

## MEDIA KIT

### LEVIATHAN

#### CIRCA CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH CO: 3 AUSTRALIA, CIRCUS MAXIMA AND CIRCUS WA

PERTH FESTIVAL COMMISSION

WORLD PREMIERE

REGAL THEATRE

FRI 26 FEB – SUN 1 MAR

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### LEVIATHAN

Under the direction of Yaron Lifschitz, Circa's renowned artists joins local circus performers, dancers and young people to push the limits of human possibility in this world-premiere circus event. The Brisbane company behind past Perth Festival hit shows *Opus*, *Beyond* and *How Like an Angel* take the art of circus in an exciting new direction as 36 performers hang from a grid suspended in the air and propel themselves across the stage, tumbling, balancing and soaring together.

The dramatic power and extreme skill of Circa's trademark acrobatics thrillingly expose the tension between the mass and the individual in this deeply moving and physically stunning show. In these complex times, *Leviathan* offers hope by celebrating what we can achieve when we work together.

Circa's internationally-renowned ensemble joins with a local cast of circus performers, dancers and young people for a world premiere circus event.

The art of circus is taken in an exciting new direction as 36 performers hang from a grid suspended in the air and propel themselves across the stage, tumbling, balancing and soaring together. The dramatic power and extreme skill of Circa's trademark acrobatics thrillingly expose the tension between the mass and the individual in an epic theatrical event that is both deeply moving and physically stunning.

In these complex times, *Leviathan* offers hope by celebrating what can be achieved when we work together. This action-packed show connects the local with the global and the emerging with the visionary for powerful new circus production that genuinely pushes boundaries. Presented in collaboration with Co3 Australia, Circus Maxima and CircusWA

Approximate running time is 120 mins.

### COMPANY CREDITS:

**Created by** Yaron Lifschitz

With Circa Ensemble and participating artists

**Direction** Yaron Lifschitz

**Stage and Costume Design** Marg Horwell  
**Associate Design** Libby McDonnell  
**Technical Director** Jason Organ  
**Producer** Danielle Kellie  
**Sound Designer** Owen Belton

## CIRCA

*'The mighty Circa.'* (Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*)

*'a revolution in the spectacle of circus'* (*Les Echos*).

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 40 countries to over a 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 how extreme 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, and 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, CHAMALEON Theatre as well as major Australian Festivals.

Circa is committed to fostering the next generation of circus artists and runs a Training Centre 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 manages arTour and was the Creative Lead for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

## 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 Lifschitz has directed over 60 productions including large-scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre and circus.

His work has been seen in 40 countries and across six continents by over one 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 the Creative Director of Festival 2018: the arts and cultural program of the 21st Commonwealth Games. In 2018 Lifschitz directed four new Circa creations, and a new production *Idomeneo* which opened in Lisbon at The Teatro Nacional de São Carlos.

#### **MARG HORWELL | STAGE & COSTUME DESIGNER**

Marg Horwell is a multi-award-winning set and costume designer. She recently designed set and costumes for *Blasted* (The Malthouse) and costumes for *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Sydney Theatre Company).

Horwell has also designed set and costumes for REVOLT. *She Said. Revolt Again, The Testament Of Mary, The Real And Imagined History of the Elephant Man, The Homosexuals, Or Faggots, Edward II, I Am A Miracle, The Good Person Of Szechuan* and *The Histrionicâ* (Malthouse Theatre), *Animal* (InFlux Theatre), *Lilith Jungle Girl, Summertime in the Garden of Eden* (Sisters Grimm), *The House Of Bernada Alba, Peddling, Cock, Constellations, Music, Birdland, I Call My Brothers* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Resplendence, Chapters From The Pandemic, Save For Crying, Wretch* (Angus Cerini Doubletap), *Big Heart, Shit, Savages* (Dee & Cornelius), *Eight Gigabytes Of Hardcore Pornography* (Griffin Theatre Company/Perth Theatre Company), *Ophelia Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (Bell Shakespeare Company/Chambermade Opera), *Bliss, Nora, La Traviata* (Belvoir), *Common Ground* (Chunky Move), *Marlin* (Arena Theatre/Melbourne Theatre Company). Horwell was Designer in Residence for Malthouse Theatre in 2017.

#### **OWEN BELTON | SOUND DESIGNER**

Owen Belton lives in Vancouver, Canada and graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in Fine and Performing Art. His studies included acoustic, electroacoustic and computer music composition, film sound and dance. He has been writing music for dance for the last 25 years, working with many Canadian choreographers including Crystal Pite, as well as choreographers from Europe and the USA. Dance companies he has created scores for include Kidd Pivot, The National Ballet of Canada, Nederlands Dans Theatre, Ballet Nuremberg, The Royal Ballet and 420 People (Prague). Belton also creates sound design and composition for theatre and has scored several short films, as well as movies and documentaries for television. He is excited to be having his first foray into the world of the circus with Circa.

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