

QPAC & CIRCA PRESENT

WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN

CREATED BY YARON LIFSHITZ & THE CIRCA ENSEMBLE



PROGRAM

13 - 17 MARCH | PLAYHOUSE, QPAC

CIRCA



A Norfolk and Norwich Festival commission

Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Circa is based in Meanjin (Brisbane) on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal people. We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the many lands on which we create and perform. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Always was. Always will be.

Image by Jamie Williams

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



"The very relationship with the other is the relationship with the future."

— Emmanuel Levinas

Is this the only circus show inspired by grammar?

Beloved of continental philosophers, the future anterior tense (or its English equivalent the future present) is one in which the past becomes true in the future. For instance, if, as you politely end your call entering the theatre tonight, you said to your interlocutor, "In an hour, I will have seen this show" you have a high likelihood of being right, but when, exactly, would you be right? By the time it happens, it has already passed; until it happens, it is in the future.

There is literally no present in the future anterior — the past manifests in the future, the future retrospectively fulfills the past's promises.

Circus is the artform of the present. You have to be there as bodies risk all, in real time, in that moment. *What Will Have Been* was born from this delightful tension — how can we embody absence, and create a show whose pasts and futures are searching a shared presence? And what happens when we get there?

Each of the show's scenes brings to life these counter-movements of togetherness, apartness, balance, flow, give and take. Sometimes the results are moving and beautiful, sometimes comic or silly. The overall effect is like watching a poem written by extremely skilful performers, right in front of us, in a present we inhabit and they are searching for.

Yaron Lifschitz
Artistic Director and CEO

Image by Jade Ferguson

QPAC WELCOME



What Will Have Been is a production title that speaks volumes about this global powerhouse. A title that at once intrigues and puzzles, that demands your attention, that beckons you to turn it over in your mind and unravel its meaning. It perfectly captures Circa: never predictable, and always gently nudging its audiences to look deeper and see something beyond the superficial.

Circa Artistic Director Yaron Lifschitz refers to circus being "the artform of the present". In a world that is busier than ever, with our attention pulled in every direction, circus is an artform that demands both artists and audience are fully present. Circus at its best can have you on the edge of your seat, wrest an involuntary gasp from deep inside you, and move you to tears. And a commitment to the best that this artform can achieve is what has guided Circa for more than twenty years.

Never a company to do things by the book — build a following at home then tour abroad — Circa instead had cemented a global reputation almost before making a name locally. Such is the company's international appeal, it is only in recent years that we've had the pleasure of hosting Circa multiple seasons a year here at QPAC.

Our warmest congratulations to Yaron and the Circa team on reaching this extraordinary twenty-year milestone, achieved through determination, an enduring commitment to always moving forward, and an endless capacity for creativity. It is always our pleasure to co-present Circa seasons here at QPAC and this season of *What Will Have Been* is no exception. Happy Birthday, Circa.

John Kotzas
Chief Executive, QPAC

WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN

Created by

Yaron Lifschitz and the Circa Ensemble

Director

Yaron Lifschitz

Technical Director and Co-Lighting Designer

Jason Organ

Co-Lighting Designer

Richard Clarke

Costume Design

Libby McDonnell

Violinist

Rebecca Seymour
(Queensland Symphony Orchestra)

Presented by QPAC and Circa

A Norfolk and Norwich Festival commission.

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ABOUT THE SHOW

EXPERIENCE A NEW LEVEL OF CIRCUS MASTERY – AS MOVING AS IT IS THRILLING.

From the creators of *Humans 2.0*, *Peepshow* and *Wolfgang's Magical Musical Circus*, one of the world's leading performance companies Circa is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special hometown premiere of their international hit *What Will Have Been*.

Fresh from a sold-out three-month tour of France and a smash hit season in Avignon Festival, *What Will Have Been* is the most challenging show in Circa's repertoire for their performers.

Three acrobats and one violinist perform live on a bare stage, drawing audiences into an astoundingly rich world of pure muscularity and strength, and serenaded with the haunting melodies of Bach and Vivaldi mixed with a contemporary playlist. Where beauty meets ferocity, expect to leave this performance feeling breathless.

Directed and sound designed by Yaron Lifschitz with violin performed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra's Rebecca Seymour, it features two of Circa's most experienced ensemble members Daniel O'Brien and Kimberley Rossi with recent recruit, the indomitable Zac Stephens.

CAST

Daniel O'Brien



Daniel has been physically active throughout his whole life, primarily focusing on his gymnastics training in his hometown of Maryborough and a few small gyms along the Queensland coastline.

After attending National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) for three years, where he specialised in hand-balancing and aerial straps, Daniel joined Circa as an ensemble member in 2014. Having fostered an immense passion for circus, he has since performed in many iconic Circa works including *What Will Have Been, Closer and Humans*.

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 three 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 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.

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 four years as a handbalancer 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.

