



Damen Bredberg

**UGA**  
**presents.**

24|25 SEASON

***HUMANS 2.0***  
**by Circa**

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

THURS, SEPT 26, 7:30 pm

FRI, SEPT 27, 7:30 pm

Fine Arts Theatre

This performance runs 70 minutes without intermission.

**Supported by**

**THE CHRISTINE AND THOMAS PAVLAK  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ENDOWMENT**

*Humans 2.0* is commissioned by The Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

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**



Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices. Photography, video and audio recording, and texting are prohibited during the performance.



# CIRCA

## Creatives

**Director:** Yaron Lifschitz

**Original Music:** Ori Lichtik

**Lighting Designer:** Paul Jackson

**Costume Design:** Libby McDonnell

**Technical Director:** Jason Organ

## Cast

**Adam Strom**

**Asha Colless**

**Jordan Hart**

**Kimberley Rossi**

**Malte Gerhardt**

**Maya Davies**

**Oscar Morris**

**Sophie Seccombe**

**Tristan St John**

**Zachery Stephens**



Damien Bredberg

# ABOUT 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 more than 45 countries to nearly 2 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. 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" (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 the Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamàleon Theatre as well as major Australian Festivals.

Visit [circa.org.au](http://circa.org.au) to find a Circa performance near you 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 public circus classes 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 was the Creative Lead for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

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Discover more about Circa by subscribing to enews at [circa.org.au](http://circa.org.au) and following the company on [facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus](https://facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus), [instagram.com/circapresents](https://instagram.com/circapresents) and via [#circacircus](https://twitter.com/circacircus)

**Website** [circa.org.au](http://circa.org.au)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus](https://facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus)

**Instagram** [instagram.com/circapresents](https://instagram.com/circapresents)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/circapresents](https://twitter.com/circapresents)

**Vimeo** [vimeo.com/circapresents](https://vimeo.com/circapresents)

**Hashtag** [#circacircus](https://twitter.com/circacircus) [#circa](https://twitter.com/circa) [#circacontemporarycircus](https://twitter.com/circacontemporarycircus) [#Humans2](https://twitter.com/Humans2)

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

His work has been seen in more than 40 countries and across six continents by over 1.5 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 the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon 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 the 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.

### **ORI LICHTIK**, original music

Musician, member of the artistic crew of L-E-V Dance Company of Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar, DJ and drummer.

Lichtik is one of the founders of the Tel Aviv techno scene in the 1990s where he started his career as a DJ and producer of techno parties and raves. Since 2006, Ori has been collaborating with Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar as a musician in the artistic team. Rather than composing the soundtracks, Ori performs in L-E-V performances in which he constructs, plays and characterises the music in each performance.

The uniqueness of Lichtik's work is the combination of the various musical worlds into an evolving and refined soundtrack, full of passion and groove, which alongside the choreography gives the spectator a complete and hypnotic experience. Lichtik soundtracks are influenced by different styles and textures, from industrial and African tribe recordings, through hip hop to baroque music. Ori's music is one of the most prominent and unusual hallmarks of Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar's dance performances.

Over the years, Ori has created various works for L-E-V, dance companies and opera houses around the world.

Lichtik has created alongside Sharon & Gai throughout the choreographic process, reflecting off of the dancers' movements, and as often inspiring and prompting them with the tone and pace of his percussive sounds and rhythms.

### **PAUL JACKSON**, lighting designer

Paul Jackson is a multi-award-winning lighting designer and theatre maker whose work has featured across Australia, New Zealand, United States, Asia, Europe, and the United Kingdom.

Paul has designed lighting for the Australian Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Berlin Staatsballett, Victorian Opera, West Australian Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Gordon Frost Organization, TML, The Production Company, Bell Shakespeare, Playbox, Malthouse, Belvoir, Circa, Ballet Lab, Lucy Guerin, Chunky Move, World of Wearable Art New Zealand, KAGE, La Mama, Chamber Made Opera and many others.

Paul was Artistic Associate at Malthouse Theatre from 2007 to 2013. Paul has received a Helpmann Award, two Sydney Theatre Awards, three APDG Awards, seven Green Room Awards, and a Critics' Award for Theatre in Scotland.

### **LIBBY MCDONNELL**, costume design

Libby is a designer and choreographer and she is currently head of design at Circa. Libby works in diverse genres and forms. At the heart of her work is people and movement.

Libby has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (honors) in visual art from Queensland College of Art-Griffith University and an associate degree in dance from Queensland University of Technology. Her professional career has included performing and making independent dance work, as an artistic director of Ballet Theatre of Queensland and choreographer for Blue Roo Theatre Company. For 11 years Libby has worked with the team at Circa to imagine, develop and deliver their productions locally, nationally and internationally. During her time at Circa she has designed costumes for more than 30 productions, co-directed 3 main stage productions and led many of the company's engagement projects including the pilot of the Circability program.

Libby is based in Brisbane with her family.

### **JASON ORGAN**, technical director

Jason graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1988 and has had an extensive career as a lighting designer, production manager, technician and rigger. He has worked with companies such as Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, La Boite Theatre Company, Kooemba Jdarra and festivals such as Out of the Box, Qld Music Festival and Brisbane Festival.

Jason was the co-founder of JLX productions, a lighting design and technical consultancy based in Brisbane. Since 2010 Jason has been working exclusively with Circa as Technical Director. In this time, he has helped deliver more than 20 new productions and toured to 31 different countries presenting Circa's work.

## THE CAST

### ADAM STROM



Adam Strom started circus classes at the age of six in Brisbane, Australia. He trained in acrobatics, aerials and juggling for 11 years with Flipside Circus, while also developing his skills in dance, music and theatre. In 2014, Adam was accepted into the Québec Circus School in Canada, where he specialised in German wheel and continued training as many other circus disciplines as he could. Since his three years of circus school, Adam has created and performed in myriad productions around the world, including *Midnight Circus*, *Crépuscule* by Flip Fabrique, and

*La Galerie* by Machine de Cirque.

