

Credit: Justin Nicolas, Atmosphere Photography



Circa

Carnival of the Animals

2024.7.6 Sat. 10:30

2024.7.6 Sat. 14:30

2024.7.7 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Playhouse

Duration is 50 minutes without intermission.
Suitable for age 3+



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Program

Internationally acclaimed contemporary circus company Circa from Brisbane, Australia presents *Carnival of the Animals*, a blend of circus, multimedia and music. This family-friendly show magically reinvents the classic music suite by French romantic composer Camille SAINT-SAËNS.

Depicting creatures from land, sea and sky, Circa's performers take children and their adults on a safari through the lives of the tortoise, the elephant, the kangaroo, the swan, the life aquatic and many other beasts of fur, feathers and fin. It's an exuberant celebration of all of earth's creatures and the power of our bodies to express who we really are.

Created by circus visionary and Circa artistic director Yaron LIFSCHITZ, and the Circa ensemble, *Carnival of the Animals* brings the joy of the animal kingdom to the stage in a sophisticated and visually stunning physical theatre extravaganza for children big and small. Circa is world-renowned for pushing artistic boundaries and creating powerful works of circus art that thrill, challenge and captivate as they constantly reimagine circus as an artform.

Written in 1886, SAINT-SAËNS' *Carnival of the Animals* has been adored by children and adults for many generations. It is a playful and magical work of music imbued with Victorian eccentricity whose fourteen movements each explore a specific or group of animals. For this production Australian composer Quincy GRANT artfully reworked and extended the original suites. On stage Circa performers are accompanied by and interact with sumptuously detailed animation created by UK-based Australian video designer Michaela FRENCH.

A production by Circa and QPAC's Out of the Box Festival.

Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

CIRCA



Carnival of the Animals

A suite of 14 short, humorous animal-themed movements written by French composer Camille SAINT-SAËNS.

1. Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
2. Hens and Roosters
3. Wild Asses (Swift Animals)
4. Tortoises
5. The Elephant
6. Kangaroos
7. Aquarium
8. Characters with Long Ears
9. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods
10. Aviary
11. Pianists
12. Fossils
13. The Swan
14. Final

Soundtrack selections from *Carnival of the Animals* by Circa



Circa

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 45 countries. 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. Compelled by the question "what is possible in circus?" Circa is leading the way with a diverse range of thrilling creations that "redraw the limits to which circus can aspire."

Under the direction of circus visionary Yaron LIFSCHITZ, Circa has 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 as well as major Australian Festivals.

Director & Set Design | Yaron LIFSCHITZ

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, Yaron has directed over 80 productions including large-scale events, opera, theatre, physical theatre, and circus.

His work has been seen in more than 45 countries and across six continents by over 2 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 Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon Theatre Berlin 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 Creative Director of Festival 2018: the arts and cultural program of the 21st Commonwealth Games.

Artistic and Production Team

Created by | Yaron LIFSCHITZ and the Circa ensemble

Performed by | the Circa ensemble

Director | Yaron LIFSCHITZ

Technical Director & Lighting Designer | Jason ORGAN

Video Designer | Michaela FRENCH

Sound Designer & Composer | Quincy GRANT

Set Designer | Yaron LIFSCHITZ, Jason ORGAN, Libby McDONNELL and Michaela FRENCH

Costume Designer | Libby McDONNELL

International Representation | Wolfgang HOFFMANN / Aurora Nova

Main Sponsor |  富邦集團  TOYOTA | 高都汽車

Co-sponsor |  HOPAX 財團法人聚和文化藝術基金會
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