



Thursday - Saturday | February 9 - 11 | 8pm
Boch Center Shubert Theatre

CIRCA

Sacre

Created by Yaron Lifschitz and the Circa Ensemble

Director Yaron Lifschitz

Music Philippe Bachman & Igor Stravinsky

Lighting Designer Veronique Benett

Costume Designer Libby McDonnell

Technical Director Jason Organ

Producer Danielle Kellie

Performers

Fran Alvarez, Jon Bonaventura, Rhiannon Cave-Walker, Marty Evans,
Sam Letch, Hamish McCourty, Daniel O'Brien, Kimberley Rossi,
Georgia Webb, Christina Zauner

This production uses haze.

The performance will run approximately 65 minutes with no intermission.

2022/23 Dance Series Sponsors

**Leslie & Howard Appleby, Stephanie L. Brown Foundation,
Cynthia & John S. Reed Foundation, and Royal Little Family Foundation**

2022/23 Season Sponsors

Amy & Joshua Boger

ABOUT THE COMPANY

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 40 countries to over 1.5 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. The group 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 Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, and Chamàleon Theatre, as well as major Australian festivals.

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.

Visit circa.org.au; follow Circa on facebook.com/circacontemporarycircus; [Instagram.com/circapresents](https://instagram.com/circapresents); spotify.com/user/circapresents; and via [#circacircus](https://twitter.com/circacircus)

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and co-produced by La Comete

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CIRCA



Queensland
Government

Circa appears by arrangement with
Allen Moon / David Lieberman Artists' Representatives

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Yaron Lifschitz (*director*) 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 more than 60 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 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. 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.

Philippe Bachman (*composer*) is a musician, artistic director and producer based in Paris. Since studies at Paris Conservatoire (CNSMDP) and at SciencesPo Paris, he has been awarded *Villa Medicis Hors-les-Murs* (France) and named a Fulbright Scholar (USA), and lived in New York City. He has toured as a trio in a dozen countries and he composes for international stage productions, including for Canadian director Robert Lepage. In 2015, he was chair of the National Committee for New Music Commissions (Ministry of Culture) and has worked for UNESCO, Paris "Cité de la Musique," and Ircam. From 1997-2001, he was CEO of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra, and in 2002/03, the Chamber Choir Accentus (2002-2003). Since January 2019, he teaches a seminar entitled "Being an Artist in Today's World: Facts and Fantasies" at SciencesPo Paris (Europe-America & Europe-Africa programs). Since 2004, he has been CEO and Artistic Director of *La Comète* - Scène nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne, a national performing arts venue (three halls, 120 performances, including an international dance season), and awarded one of the eight European Artistic Hubs by French Ministry of Culture since 2018. He is a founding member of Tour de Dance, an informal network bringing together dance venues and programmers from France, Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany and sharing international dance projects and tours. In 2008, he created the 360° Network, bringing together eighteen circular performing arts venues from eleven countries. Since 2013, he has been the CEO and Artistic Director of *War on Screen* International Film Festival.

Veronique Benett (*lighting designer*) is a lighting, set, and costume designer. As a lighting designer, her credits include: *Banging Denmark* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Wolves* (Belvoir); *The Smallest Hour* (Griffin Theatre); *John* (Outhouse Theatre Co.), for which she received a Sydney Theatre Award nomination; *The Life of Us* (Hayes Theatre); *Nosferatu* (Old 505); *Stupid F***ing Bird* (New Theatre); *Chorus*, *Anatomy of a Suicide*, *Permission to Spin*, *Howie the Rookie* (Old Fitz);

and *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* (KXT). Veronique's associate lighting designer credits include: *Cursed!*, designed by Chloe Oglvie (Belvoir); *No Pay? No Way!*, designed by Paul Jackson (Sydney Theatre Company); *Prima Facie*, designed by Trent Suidgeest (Griffin Theatre); *Cry-Baby*, directed and designed by Alexander Berlage (Hayes Theatre Co); and *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Sport for Jove.

