



# ACROBUFFOS

## AIR PLAY

**WRITERS/CREATORS** Seth Bloom, Christina Gelsone

**PERFORMERS** Seth Bloom, Christina Gelsone

**KINETIC SCULPTOR** Daniel Wurtzel

**DIRECTOR** West Hyler

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** Todd Alan Little

**STAGE MANAGER** Flora Vassar

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Jeanne Koenig

**COSTUMES** Ashley Dunn Gatterdam

**SOUND DESIGN** Seth Bloom, Christina Gelsone

**ADDITIONAL SOUND DESIGN** Phil Ingle

**PROPS** Seth Bloom, Christina Gelsone

**REPRESENTATION** Boat Rocker Entertainment, Aurora Nova

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 @ 3 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

## PROGRAM NOTES

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Our home of New York City has a long history of artists from different genres collaborating, most notably dancer Martha Graham and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. We followed suit, curious to see what combining our physical comedy with the air sculptures of Brooklyn-based artist Daniel Wurtzel would create.

Over five years, we worked together, developing new sculptures and object manipulations to create the genre-bending *Air Play*.

Is *Air Play* theatre, comedy, sculpture or circus? Yes! Our show is rooted in our love of circus, clowns, aerialists, acrobats and jugglers. Real people doing real things — defying gravity. If you tilt your head, you'll see the circus in *Air Play*, the fabrics become our aerialists, helium balloons become juggling props and the powerful fans gracefully defeat the same gravity circus performers work so hard to overcome.

*Air Play* is a visual poem using no words. Just as a poem may have no literal story, *Air Play* is open to interpretation. We've performed across the U.S. and around the globe, from the southernmost opera house in the world in Chile, to London's Royal Festival Hall, Melbourne's State Theater and Shanghai's Grand Theatre. Around the world, audiences tell us that the wonder and discovery of *Air Play* are bold reminders of their own childhood and growing up, of friendship, sibling rivalry, loss and memory.

We invite you to breathe deeply, laugh, gasp and find your own story.

- Seth Bloom & Christina Gelsone

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**The Acrobuffos**, Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone, are the creators, writers and performers of *Air Play*. Bloom and Gelsone met at a circus in Afghanistan, became engaged while street performing in Scotland, married in China and occasionally go home to New York City. Specializing in non-verbal physical theatre and comedy, Bloom and Gelsone have created seven shows together, competed in international circus festivals, performed in over 28 countries, headlined at the Big Apple Circus and were even featured on a postage stamp. [acrobuffos.com](http://acrobuffos.com)

### **Seth Bloom** (Creator & Performer)

Bloom grew up in India, Kenya and Sri Lanka. Bloom spent many years touring the U.S. as a professional juggler and silent comedian and worked extensively in Afghanistan with the Mobile Mini Circus for Children. Bloom studied circus clowning at Ringling Brothers Clown College, Lecoq theater at LISPA (MFA) and Commedia at Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Bloom has performed in 30 countries and 49 U.S. states.

### **Christina Gelsone** (Creator & Performer)

Gelsone grew up in Texas and has worked in 40 countries as a non-verbal clown, stilt walker, mask performer, juggler, puppeteer and acrobat. Previously a ballet dancer, Gelsone majored in Shakespeare at Princeton University and studied corporeal mime at the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. For years, Gelsone worked in multiple post-war zones with New York City-based Bond Street Theatre. Other professional adventures include starting a social circus program in Egypt and teaching at universities.

### **Daniel Wurtzel** (Air Sculptor)

Wurtzel is a New York artist best known for his kinetic sculptures using air and lightweight materials that fly. Wurtzel's sculptures have been featured on Broadway, Cirque du Soleil, the Olympics and with theatre directors such as Julie Taymor, Diane Paulus, Robert Lepage and Zhang Yimou. Museums around the

world, including the Musee Rodin, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya and the Museu do Amanha in Rio de Janeiro, display Wurtzel's work. [danielwurtzel.com](http://danielwurtzel.com)

**West Hyler** (Director)

Hyler is a theatre director equally at home in the circus or on Broadway. In the circus, Hyler was story writer and scene director for *Paramour*, Cirque du Soleil's first Broadway musical and twice directed Big Apple Circus. As the Associate Director for *Jersey Boys*, he staged the show on five continents. Hyler is the Producing Artistic Director of the New York Musical Festival and continues to develop new work. [westhyler.com](http://westhyler.com)

**Jeanne Koenig** (Lighting Designer)

Koenig is the Associate Lighting Designer for *The Lion King* and has worked worldwide with more than 20 companies and in 14 countries. Koenig's other associate lighting design works include Broadway productions of *Side Show*, Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* and *Come Fly Away*, *Leap of Faith*, *Ragtime*, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, *All Shook Up*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Juan Darien* and *Hughie*.

**Todd Alan Little** (Production Manager)

Little has production managed more than 40 musicals for the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut, with several productions continuing to Broadway. Little assisted in the creation of critically acclaimed Japanese Kabuki shows for Western audiences: *Kabuki Medea*, *Kabuki Othello* and *Kabuki Macbeth*. Little also managed a record-breaking around-the-world solo balloon flight and writes new plays.

**Flora Vassar** (Stage Manager & Lighting Supervisor)

Vassar is a stage manager, lighting supervisor and prop maker. Vassar serves on the board of directors for The Resource Exchange, Philadelphia's creative reuse center and helped pilot Pop Up Repair, a theatre-based intervention in the cycle of use-and-discard consumer goods.

*Air Play* has been made possible with support from Playhouse Square, New Victory Theater, Zoellner Arts Center, Flushing Town Hall.