### ASHA COLLESS



Growing up in Wollongong, Asha was introduced to circus at the age of 6, taking classes at Circus Monoxide. Being in the air and flipping herself around quickly became her favorite thing to do, and this is where her love of performing came alive. At nineteen she decided to take her training further and study at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), specializing in hula hoops and silks. Asha also loves swimming at the beach, being in nature and a good book.

### JORDAN HART



Jordan fell into circus at age 21 after seeing *A Simple Space* by Gravity & Other Myths at the 2014 Adelaide Fringe Festival. Coming from a sporty upbringing, the show left him feeling inspired and motivated to push himself and learn something new, which led him to the South Australian Circus Centre. He immersed himself in the world of acrobatics training with independent artists and members of the local performance troupe before leaving Adelaide to meet and train with other artists, both Australian and international.

With a strong desire to play and explore, things eventually got out of control, and he decided he wanted to make a career of it. Jordan worked with Wildhouse Circus, Outside The Lines Circus, Casus, and then Time In Space Circus before working with Gravity & Other Myths. In his spare time, he enjoys letting people jump on him and carrying heavy things for strangers.

### KIMBERLEY ROSSI



Kimberley grew up in Queensland, and as a Brisbane local it didn't take long before she stumbled upon Circa.

Beginning her circus training at age 13, in just 3 short years she was given the opportunity to be the first member of Fast Track,

a program designed for young and aspiring performers within Circa. With the support of her family, Kimberley decided to leave school and pursue a career in the circus industry. Shortly after she found herself on a plane flying out to perform her first show, *Nocturne*, in Seoul, South Korea.

Over the years Kimberley has been a part of more than 30 productions, visited some of the world's most beautiful locations and logged over 4000 hours in her favorite video game.

### MALTE GERHARDT



The combination between concentration and explosiveness of partner acrobatics has inspired Malte since he started to train circus arts at the age of nine in Southwest Germany. In the following years Malte continued to develop his skills and started to teach various circus disciplines. At the age of 14 he successfully applied to the Ballet-school and School of Acrobatics Berlin and finished his vocational education 4 years later at CircArtiveSchool. With his friend and base Benedikt Löffler he visited the final year of Codarts specializing in a rarely seen

combination of partner acrobatics and a one meter Globe.

### MAYA DAVIES



For as long as she can remember, Maya has always said, “when I grow up, I want to join the circus,” and that's exactly what she did. She grew up between Australia and the United States, but Maya's circus training began at Cirkidz, in Adelaide at the age of 7. She has always excelled in both the arts and athletics, and was thrilled when she discovered that circus could be the perfect hybrid of both. This eventually led her to the National Institute of Circus Arts where she specialized in partner acrobatics and Chinese pole, graduating with a Bachelor of Circus Arts. She is

determined to continue using circus as an art discipline; to tell stories, create striking performances, and explore physicality through an imaginative lens.

### OSCAR MORRIS



From a very young age, Oscar's parents knew that sports weren't really for him—when they tried to enroll him in soccer, all he wanted to do was put on the uniform and sit on the sideline. Born and raised in Brisbane, Oscar fell in love with circus at the age of 8 when he was enrolled in youth circus classes at Flipside Circus. He trained primarily under Alex Weckes-Huck and Amy Stuart, specializing in various forms of ground acrobatics including hand to hand, banquine, and group acrobatics, as well as juggling. Since graduating from Flipside's performance troupe

in 2021, Oscar has worked as an independent artist around Brisbane, performing with companies such as Sparkle Society, Collective Circus, Counterpilot and Casus Creations.





David Kelly

When not doing circus, Oscar enjoys listening, playing and writing music, with him being able to play several instruments including: piano, double bass, bass guitar, guitar, percussion, and the smallest amount of trombone.

### SOPHIE SECCOMBE



Sophie has loved free movement since she was born. Her slightly impetuous nature led her parents to enroll her in ballet lessons when she was two, and competitive gymnastics a few years after that. While formal training gave her a foundation, she preferred handstands in trees and acrobatics on the roof.

Sophie discovered circus at the West End markets in 2021. Immediately enthralled, she was exposed to a world where gymnastics could be meshed with artistic expression without constraints. After a year of coaching by members of Gravity &

Other Myths, she began touring nationally and internationally in Rouge. Outside of acrobatics Sophie may be found listening to Mazzy Star and swimming in any body of water she can find.

### TRISTAN ST JOHN



Tristan laughs a lot, produces music and people always say he doesn't have an off switch. Since the backyard trampoline, Tristan has always wanted to fly! Teeterboard and trampolining were a part of his upbringing since the age of 10; not a spare second was spent off it! During the last 11 years, he has have competed at national trampoline competitions, performed Teeterboard, Acrobatics and Chinese Pole to multiple audiences and has completed a bachelor's degree in circus arts.

### ZACHERY STEPHENS



Zachery began his circus career following in the footsteps of his siblings and aspires to one day perform alongside them. With a background in competitive gymnastics and Olympic weightlifting, Zachery is no stranger to lifting weight above himself and has a terrible habit of asking anyone regardless of size to stand on him.

Undertaking his circus studies at the National Institute of Circus Arts, he has trained for 4 years as a hand-balancer and hand to hand base. However, his true love and the place where Zachery thrives most is in an ensemble, where he can explore group acrobatics in collaboration with creative movement. Zachery's ambition as an artist is to become as versatile as possible, to never become comfortable and most importantly, to show the world why circus is the most powerful and beautiful expression of what it means to be human.