



GRAVITY & OTHER MYTHS

TEN THOUSAND HOURS

DIRECTOR Lachlan Binns

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Darcy Grant

ACROBATS Alyssa Moore, Annalise Moore, Axel Osborne, Chase Levy, Jacob Randell, Lachlan Harper, Louis Gift, Shani Stephens

MUSICIAN Angus McKean

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Darcy Grant

SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER Chris Petredis

ASSISTANT DESIGNER Max Mackenzie

COMPOSERS Nicholas Martyn, Shenton Gregory (Shenzo Gregorio)

COSTUME DESIGNER Olivia Zanchetta

PRODUCTION MANAGER Martin Schreiber

CREATIVE PRODUCER Jascha Boyce

TOUR MANAGER Lachlan Harper

TOUR PRODUCTION MANAGER Axel Osborne

TOUR MARKETING Lachlan Binns

COMPANY OPERATIONS Belinda Respondeck

U.S. TOUR BOOKING & MANAGEMENT Opus 3 Artists

Commissioned by Chamäleon Berlin, La Strada, Graz and Gluttony Adelaide; assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia; supported by the Adelaide Festival Centre. Gravity & Other Myths is supported as an organization by Arts South Australia.

Zellerbach Theatre
Saturday, October 17 @ 2 PM

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Gravity & Other Myths is a circus company with roots in Adelaide, Australia that utilizes an honest approach to performance to create work with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. Through this, the company hopes to maintain an exceptional and diverse artistic program. After forming in 2009 as a group of young Adelaide artists with a passion for circus and physical theatre, it has spent the past 13 years growing steadily and creating six critically acclaimed main stage works.

A Simple Space, Gravity & Other Myths' first work, achieved huge international success, received multiple awards and has been performed close to 1,000 times across 34 countries. Its subsequent work, *Backbone*, has been touring for the past five years, receiving awards, including three Helpmann award nominations, and critical acclaim worldwide. *Out Of Chaos...* premiered in the 2019 Adelaide Festival, receiving the 2019 Helpmann Award for best physical theatre.

Gravity & Other Myths' most recent creations *The Pulse* and *MACRO* are the group's largest and most ambitious works thus far and among the largest contemporary circus works in Australian history. These works have elevated the company's artistic profile worldwide.

Alongside its onstage work, the company deeply values engaging with both its immediate and wider community through workshops and education. Gravity & Other Myths' work strives to nurture human connection while challenging the genre of circus through conceptual sophistication and acrobatic virtuosity. It employs an honest approach to performance, illuminating the complexities of humanity through authenticity, humor and physical prowess.

The group's predominantly ensemble-driven creative process encourages its artists to engage deeply with the work they are inhabiting and allows true investment in and commitment to the company's core values. As a leader of contemporary circus in Australia, the group feels a responsibility to continue to challenge circus as an artform.

Gravity & Other Myths acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which they make their work, the Kaurna people. They honor their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge that the Indigenous people are the first artists of Australia.

Lachlan Binns (Director, Tour Marketer)

Adelaide born and bred, Binns has been involved in active and creative pursuits his whole life, starting circus classes at Cirkidz at just eight years old. It was there where his passion for performance and training was developed, and he formed the friendships that forged the beginnings of Gravity & Other Myths (GOM).

Binns's love for the circus was solidified when he performed in a show called *Freaky* at the 2007 Come Out Festival for kids in Adelaide, as it gave him a chance to perform with professional adult artists from Circus Monoxide and with their Cirkidz trainer, Triton, who became a founding member of GOM. His first professional role was as a trainer for Cirkidz, and as a street performer at many of the various arts festivals in Adelaide. The turning point in Binns's career came in 2013, when he and the GOM team travelled to the UK to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe.

As a founding member of GOM, Binns's role within the company ranges from leader, mentor and creative director to designer and administrator. He is most often involved in conversations about the innovation and creative quality of GOM work and sees this as his major contribution to the company. His favorite moment on stage was performing *A Simple Space* at the 2013 Tasmanian circus festival, as it was the first time Gravity & Other Myths had ever performed the work in front of peers and the community, and it was terrifyingly exhilarating!

Darcy Grant (Artistic Director, Associate Director)

Grant is a classically trained acrobat, award-winning fine art photographer, physical theatre director and founding member of Circa, revered as one of the world's most adventurous, genre-defying circuses. He has trained, taught and toured work on the cutting edge of new circus at some of the world's most prestigious venues. Where theatre, dance, circus and visual art meet is where Grant likes to practice; his visual aesthetic is foundation and scaffold to his show making. In 2017, Grant was commissioned by Adelaide International Arts Festival to direct *Backbone* by Gravity & Other Myths. The show premiered to five-star reviews and standing ovations, also earning three Helpmann Award nominations including Best Choreography and Best New Australian Work. Also a brilliant photographer, Grant regularly shoots live performance for companies such as Opera Australia and The Farm. Grant has had solo photographic exhibitions in Brisbane, Melbourne and Berlin.