Rebecca Seymour



Rebecca started playing the violin when she was very young, as a child of the Suzuki Method. After graduating the method, she received a Bachelor of Music (Performance) (Hons) and a Master of Philosophy (Music Performance) from the University of Queensland studying with Spiros Rantos. During her studies she participated in masterclasses both nationally and internationally — including summer mastercourse programs at the world-renowned Accademia Chigiana (Siena, Italy) under Giuliano Carmignola — and with the likes of David Adams, David Takeno, the Takacs Quartet, Henk Guittart and Rudolf Koelman.

Rebecca has been lucky enough to enjoy a wide and varied experience playing and touring with several ensembles including Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Circa, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Welsh National Opera, Australian Youth Orchestra and Queensland Youth Symphony. In addition to orchestral work, she absolutely loves to play chamber music — a highlight behind a Winter Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada) as a member of the Elston Quartet. Rebecca regularly performs throughout Queensland and as part of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra's chamber music series.

CREATIVES

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 60 productions including large-scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre, and circus.

His work has been seen in more than 40 countries and across six continents by over 1.5 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, Chaméleon and all the major Australian festivals.

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.

Jason Organ

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND CO-LIGHTING DESIGN



Jason graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1988 and has had an extensive career as a Lighting Designer, Production Manager, Technician and Rigger. He has worked with companies such as Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, La Boite, Kooumba Jdarra and festivals such as Out of the Box, Qld Music Festival and Brisbane Festival.

Jason was co-founder of JLX productions a Brisbane based lighting design and technical consultancy. Between 2010 and 2022 Jason worked exclusively with Circa as Technical

Director, in this time he has helped deliver 20 new productions and toured 31 countries presenting Circa's work. Jason is currently a Production Manager for QPAC's curatorial department.

Richard Clarke

CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER



Richard Clarke graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1998. On graduation he worked as a lighting designer, production electrician and lighting operator for theatre, dance and circus before transitioning into lighting programming and production management in the corporate, television and live events industries before returning to the arts. He has been working with Circa in various capacities since 2010.

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.

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 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 three main stage productions and led many of the company's engagement projects including the pilot of the Circability program.



C!RCA

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

For the past two decades, I have risen each morning and thought I am the luckiest person in the world. I lead a company, Circa, that I love, doing work that I love with great people.

Twenty years ago, building on the stubbornly hard work of the previous seventeen years of Rock n Roll Circus, I changed the name of and cemented a new direction for the company.

Circa. It was contemporary, uncompromising, elusive, and strange. Much misunderstood, heavily doubted and somewhat under loved, it was a perfect platform for voyaging into the unknown. Circus that moves the heart, the mind and soul, the company was dedicated to reimagining the future of circus.

I was blessed with great collaborators and good luck – enough breaks went our way for us to develop. From an ensemble of three, we are now around thirty; from a base in Brisbane, we now have additional homes in Cairns and satellite bases around the world; from work that perplexed and confused, we make work that connects and moves even if it still challenges and sometimes perplexes. Our classes offerings have matured into the Circa Academy and Circa Cairns now gives proud opportunity and voice to First Nations-led circus. And every year our team creates, delivers and performs around 300 shows across fifteen or so countries.

It is my life's creative work, and I am immensely proud of the shows we have created, the artists we have helped develop and the emotional and intellectual contributions we have made to what is possible in circus. I often reflect on what I'm still doing here and I recall Ann Carson's line that "existence will not stop until it gets to beauty". For me the beauty of circus is its ability to present powerful truths and ephemeral states with the thrill of the embodied – it contains within it the charge of true revelation. Circa will not stop because such beauty is as rare as it is inexhaustible and I look forward to the next decades of hunting it.

Yaron Lifschitz
Artistic Director and CEO - Circa

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Support Circa

Circa turns 20 this year.

Achievements like this do not happen easily. As Circa's Artistic Director and CEO, Yaron Lifschitz noted recently, they are the result of a team - a group of people who agree to serve a vision, to work with trust, care and love.

At Circa, that team work tirelessly to create and deliver 300 performances a year in 20 countries. For two decades we have redefined what is possible in circus, and the results culminate in home seasons like this.

Each Circa creation starts in Brisbane, with artists and an idea. It is here that we create our powerful and moving performances; that we nurture the next generation of talent; that we collaborate; we dream.

But we can't do it without you. If you are able to give, your support through a tax deductible donation will make an extraordinary impact.

In Circa's 20th year support us to continue to create the future of circus here at home and around the world.

Donate now circa.org.au/support



CIRCA

“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 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. 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



CIRCA

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We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of this land, their spirits and their legacy. The foundations laid by these ancestors – our First Nations Peoples – gives strength, inspiration and courage to current and future generations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, towards creating a better Queensland.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

QPAC warmly thanks our key donors who help us engage broadly across the state and continue enriching lives through performing arts.

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CIRCA