Libby McDonnell costume design

Libby is a designer and choreographer who 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 BFA with honors in visual art from Queensland College of Art at 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 in Australia and on tour. During her time at Circa, she has designed costumes for more than 30 productions, co-directed three 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*) 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 Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, La Boite Theatre Company, Kooemba Jdarra and at festivals including 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, helping to deliver more than 20 new productions and toured to 31 different countries presenting Circa's work.

From the Celebrity Series of Boston archives...

Circa made their Celebrity Series debut in an engagement that opened, fittingly, on Leap Day in 2012, and returned for an engagement in collaboration with the Debussy Quartet in November 2015 and another in March 2018. The group was announced for the 2020/21 season that was lost to the pandemic. Celebrity Series is pleased to present them for the fourth time this weekend.



ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

After a restless adolescence looking for an activity to focus his abundant energy on, **Fran Alvarez** was introduced to circus at age 16. His circus career started at age 18 at the preparatory school of Madrid, Carampa, and later at the Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque de Bruxelles, specializing in hand-to-hand and group acrobatics. With a focus on improving his core technique—and becoming a human trampoline—Fran continued his training in France and was involved in the creative development of several shows with high-level acrobatic collectives across Europe. In his free time, Fran enjoys Olympic-style weightlifting and reading epic fantasy books.

Discovered on a friend's trampoline in Melbourne, **Jon Bonaventura** caught his big break at age 12, working as a stunt double for Warner Brothers' *Where the Wild Things Are*. After more than a decade in gymnastics, Jon went on to study at the National Institute of Circus Arts, specializing in rope. Jon graduated in 2014 and began touring independent projects around Australia before performing internationally with some of the country's best circus companies—Circa, Casus, and Circus Oz. Jon can be found hiding in a cafe, hanging from his rope or standing on people all around the world.

Rhiannon Cave-Walker began training with the Spaghetti Circus, Youth Circus Family in Mullumbimby, New South Wales, from age four. At 18, Rhiannon was accepted into DOCH, School of Dance and Circus in Stockholm, Sweden. Here, she specialized in hand balancing and hand-to-hand flying, focusing on a unique movement quality and research approach to circus disciplines. After three years of training, Rhiannon graduated with a BA in Circus and was asked to join Australian company Gravity & Other Myths, with whom she developed and toured internationally for two years the show *A Simple Space*. During this time, Rhiannon also co-created another small award-winning show, Cadence, which grew into the co-creation of the successful circus company Arts House.

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, Marty left behind his published scientific career, and embraced 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. Marty trained at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne. He is a fiercely determined and hardworking hand-to-hand base that enjoys exploring new challenges and techniques.

Instead of paying attention at school, **Sam Letch** focused all of his energy on throwing himself around in the cold and rainy northwest of England, where he grew up. At age 15, Sam decided that doing back tucks off sand dunes wasn't enough. The answer to his problem: Parkour. He trained for three years until his acrobatics took him to the National Centre for Circus Arts in London, where he picked up such skills as teeterboard, hand-to-hand, banquine, floor, and group acrobatics. After graduating, Sam's first job performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival led to work with Cirque Eloize, among others. Sam's primary love is performing, shortly after that is his moustache, followed by singing musicals at the top of his lungs for anyone who will listen.

Hamish McCourty is an acrobat and musician. He began his circus journey at Cirkidz in Adelaide at age eight, since graduating from the performance program, he's been creating his own work, touring nationally and internationally. Hamish is currently working on fusing together his passion for music and circus on stage. His main specialties are tumbling and basing pair and group acrobatics and he prides himself on making people laugh and being a loon onstage. Hamish is a keen performer and multi-talented acrobat with his sights set on leaving his mark in the world of circus.

Daniel O'Brien has been physically active throughout his whole life, primarily focusing on gymnastics training in his hometown of Maryborough and a few small gyms along the Queensland coastline. After attending National Institute of Circus Arts for three years, where he specialized in hand-balancing and aerial straps, Daniel joined Circa in 2014. Having fostered an immense passion for circus, he has since performed in many iconic Circa works including *What Will Have Been*, *Closer*, and *Humans*. He spends his spare time feeding his unhealthy addiction to video games or reading whatever he can get his hands on.