Alyssa Moore (Acrobat)

Moore is a versatile acrobat, aerialist and full-time hot mess. Since leaving the small coastal town of Ulladulla, she has travelled around performing a myriad of roles as a circus artist. From the prestigious Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, to exploring the entirety of New Zealand as a pirate and back to the land down under with Circus Oz are just a few highlights. She has also helped devise and produce several independent productions that have travelled interstate and internationally. Her dream is to continue this life of collaborating, travelling and laughing, and to one day be a hot circus mum.

Annalise Moore (Acrobat)

Moore began her endeavors as a performer through artistic gymnastics at age seven where she competed nationally through the age of 16. She then found hip hop dance and discovered circus at 18. Circus allowed her to combine both elements of gymnastics and dance, as well as providing a creative outlet. Moore went on to train at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and later continued her training in Montreal, specializing in hand to hand and hand balancing. Some of Moore's notable work includes performing with Recirquel company, Cirque Du Soliel's *45 Degrees*, Circus Oz and now Gravity & Other Myths. Moore is thrilled to be part of such a strong ensemble where she can share her passion for group acrobatics with the world.

Axel Osborne (Acrobat, Tour Production Manager)

Osborne has dedicated his life to the study and teaching of acrobatics. With over 12 years of elite gymnastics and acrobatics, and more than 10 years of coaching experience, his understanding of movement and mechanics has led him to many accolades such as the silver medal at the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships in 2016. Since retiring from competition, Osborne has performed on TV shows such as *Americas Got Talent* and *Le Plus Grand Cabaret du Monde*, in addition to performing on stages all over the world.

Chase Levy (Acrobat)

Levy is an acrobat from the U.S. He found his love for circus and performing at a young age with Circus Smirkus summer camp and then toured with Smirkus, performing more than 200 full-length shows over four summers. Levy then spent a year at the Québec City Circus School before entering the National Circus School in Montréal. He graduated ENC in 2024 as a hand to hand major with training in columns, banquine, Russian bar and Russian cradle. As an artist, Levy is interested in group acrobatic work and the intersection between performing and visual arts. When not training or performing, he loves cooking, photography/filmmaking and watching movies. He's often thought if he were not a circus artist, he would open a food truck, serving fresh food with ingredients from local farmers' markets. Levy also loves mixing circus and film, creating projects with his talented friends.

Jacob Randell (Acrobat)

Randell was following in the footsteps of his father and two brothers in pursuing a career in engineering. He then raised eyebrows by putting his studies on hold to embark on international tours as a full-time acrobat.

A founding member of what has become one of Australia's largest and most successful contemporary circus companies, Randell attended Adelaide youth circus school, Cirkidz, from age nine. What started as a hobby soon became a career when he and five others from his Cirkidz class formed Gravity & Other Myths and toured with their first show, *Freefall*. The creation and premiere of *A Simple Space* in early 2013 cemented the transition from hobby to career. The group took the show to Edinburgh Festival Fringe and received so much booking interest that Randell deferred his degree to take part in the international tour. Randell has been performing, creating and touring full time with GOM ever since.

In his off-stage time while touring, Randell completed a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management and a graduate diploma in financial planning. He also contributes to the company's management as Financial Controller. In addition to ensuring the GOM team is functioning at its peak, Randell is involved with implementing the company's business strategy and loves the challenge of problem solving on the fly.

Randell has always loved performing and cannot believe his luck in winning the "job lottery" which allows him to train, perform and travel with a group of his best friends. While the onstage moments give him the adrenaline hit that he loves night after night, it's the offstage moments that will stay with him for life. Traveling the world with GOM has enabled Randell countless great memories with friends at festivals all over the world. Some highlight moments include snowboarding in Canada, sailing in Croatia, salsa dancing in Sao Paulo and going on safari in Zimbabwe.

Lachlan Harper (Acrobat, Tour Manager)

Harper was four when his parents put him into gymnastics to try and tire him out. After 11 years of training, he sought a new way to explore his body's acrobatic capabilities: his first taste of circus was when a friend introduced him to pitching. He became obsessed. Having a career of being thrown around, flipping and having fun was the dream. He pursued his career as a circus artist by attending the National Institute of Circus Arts where he specialized in handstands, acrobatics and banquine. After two years at NICA, Lachlan joined Gravity & Other Myths and never looked back; six years on, he's never been happier.

