



Pedro Greig

# CIRCA

*Humans*

**Director** Yaron Lifschitz  
**Technical Director** Jason Organ  
**Costume Design** Libby McDonnell

## **Ensemble**

Caroline Baillon, Nathan Boyle, Marty Evans, Keaton Hentoff-Killian, Bridie Hooper, Nathan Knowles, Todd Kilby, Cecilia Martin, Daniel O'Brien, Kimberley O'Brien

## **PROGRAM**

*There will not be an intermission.*

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**Friday, September 28 @ 8 PM**  
**Saturday, September 29 @ 2 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre

NextMove  
**DANCE**

The 18/19 dance series is presented by Annenberg Center Live and NextMove Dance.

**FRINGEARTS**

Circa is co-presented with FringeArts.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Ten acrobats take us on a stirring journey of what it means to be human, and of how our bodies, our connections and our aspirations all form part of who we are.

Exploring the physical limits of their bodies as they are pushed to the extreme, they question how much we can take as humans. How much weight can we carry? Who can we trust to support our load? They lead us to reflect on our lives and our loved ones as well as the burdens we carry and the physical and emotional strength it takes to overcome them.

Created by Yaron Lifschitz, the stage is stripped bare as the vulnerability of a team of highly skilled acrobats is exposed. With incredible strength and integrity, they connect each moment seamlessly with the next in a thrilling and heart-stopping experience. Glimpse their humanity as they as they find redemptive power in strength and celebrate what it means to be fiercely human.

*Humans* is commissioned by MA scène nationale - Pays de Montbéliard

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **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 39 countries and across six continents by over one million people. Lifschitz 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. Lifschitz 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.

Lifschitz is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Circa and Creative Director of Festival 2018, the arts and cultural program of the 21st Commonwealth Games. In 2018, he directed four new Circa creations, and a new production of *Idomeneo* which opened in Lisbon at The Teatro Nacional de São Carlos.

### **Jason Organ** (Technical Director)

Jason Organ graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1988. He has worked as a technician, rigger, lighting designer and production manager. During this time, he has lit all manner of productions from pantomimes and product launches to ballet, festivals, military tattoos, circus and live television; contemporary dance and circus being his favorites. Organ was the co-founder of JLX productions, a lighting design and technical

consultancy, based in Brisbane. Since January 2010, he has been working exclusively with Circa, lighting and production managing their international tours.

### **Libby McDonnell** (Costume Design)

Libby McDonnell works across disciplines as a designer, choreographer, director and performer, and has an Associate Degree in Dance from the Queensland University of Technology. She has co-directed for Ballet Theatre of Queensland and has been resident choreographer and designer for Blue Roo Theatre Company. As Associate Director with Circa, McDonnell has designed costumes for all of Circa's major creations since 2010 and has show directed and managed tours in Australia and abroad.

## **Ensemble**

### **Caroline Baillon**

Caroline Baillon discovered circus when she was just seven years old, and from that point, could never imagine doing anything else. In 2009, she moved to Quebec City where she studied in the professional circus program at the prestigious Ecole Nationale de Cirque. She studied hand-to-hand and banquine, and specialized in multicorde. Since graduating, she has toured extensively in her duo 'Connor and Caroline' to a number of countries. Baillon joined the Circa ensemble in 2017, and performed in the premiere season of Spanish Baroque. She has toured with Circa since, including performing the UK tour of *Depart*, and *Humans* at Edinburgh Fringe.

### **Nathan Boyle**

Nathan Boyle has been a natural performer his whole life. After terrorizing his parents at a young age with handstands and cartwheels, they saw his passion for performing and acrobatics and enrolled him in gymnastics. This led him to sports acrobatics where he represented and won titles for New South Wales at many national championships. After accepting his position at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), Boyle specialized in cloudswing, adagio, bungee trapeze and teeterboard. A memorable moment at NICA was performing at an International Circus Festival in Auch, France in 2009. Boyle joined Circa as a full-time ensemble member in 2011 and has since entertained audiences nationally and internationally. Some highlights include creating and world premiering "S" at Brisbane Festival and traveling around Australia on the Circa national tour in 2012.

### **Marty Evans**

Marty Evans came to circus by a more roundabout route than most. After watching nothing but circus videos during his lunchbreaks at Australia's only nuclear reactor, he left behind his published scientific career, embracing his physical sports background to pursue a career in circus. Evans' first taste of circus came at the University of Sydney in 2010 as he tried to entertain himself during free periods by learning to throw people into the air and trying to catch them. He trained at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and is a fiercely determined and hardworking hand-to-hand base that enjoys exploring new challenges and techniques. Evans joined the Circa ensemble full-time in 2015, and has been involved in the creation of numerous Circa productions including *When One Door Closes* and *Humans*.

