at the age of nine in the South-west of Germany. In the following years Malte continued to develop his skills and started to teach various circus disciplines. At the age of 14 he successfully applied to the “Ballet-school and school of Acrobatics” Berlin and finished his vocational education 4 years later at CircArtiveSchool. With his friend and Base Benedikt Löffler he visits the final year of Codarts specialized in a rarely seen combination of partner-acrobatics and a one meter Globe.



JORDAN HART

Jordan fell into circus at age 21 after seeing “A Simple Space” by Gravity & Other Myths at the 2014 Adelaide Fringe Festival. Coming from a sporty upbringing, the show left him feeling inspired and motivated to push himself and learn something new which led him the South Australian Circus Centre. He immersed himself in the world of acrobatics training with

independent artists and members of the local performance troupe before leaving Adelaide to meet and train with other artists, both Australian and international.

With a strong desire to play and explore, things eventually got out of control and he decided he wanted to make a career of it. Jordan worked with Wildhouse Circus, Outside The Lines Circus, Casus and then Time In Space Circus before working with Gravity & Other Myths. In his spare time, he enjoys letting people jump on him and carrying heavy things for strangers.



OSCAR MORRIS

From a very young age, Oscar's parents knew that sports weren't really for him, when they tried to enrol him in soccer but all he wanted to do was put on the uniform and sit on the sideline. Born and raised in Brisbane, Oscar fell in love with circus at the age of 8 when he was enrolled in youth circus classes at Flipside Circus. He trained primarily under Alex Weckes-Huck and Amy Stuart, specialising in various forms of ground acrobatics including hand to hand, banquine, and group acrobatics, as well as juggling. Since graduating from Flipside's performance troupe in 2021, Oscar has worked as an independent artist around Brisbane performing with companies such as Sparkle Society, Collective Circus, Counterpilot and Casus Creations.

When not doing circus, Oscar enjoys listening, playing and writing music – with him being able to play several instruments including; piano, double bass, bass guitar, guitar, percussion, and the smallest amount of trombone.



KIMBERLEY ROSSI

Kimberley grew up in Queensland, and as a Brisbane local it didn't take long before she stumbled upon Circa.

Beginning her circus training at age 13, in just 3 short years she was given the opportunity to be the first member of Fast Track, a program designed for young and aspiring performers within Circa. With the support of her family, Kimberley decided to leave school

The University of Utah Department of Theatre Presents



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

PLAYWRIGHT **William Shakespeare,**
DIRECTOR **Robert Scott Smith**

October 25 - November 3
Studio 115 (Performing Arts Building)



and pursue a career in the circus industry. Shortly after she found herself on a plane flying out to perform her first show, 'Nocturne' in Seoul, South Korea.

Over the years Kimberley has been a part of over 30 productions, visited some of the worlds most beautiful locations and logged over 4000 hours in her favourite video game.



SOPHIE SECCOMBE

Sophie has loved free movement since she was born. Her slightly impetuous nature led her parents to enrol her in ballet lessons when she was two, and competitive gymnastics a few years after that. While formal training gave her a foundation, she preferred handstands in trees and acrobatics on the roof.

Sophie discovered circus at the West End markets in 2021. Immediately enthralled, circus exposed her to a world where gymnastics could be meshed with artistic expression without constraints. After a year of coaching by members of Gravity & Other Myths, she began touring nationally and internationally in Rouge. Outside of acrobatics Sophie may be found listening to Mazzy Star and swimming in any body of water she can find.



ZACHERY STEPHENS

Zachery began his circus career following in the footsteps of his siblings and aspires to one day perform alongside them. With a background in competitive gymnastics and Olympic weightlifting, Zachery is no stranger to lifting weight above himself and has a terrible habit of asking anyone regardless of size to stand on him.

Undertaking his circus studies at the National Institute of Circus Arts, he has trained for 4 years as a hand-balancer and hand to hand base. However, his true love and the place where Zachery thrives most is in an ensemble, where he can explore group acrobatics in collaboration with creative movement. Zachery's ambition as an artist is to become as versatile as possible, to never become comfortable and most importantly, to show the world why circus is the most powerful and beautiful expression of what it means to be human.

**TRISTAN ST JOHN**

Tristan laugh's a lot, produces music and people always says he doesn't have an off switch. Since the backyard trampoline, Tristan has always wanted to fly! Teeterboard and trampolining were a part of his upbringing since the age of 10; not a spare second was spent off it! During the last 11 years, he has have competed at national trampoline competitions, performed Teeterboard, Acrobatics and Chinese Pole to multiple audiences and has completed a Bachelor in Circus Arts.

**ADAM STROM**

Adam started circus classes at the age of six, in the hopes of becoming a superhero. He trained in acrobatics, aerials and juggling for 11 years with Flipside Circus, while also developing his skills in dance, music and theatre. In 2014, Adam was accepted into the Québec Circus School in Canada, where he began an intense and intimate relationship with his German wheel. Since his three years of circus school, he has created and performed in myriad productions around the world, including Midnight Circus, Crépuscule by Flip Fabrique, and La Galerie by Machine de Cirque. He likes performing so much that his superhero career is going to have to wait.



UtahPresents

2024 2025

COMING UP NEXT AT UTAHPRESENTS



THE LOST ART OF DREAMING

Sean Dorsey Dance

November 21 | 7:30PM

Kingsbury Hall

The Lost Art of Dreaming invites the audience to connect with their own joy and look towards a brighter future.



THE LOWER LIGHTS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

December 11, 13, 14 | 7:00PM

Kingsbury Hall

This UtahPresents holiday tradition is back again! Join us as local band The Lower Lights brings their energetic spirit to classic tunes, as well as some new holiday favorites in a night of fun for the whole family.



THE KING'S SINGERS

Virtuoso Concert Series in partnership with the U of U School of Music

December 12 | 7:30PM

Libby Gardner Concert Hall

This Grammy and Emmy Award-winning a capella group has been uniting people through song for over fifty years.

Tickets and info at utahpresents.org



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