Louis Gift (Acrobat)

Gift started his acrobatic journey doing parkour and freerunning in the streets of London and found a love of performing acrobatics on stage after appearing in a production of *Oklahoma!* at college. He attended the BA degree program at the National Centre of Circus Arts in London, passing with first-class honors, and started a company with two friends called Barely Methodical Troupe. The troupe debuted its first show at Edinburgh Fringe in 2014, earning the Total Theatre award for best new circus, and performed many subsequent years to sold-out runs.

Gift and his company went on to perform their blend of circus and breakdancing/parkour/tricking for another decade around the UK and internationally, while giving workshops to people of all backgrounds and abilities. They taught the next generation of UK talent at the National Centre of Circus Arts and appeared on various TV shows, performed at corporate events and appeared in international fashion campaigns. Gift started working with Gravity & Other Myths in 2023, touring with *Backbone* and *The Pulse*, and playing drums in *A Simple Space*. He is currently touring with *Ten Thousand Hours* and loving it!

Shani Stephens (Acrobat)

Stephens grew up in a little country town with two big brothers that rustled her around. After years of flipping off fences and leaving dirty sock marks on the walls, she quickly realized that she was happiest when upside down. Stephens spent several years competing in gymnastics and attending youth circus classes before venturing to The Flying Fruit Fly Circus to take her training to a national level. After graduating in 2017, Stephens toured with Circus Oz before joining her dream company, Gravity & Other Myths.

Angus McKean (Musician)

McKean is a drummer, percussionist and producer hailing from Melbourne, Australia. Moving from his hometown Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, when he was 14 to pursue music, McKean utilized his enthusiastic, passionate and stylistic approach to the instrument to benefit and open himself to many genres of music. McKean has shared the stage with artists such as Griffin Morris, Ishan, Jacob Fitzgerald, Woody Samson, Lewis Toms, Kiwat Kennell, Tejo D'Cruz, Dan Dibb, Ed Sutton, Charles Maimarosia, Aunty Histamine, Zachary Leo, Kingswood, Ed Moon, The Glamour and more. McKean also frequents the orchestra pit, being an in-demand drummer and percussionist for musical theatre in Melbourne and across Australia, with past shows including *Juliet*, *Chess*, *Big Name*, *No Blankets*, *The Beep Test* and more, with extensive experience both playing and being a musical director. A graduate of the VCA with a bachelor's degree in jazz and improvisation, McKean is also a mentor and teacher, finding solace in teaching. In 2026, McKean embarked on his largest international tour with Gravity & Other Myths. McKean is proudly endorsed by Meinl Cymbals and Percussion.

Max Mackenzie (Assistant Designer)

British born and Perth raised, Mackenzie has had a love for the theatre and performing from a young age. From singing center stage to discovering the craft and creativity of lighting design, Mackenzie studied lighting for performance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, before taking on his first professional lighting job at the 2015 Perth Fringe, followed by a stint at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe.

Mackenzie has been with Gravity & Other Myths since 2017 after undertaking an internship with designer Geoff Cobham, who introduced him to the ensemble. He has grown and developed his lighting skills within the company, from the international tour for *Backbone*, to taking on lighting design and creation for *Out of Chaos*. As GOM's lighting designer, Mackenzie sees it as his role to highlight the creativity and ingenuity of the performers and their connection on-stage, ultimately making them look good while also keeping them safe. He'll never forget the way GOM was able to change and adapt their performance of *Backbone* in response to an ensemble member's injury; the performer, the ensemble and the show were all winners.

Nicholas Martyn (Composer)

Martyn is a drummer and performer extraordinaire who has played music everywhere except Antarctica in the last 18 years. Since finishing a bachelor's degree in music in 2007, Martyn has worked with countless Australian artists including Gotye, Harry Angus (The Cat Empire), Matt Corby, Tex Perkins and The Sweetenoughs (a Hiatus Kaiyote side project). As a founding member of soul band Clairry Browne & The Bangin' Rackettes, Martyn entered international touring life from 2010-2015. Since then, he has toured Australia with NYC punk icons James Chance and The Contortions, performed globally with Circus Oz and studied traditional folkloric rhythms in Havana, Cuba under master drummer Changuito. Since 2016, Martyn has developed *Las Mar*, a one-man live show combining high-energy complex drumming, vocals and synths, releasing two albums and an EP in the process. Most recently, with violin virtuoso and Gravity & Other Myths collaborator Shenzo Gregorio, Martyn composed the music for *Ten Thousand Hours*.

