Advance Program Notes

Circa

Carnival of the Animals

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 2 PM and 7 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Circa
Carnival of the Animals

Cast
Caroline Baillon, Nathan Boyle, Marty Evans, Lisa Goldsworthy, Bridie Hooper, Nathan Knowles, Todd Kilby, and Cecilia Martin

Director
Yaron Lifschitz

Technical Director and Lighting Designer
Jason Organ

Video Design
Michaela French

Sound Design and Composer
Quincy Grant

Set Design
Yaron Lifschitz, Jason Organ, Libby McDonnell, and Michaela French

Costume Design
Libby McDonnell

Costume Creation Team
Janie Grant, Susan Gibson, Trang Vo, Chris Healy, Selene Cochrane, Karen Blinco, Sarah White, Maria Wong, and Kate Jefferay

International Representation
David Lieberman / Artists’ Representatives

These performances are supported in part by a gift from the Merryman family.
About Carnival of the Animals

The Circa Carnival comes to town with whimsical tales of creatures of land and sea, who tumble, fly, leap, and spin their way through the many wondrous worlds of the animal kingdom.

Our zebras juggle and flip...
Our kangaroos skip and somersault...
We’ve elephants with street-cred and rhythm...
And even our dinosaur bones shake, clatter, and roll to the music.

Carnival of the Animals whisks you away on a thrilling circus escapade inspired by Camille Saint-Saëns’ delightful salute to feathers, fur, and fins. Circa’s acrobats bring this classical music suite to life for a whole new generation of circus, music, and animal lovers.

About 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 39 countries to over a 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, and 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, and Chamäleon Theatre, as well as major Australian Festivals. Visit circa.org.au 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 a training centre 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 manages arTour and is the creative lead for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

Acknowledgements

A production by Circa and QPAC’s Out of the Box Festival
Created by Yaron Lifschitz with the Circa Ensemble

Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.
Biographies

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 Baillon 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, with a specialization in multicorde. Since graduating she has toured extensively across the globe with her duo act, 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 U.K. tour of Depart and Humans at Edinburgh Fringe.

NATHAN BOYLE

Nathan Boyle has been a natural performer his whole life. After terrorising his parents at a young age with handstands and cartwheels, his parents saw his passion for performing and acrobatics and enrolled him in gymnastics. Boyle’s passion for acrobatics took 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), he specialised 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. Some highlights for Boyle so far have been creating and world premiering S at Brisbane Festival and travelling 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, 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.

LISA GOLDSWORTHY

Lisa Goldsworthy has always loved being upside down, climbing high, and flying through the air. After starting classes at Cirkidz in Adelaide at age 10, Goldsworthy fell in love with circus and has been hooked ever since. She was an active member of the Cirkidz Performance Troupe for nine years, performing in numerous major productions and tours, as well as teaching workshops and classes. In 2012 Goldsworthy was selected as one of 12 emerging artists from across Australia to participate in the Catapult Youth Circus Festival’s Emerging Artist Program. She was also selected to perform with Slingsby Theatre and the State Opera of South Australia in their collaboration Ode to Nonsense. After various festivals, training projects, and hours of hard work, Goldsworthy signed her first contract with Circa in July 2014 at age 19. She specializes in hula hoop, cloudswing, and acrobatics. She is excited to learn, grow, and perform with Circa and can’t wait to see where it takes her.
Biographies, continued

BRIDIE HOOPER

Bridie Hooper tumbled into Spaghetti Circus at the age of 11, when her imagination became entirely unleashed. Hooper was taught to bend, fly, and dream, and at age 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 Complettement Cirque Festival in 2010 and 2011. Upon graduating in 2012 Hooper toured Quebec with Vague de Cirque, performed in GOP Variété’s 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, Knowles was accepted into Montréal’s renowned National Circus School, where he spent four years specialising in hand balancing, contortion, and aerial hoop. He 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. Kilby is a black belt in taekwondo and has both trained and performed with Circus Avalon and Hands Free Physical Theatre, with whom he won a City of Newcastle Drama Association (CONDA) Award for stunt choreography. He 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. Martin grew up surrounded by sport, music, and art, and found a passion for circus early on, attending Warehouse Circus in Canberra. She 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, demonstrating this by 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 (NICA), where she specialised 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.
Engagement Events

Friday, March 9, 2018
IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOP: CIRCA
While visiting southwest Virginia, members of Circa led a circus workshop for children in grades 9-12 at Blacksburg High School.

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 3-4 PM
FACE PAINTING AND BALLOON TWISTER
Entertainment provided by Libs Lab

Special thanks to Carrie Mayer

LEARNING GUIDE QUESTIONS
The Moss Arts Center Learning Guide is a resource for educators, students, and anyone who enjoys digging deeper into our programming. To engage even more fully with our season performances, view the full Learning Guide at bit.ly/LearningGuideMAC. Please use the following questions to spark your own contemplation about today’s performance:

• Watch the YouTube video Carnival of the Animals - Behind the Scenes! Artistic Director of Circa and director of Carnival of the Animals Yaron Lifschitz states that one of the key themes of this show is exploring the line between humans and animals. How do the performers explore the similarities and differences between the two?
• To ensure the safety of performers, teamwork and clear communication are vital in circus arts. How did the performers communicate with one another, particularly during some of the riskier routines? What were some of the signals you perceived? Where did the communication seem invisible?
• Circa has toured over 39 countries and has been seen by over one million people worldwide. What does Carnival of the Animals share with traditional circus (i.e. aesthetically, topically, etc.), and in what ways does it innovate the art form?
In the Galleries

RAY KASS
January 18-March 31, 2018
All galleries

Ray Kass, a prominent Virginia artist with a long record of national and international exhibitions, is well known not only for the quality and breadth of his art but as a pivotal, even catalytic figure in this region. Over the years Kass stood out as an exemplary artist, here and in the art world beyond, as well as a distinguished art professor at Virginia Tech. Among his many accomplishments was establishing and directing the Mountain Lake Symposium and Workshop programs, through which he brought art-world luminaries to this region—Clement Greenberg, Donald B. Kuspit, and John Cage, among others—and subsequently influenced generations of artists in Virginia and the southeast.

This exhibition highlights exemplary work from Kass’ prolific career, ranging from his large scale, multi-panel *Polyptych* (1961-2003) paintings to his most recent *Still Lifes* (2015-2018), created with stencils in an inventive layering of water media, oil emulsion, and dry pigment on rag paper. Among the key works in the exhibition is the monumental painting *Broad Channel: Vorticella Polyptych*, 1991, from the permanent collection of the Nevada Museum of Art, which will be seen in Virginia for the first time in 20 years.

ALSO ON VIEW
Ray Kass: *Silk and Water*
January 16-March 3, 2018
Perspective Gallery, Squires Student Center

*Primary Elements: Foundational Works by Ray Kass*
January 18-February 16, 2018
Armory Gallery, 203 Draper Road, Blacksburg

GALLERY HOURS
Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM
Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM
To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu or 540-231-0840.