

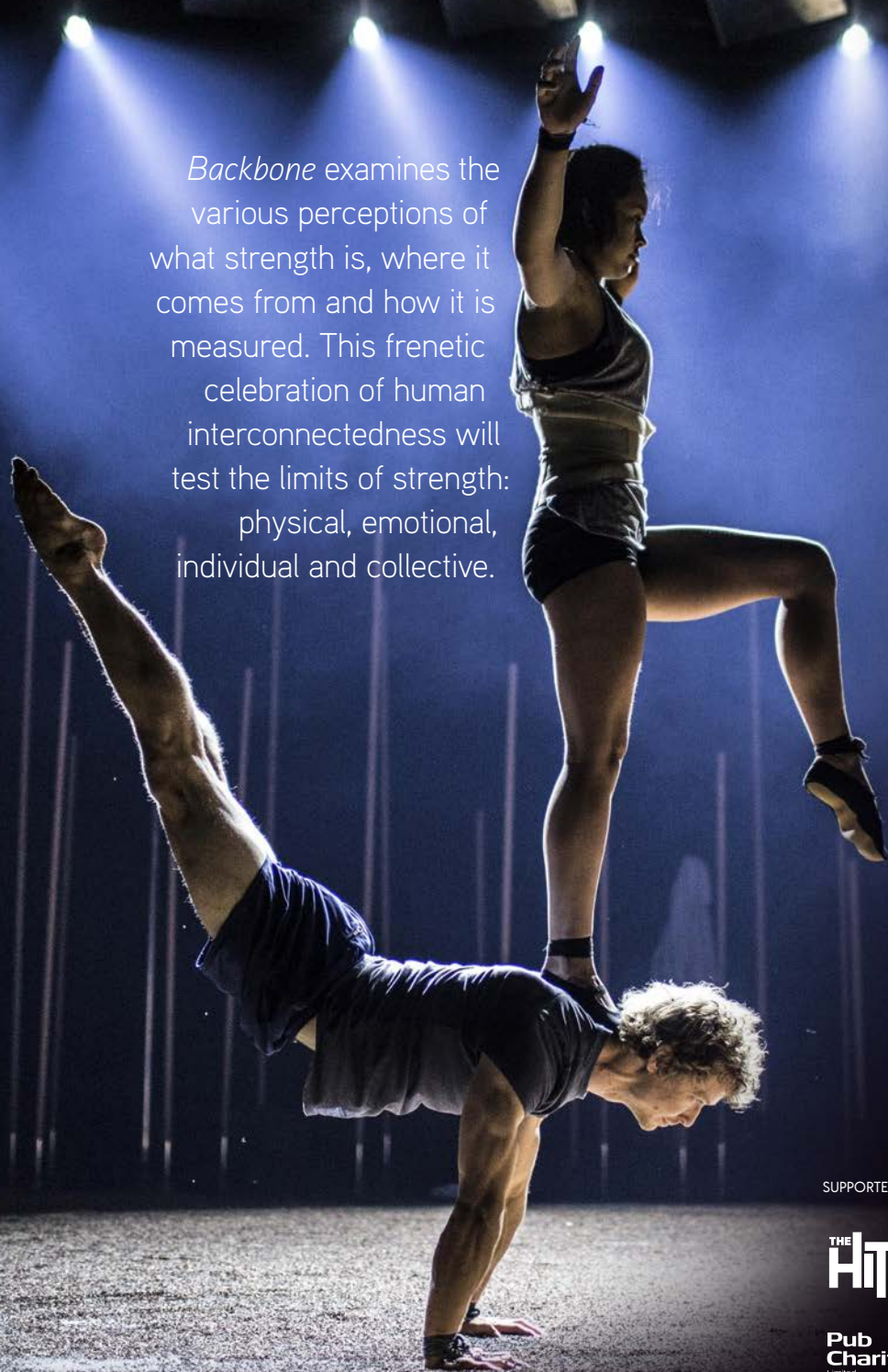
Gravity & Other Myths

ARTS FESTIVAL
March 7-24 2019
AUCKLAND

BACKBONE

14-17 March • ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre

Backbone examines the various perceptions of what strength is, where it comes from and how it is measured. This frenetic celebration of human interconnectedness will test the limits of strength: physical, emotional, individual and collective.



SUPPORTED BY



Credits

Acrobats

Martin Schreiber
Lachlan Binns
Jascha Boyce
Jacob Randell
Lewie West
Lewis Rankin
Joanne Curry
Mieke Lizotte
Lachlan Harper
Jackson Manson

Musician/

Composers

Elliot Zoerner
Shenton Gregory

Director

Darcy Grant

Stage &

Lighting Designer

Geoff Cobham

Producer

Craig Harrison

Creative

Associate

Triton Tunis-Mitchell



GRAVITY & OTHER MYTHS

(GOM) is an internationally renowned circus company pushing the boundaries of contemporary circus. Formed in Adelaide, Australia in 2009, GOM has rocketed to stellar acclaim with a series of disarmingly accomplished ensemble works. GOM's work utilises an honest approach to performance, to create shows with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. GOM's show *A Simple Space* has achieved huge international success, receiving multiple awards, and having performed more than 600 times across 30 countries. The follow up show *Backbone*, created in 2017, has won multiple awards, had stellar reviews, and cemented the company's position as a leader in contemporary circus. GOM latest work *Out Of Chaos* premiered at Adelaide Festival in February 2019.