Shenton Gregory (Shenzo Gregorio) (Composer)

Gregory had a violin passed down to him from his older sister when he was just four years of age. After 17 years of classical training, he decided that real world experience was the way forward. He continued to develop his knowledge in many styles of music, notably his invention of playing the violin upside down caused quite a stir. He's been a member of Sydney Rock string quartet Fourplay for 12 years and continues to be one of the highest in-demand musicians in Australia.

Martin Schreiber (Production Manager)

Born in Amsterdam, Schreiber moved to Adelaide with his family in 1997 and was inspired to take up circus performance after seeing a National Institute of Circus Arts show with his grandparents in Melbourne as a child. A keen gymnast from eight years old, Schreiber competed at the state level until an injury led him to focus more on his circus training, which he'd begun at Cirkidz at age 12. Soon joining Cirkidz's elite program, The Troupe, Schreiber gained a higher level of training and began performing in public shows, including Fringe shows and school tours. During this time, Schreiber met the other founders of Gravity & Other Myths.

GOM's first show *Freefall* launched in 2009 and led to seasons at the Adelaide Fringe in 2010, 2011 and 2013, a 10-week regional Australian tour and an international tour following a successful Edinburgh Fringe season. Schreiber has been touring with GOM ever since. Schreiber works as an acrobat in both the creation and performance of all GOM shows and has also taken on the role of training manager, tour manager and production manager for the company.

His favorite moment on stage with GOM was the premiere night of their performance of *Backbone* at the Adelaide Festival. The intense feeling of premiering a work in his

home city, in front of friends and family, then finishing to a standing ovation, made the many months of rehearsals worth it.

Jascha Boyce (Creative Producer)

Boyce is Company Director and Creative Producer of Gravity & Other Myths. She joined Cirkidz, a recreational circus school in Adelaide, at just four years old and could not stay away. She has since spent her life training, creating and performing acrobatics. As a founding member of GOM, she has always been deeply connected to the company's works either as an ensemble acrobat or part of the creative team, acting as Associate Director on *Out of Chaos*, *I Want to Touch You* and *The Mirror*.

Boyce has recently stepped away from tour life to become a mum. With this change has come a refocus on her role in GOM. She now centers her energy towards creative producing: nurturing key relationships, securing funding and shepherding new projects, alongside broader strategic visioning for the organization. Boyce is also the co-founder of Pulsing Heart, a creative studio producing large-scale participatory installations and objects for the home. With over two decades of experience across broad facets of the industry, Boyce now shares her passion through her leadership roles in both GOM and Pulsing Heart, challenging the forms of new circus and participatory art through honesty and innovation.

Belinda Respondeck (Company Operations)

Respondeck specializes in bringing order to chaos. She has been supporting the *Backbone* of the company, the six directors, in various capacities since they were *A Simple Space* in 2013.

Hailing originally from Wellington, New Zealand, Respondeck graduated from the University of Waikato in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in marketing and international management. She developed and executed multiple large arts marketing campaigns at Ticketek NZ, the Edinburgh Fringe and the New Zealand International Arts Festival. She made a big change of scene and took on a new challenge in 2008, spending the proceeding five years managing IT network infrastructure and software upgrade projects at Gen-i.

Following a long-held dream to live in Berlin, Respondeck packed up a suitcase and made the shift to Europe in 2013. She began working at Aurora Nova as the booking agency was starting up. Gravity & Other Myths was one of its first three clients. Through project management, producing, production management and finally as General Manager, Respondeck was integral in the development and growth of the agency. In addition to looking after GOM, other artists and the day-to-day running of the agency, Respondeck produced Aurora Nova's Edinburgh Line Up seasons from 2014 to 2017. She began working directly for GOM in 2018. Nowadays, Respondeck manages GOM's international operations from her home office in Berlin and visits the company from time to time on the road.

SUPPORT FOR TEN THOUSAND HOURS



Australian Government

RISE Fund



Government
of South Australia



CreateSA



Australian Government



CHAMAL
EON

La Strada
graz



ADELAIDE FESTIVALCENTRE



SIDNEY MYER FUND

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

ID EVOLUTION

JAN 23

"One of Canada's national treasures" (*Toronto Star*), Cirque Éloize makes its Penn Live Arts debut in *ID EVOLUTION*, where trampoline, aerial hoop, trial bike, breakdancing and more collide in an electrifying urban contemporary circus. Don't miss "Cirque du Soleil's hipper, sexier cousin" (*The Stage*).

GET TICKETS NOW!
PENNLIVEARTS.ORG

