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Humans

Circa

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Oct 3—6 at 7:30pm; Oct 7 at 3pm

Running time: approx. 70 minutes, no intermission

Created by **Yaron Lifschitz** with the **Circa Ensemble**

Costume design by **Libby McDonnell**

Lighting design by **Jason Organ**

PERFORMERS

Caroline Baillon, Nathan Boyle, Marty Evans,

Piri Lee Goodman, Keaton Hentoff-Killian,

Bridie Hooper, Todd Kilby, Cecilia Martin,

Daniel O'Brien, Kimberley O'Brien

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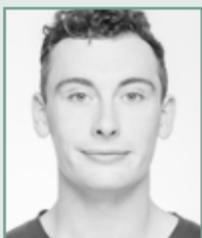
CAROLINE BAILLON



NATHAN BOYLE



MARTY EVANS



PIRI LEE GOODMAN



KEATON HENTOFF-KILLIAN



BRIDIE HOOPER



TODD KILBY



YARON LIFSCHITZ



CECILIA MARTIN



LIBBY MCDONNELL



DANIEL O'BRIEN



KIMBERLEY O'BRIEN



JASON ORGAN



We humans are a fairly weak, unimpressive species. Anything we can achieve physically can be easily surpassed by a well-trained monkey. An injured pigeon can fly higher and longer than the best acrobat in the world. A snake can bend infinitely more than the most flexible of contortionists. But it is precisely because we are human that our physical achievements acquire dignity, meaning, and poetry. It is in connection to our vulnerability that our strength finds its true articulation. In our limitations are our possibilities.

In *Humans*, I have asked our ensemble of artists: what does it mean to be human? How can you express the very essence of this experience with your body, with the group and with the audience? Where are your limits, what extraordinary things can you achieve and how can you find grace in your inevitable defeat?

The creation is the result of this investigation—a report on what it means to be human.

—Yaron Lifschitz, *Circa Artistic Director*



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 theater, and circus. His work has been seen in 39 countries and across six continents by more than 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 BAM, the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamaeleon, 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 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 J LX productions, a lighting design and technical consultancy, based in Brisbane. Since January 2010 Organ has been working exclusively with Circa, lighting and production managing its international tours.

LIBBY MCDONNELL (costume design)

Libby McDonnell works across disciplines as a designer, choreographer, director, and performer and has an associate degree (dance) from the Queensland University of Technology. McDonnell 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, she has designed costumes for all of Circa's major creations since 2010 and has show directed and managed tours in Australia and abroad.

PERFORMERS

CAROLINE BAILLON

Caroline Baillon discovered circus when she was seven years old, and from that point couldn't 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 to a number of countries in her duo Connor and Caroline. 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, his parents saw his passion for performing and acrobatics and enrolled him in gymnastics. His devotion led to sports acrobatics where he represented and won titles for New South Wales at many national championships. After accepting a position at the National Institute of Circus Arts, Boyle specialized in cloudswing, adagio, bungee trapeze, and teeterboard. A memorable moment for Boyle while at NICA was performing at an International Circus Festival in Auch, France in 2009. He joined Circa as a full-time ensemble member in 2011 and has since entertained audiences nationally and internationally. Highlights have been creating and premiering *S* at Brisbane Festival and travelling around Australia with 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 lunch breaks at Australia's only nuclear reactor, Evans left behind his published scientific career, embracing his physical sports background to pursue a career in circus. His 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 again. Evans trained at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne. He is a fiercely determined and hard-working hand-to-hand base who 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*.

PIRI LEE GOODMAN

Piri Lee Goodman began his circus journey at age eight after following his older sister through the doors of Warehouse Circus in Canberra. There he learned important life skills such as spinning crockery on a stick and how to balance dining chairs on his face. A cofounder and ensemble member of Poncho Circus, Goodman completed a bachelor of circus arts at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne. During his career, Goodman has co-devised and performed multiple works which have toured both nationally and overseas, creating circus that surprises audiences and challenges conventional perceptions of the art form. Goodman joined the Circa Ensemble in 2018.



KEATON HENTOFF-KILLIAN

Keaton Hentoff-Killian was born straight into a circus family, and circus 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 different companies including Circus Flora, Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Jean Coutu, Circus Harmony, Zoppe Circus and many more. He joined Circa in June 2016, and he 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 the Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival in 2010 and 2011. Upon graduating in 2012 Hooper toured to Quebec with Vague de Cirque, performed in *GOP Variété Dummy*, and returned to Australia to work for Circa. Since then, she has toured across the US, Europe, and Australia and has participated in several new creations for Circa, including *When One Door Closes*, *Humans*, and *One Beautiful Thing*.

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TODD KILBY

Todd Kilby, from the New South Wales coastal city of Newcastle, was born into a life of surfing and the beach. He is a black belt in taekwondo and has both trained and performed with Circus Avalon and Hands Free Physical Theatre, where 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.

CECILIA MARTIN

Cecilia Martin grew up an only child and with Spanish as her first language, and physically engaged with her friends before she could communicate verbally. She grew up surrounded by sports, 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 for three different circus productions. Upon graduating high school, Martin went on to study circus full time at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) 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*.







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