### **Keaton Hentoff-Killian**

Keaton Hentoff-Killian was born straight into a circus family, and it has always been part of his life. Since the young age of one month old, he has been on stage. Unlike his siblings, circus didn't come naturally to him. Growing up, he was very adamant he wanted to be a librarian or something else equally as relaxing. However, as the years went by, his other interests just couldn't keep up with his growing passion for circus. Hentoff-Killian

graduated high school a year early so he could attend Ecole Nationale de Cirque, where he specialized in tight wire with complementary disciplines in hoop diving and Chinese pole. He has worked with companies including Circus Flora, Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Jean Coutu, Circus Harmony, Zoppe Circus and many more. Hentoff-Killian joined Circa just after he graduated in June 2016 and has performed in numerous shows and creations including *What Will Have Been* and *Humans*.

### **Bridie Hooper**

Bridie Hooper tumbled into Spaghetti Circus at the age of 11, where her imagination became entirely unleashed. She was taught to bend, fly and dream, and at 16, she ventured south to the banks of the Murray River to join the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. In 2008, Hooper bid Australian soils adieu to complete her studies at the Montreal National Circus School where she also had the chance to perform in the Vancouver Olympics Opening Ceremony, at Festival CIRCA and in the Montreal Completement Cirque Festival in 2010 and 2011. Upon graduating in 2012, she toured Quebec with Vague de Cirque, performed in GOP Variété Dummy and returned to Australia to work for Circa. Since then, she has toured across America, Europe and Australia, and has participated in several new creations for Circa, including *When One Door Closes*, *Humans* and *One Beautiful Thing*.

### **Nathan Knowles**

Nathan Knowles had the luck of being introduced to circus at the age of seven when he marched home from school to tell his parents that one day he would leave suburbia behind and maybe never look back. After 10 years of studying acrobatic dance and contortion, he was accepted into Montréal's renowned National Circus School where he spent four years specializing in hand balancing, contortion and aerial hoop. Knowles joined the Circa ensemble in 2016, touring Mexico, Australia and Europe, and has since participated in the creation of *Humans* and *One Beautiful Thing*.

### **Todd Kilby**

Todd Kilby from the New South Wales coastal city of Newcastle was born into the life of surfing and all things beach. He is a black belt in taekwondo and has trained and performed with Circus Avalon and Hands Free Physical Theatre, with whom he won a CONDA for stunt choreography. Kilby joined the National Institute of Circus Arts in 2008 and while there, worked with the Tangentyre Council in Alice Springs teaching in the local Indigenous Youth Circus Arts Centre. While specializing in Chinese pole and hoop diving, he has also been trained in teeterboard, adagio, tumbling and knockabout. Kilby is a multifaceted performer with a uniquely Australian style combining circus, dance, martial arts and drama. He has a passion and love of performing and entertaining audiences through exploration and raw human energy. For Kilby, Circa is an elephant of awesome in the savanna of circus.

### **Cecilia Martin**

Cecilia Martin grew up as an only child and, with Spanish as her first language, she was engaging with her friends physically before she could communicate verbally. She grew up surrounded by sport, music and art, and found a passion for circus early on, attending Warehouse Circus in Canberra. Martin went on to co-found the company Poncho Circus at the age of 15, where she created and performed in circus shows as part of an ensemble. She is also a talented musician, composing scores to three different circus productions. Upon graduating high school, Martin went on to study circus full-time at the National Institute of Circus Arts where she specialized in dance trapeze, Washington trapeze and group acrobatics. She joined the Circa ensemble in late 2016 and has since participated in the creation of *Humans* and *One Beautiful Thing*.

**Daniel O'Brien**

Daniel O'Brien has been physically active throughout his whole life, primarily focusing on his gymnastics training in his hometown and a few small gyms along the Queensland coastline. After high school, he made a decision to transition from the sport of gymnastics to a possible career in circus performance. O'Brien decided to move to Melbourne and study at the National Institute of Circus Arts, specializing in hand-balancing and aerial straps, where he gained his first experiences as a performer. After attending NICA for three years, he has fostered an immense passion for circus, honed his skills to a level which allowed him to join Circa as an ensemble member in 2015. He has since performed in many iconic Circa works including *What Will Have Been*, *Closer* and *Humans*, and spends his spare time feeding his unhealthy addiction to video games or reading whatever he can get his hands on.

**Kimberley O'Brien**

Kimberley O'Brien grew up competing in athletics and playing representative Australian Football League. After seeing one of Circa's shows, she joined the Circa youth performance troupe Circa Zoo. After two years of training and performing, O'Brien was given the opportunity to be the very first member of fast track, a program designed for young and aspiring performers within Circa. In 2011, she became a full-time ensemble member. Since then, O'Brien has toured numerous shows in various countries and participated in the creation of many new Circa works. One of her highlights was performing *Wunderkammer* at the Sydney Opera House.