Kimberley Rossi grew up in Queensland, and as a Brisbane local it didn't take long before she stumbled upon Circa. She began her circus training at age 13, and in just three 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. Over the years, Kimberley has been a part of more than 30 productions, visited some of the world's most beautiful locations, and logged more than four thousand hours in her favorite video game.

Born and raised in outback Western Australia, **Georgia Webb** was a competitive gymnast and dancer for 13 years. This background gave her the discipline and work ethic which now informs her circus practice. After both parents insisted that their only child join the military, Georgia decided to forgo those plans to follow her own dream of running away with the circus. After graduating from the National Institute of Circus Arts in 2019, Georgia joined Circa in January 2020. In her spare time Georgia enjoys motorbike riding, surfing, and free diving. She also hopes to travel the world skydiving someday.

Christina Zauner grew up in the countryside in Austria. She started dancing at age four, and participated in her first competition at age six. Christina graduated with a Bachelor in Classical and Contemporary Dance from MUK Vienna. During her education, she started to train aerials and vertical dance. After graduating, she worked at the Vienna State Opera as an Aerial Double, followed by a role in the musical Cats in Switzerland. Christina worked with the Irish company Fidget Feet and as a performer and choreographer at Krystallpalast Varieté Leipzig. Christina found her way into the circus world as a self-taught Aerialist, specializing in Straps. At age 24, she started to enjoy climbing on people or having them climb on her. A very determined person, Christina loves to challenge herself and explore what her body is capable of. She also plays accordion and loves to design and sew costumes.

Did you enjoy the
performance?

Let us know your thoughts
Scan for our survey





Celebrity Series of Boston

2022/23

FEBRUARY 2023

Chris Thile

Fri | Feb 3 | 8pm
Sanders Theatre

Artemis

Sat | Feb 4 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

What Makes It Great?
with Rob Kapilow
Copland's *Appalachian
Spring with A Far Cry*

Sun | Feb 5 | 3pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Jessica Vosk,
My Golden Age
Sun | Feb 5 | 5pm
Symphony Hall

Circa, *Sacre*

Thu – Sat | Feb 9 – 11 | 8pm
Boch Center Shubert Theatre

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS
Sandeep Das & Mike Block
Where the soul never dies
Sat | Feb 11 | 4pm
Harvard-Epworth Church

Emi Ferguson and Ruckus
Sat | Feb 11 | 8pm
GBH's Calderwood Studio

Jason Moran and the
Harlem Hellfighters
*James Reese Europe
and the Absence of Ruin*
Fri | February 17 | 8pm

DEBUT SERIES

Alexi Kenney, violin
Wed | Feb 22 | 8pm
Longy's Pickman Hall

Dreamers' Circus

Fri | Feb 24 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS

Sandeep Das: *Soundscapes
of India* - Suhail Yusuf Khan
with Boston City Singers
Sat | Feb 25 | 3pm
Multicultural Arts Center,
Cambridge

MARCH 2023

Igor Levit, piano
Sat | Mar 4 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Lawrence Brownlee, tenor
Kevin Miller, piano
Rising
Sun | Mar 5 | 3pm
GBH's Calderwood Studio

KODŌ, *Tsuzumi*

Sun | Mar 12 | 5pm
Symphony Hall

JAZZ FESTIVAL

(Mar 8-11, 7pm)
at Artists For Humanity EpiCenter

Melissa Aldana Quartet
Hiromi
Nnenna Freelon
Ambrose Akinmusire

Aoife O'Donovan

Fri | Mar 17 | 8pm
Sanders Theatre

Chineke! Orchestra
Andrew Grams, conductor
Stewart Goodyear, piano
Wed | Mar 22 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Terri Lyne Carrington +
Social Science

Fri | Mar 24 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

DEBUT SERIES

Fatma Said, soprano
Rafael Aguirre, guitar
Thu | Mar 30 | 8pm
Longy's Pickman Hall

and many more... Center

Visit celebrityseries.org to view the full season schedule