Backbone has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by Adelaide Festival, Sydney Festival and Melbourne Festival.



1hr 20mins no interval

IMAGES: CARNIVAL CINEMA

Biographies



JASCHA BOYCE

Jascha Boyce has been a performer almost all of her life. Beginning as soon as she could walk with dance performances in the lounge room, she discovered circus at age 4 and it wasn't long before she spent all of her time upside down and in the air. After years spent training, teaching and performing Jascha focuses her creative passion through GOM. She is a flyer in a majority of the group acrobatics as well as specialising in hula hoop and adagio.



LACHLAN BINNS

At an early age Lachy was enthralled and inspired by a local circus show, in the following years he was drawn into the world of circus and physical performance. Specialising in group acrobatics, Lachy is not quite big enough to be called a base yet not light enough to be called a flyer. He has embraced what he maintains is the vital role of 'middle'. His passion for creativity is a driving force for both his work as a trainer for young people and as a performer and founding member of GOM.



JACOB RANDELL

Jacob has always been a jack of all trades when it comes to circus and sport; showing enthusiasm, energy and strong natural talent at all times. As one of the founding members of GOM, he has been with the company since the start and aspires to continue to grow the company. Jacob specialises in hand to hand, floating between roles as both a base and flyer. He aspires to continue to pursue his adventurous side through circus training and touring balanced alongside academic studies.



MARTIN SCHREIBER

Alongside competitive gymnastics, Martin has been involved in the circus community for most of his life both as a circus trainer and finally as a performing artist. As one of the founding members of GOM, Martin has performed both nationally and internationally with skills that including pitching, floor tumbling and group acrobatics. Martin hopes to continue creating work and inspiring audiences worldwide through the joy and spectacle of circus.



ELLIOT ZOERNER

Since taking up the drums at age 11, Elliot has played with a wide variety of musical groups in Australia. While studying classical percussion and engineering at Adelaide University, the circus entered his life, pulled him away from his studies and took him on tour. He now works as a live musician and composer for GOM, collaborating with the acrobats to create the soundtracks for their shows. While on tour, he has continued to write music and release it under the name Sirins.



CRAIG HARRISON

Craig has worked in the performing arts sector for over 25 years, in many aspects of creative, production, administration and management. He also has significant experience in Film & TV. After working on over 30 festivals

around the world, as a lighting designer for 70 productions and a stint as a Melbourne-based independent producer, he then spent six years as a Programming Executive for the Adelaide Festival Centre before doing three years at Country Arts SA as Manager of Artform Development. He was then the Manager and Systems Administrator of the National Touring Selector, an online international marketplace for the performing arts, before moving on to be Special Projects Manager at Arts South Australia for one and half years. He concurrently held a seat on the Arts Industry Council of SA for three years and has been Chair of the Board of youth circus company Cirkidz Inc. for 10 years. Craig joined GOM in April, 2016 to produce *Backbone* and is now full-time with the company.



LACHLAN HARPER

Lachlan was age 4 when his parents put him into gymnastics to try and tire him out. After 11 years of training he sought a new way to explore his body's acrobatic capabilities, his first taste of circus was when a friend introduced him to pitching. He became obsessed, having a career of being thrown around, flipping, and having fun was the dream. He pursued his career as a circus artist by attending the National Institute of Circus Arts where he specialised in handstands, acrobatics, and banquine.



JOANNE CURRY

Jo always knew she wanted to be the "girl who gets thrown around" in the circus. After seven years of competing nationally in Sports Acrobatics she tumbled into completing certificate 3 and 4 in Circus Arts at NICA (National Institute of

Circus Arts). Joanne gained confidence and drive through travel, using the world to find and define her style within the performing arts. She specialises in Partner Acrobatics and Handbalancing.



JACKSON MANSON

Jackson started circus at Flying Fruit Fly Circus (FFFC) in Albury-Wodonga when he was 12 years old. After graduating in 2015, he worked with fellow FFFC graduates to create a new show called Stunt Lounge. In January

2017 he joined GOM to work on the creation of *Backbone*, and has continued to work with the company, touring with both *A Simple Space* and *Backbone*.



SHENTON GREGORY (aka SHENZO GREGORIO)

Shenton had a violin passed down to him from his older sister when he was just 4 years of age. After 17 years of classical training, Shenton decided that real world

experience was the way forward. He continued to develop his knowledge in many styles of music, notably his invention of playing the violin upside down caused quite a stir. He's been a member of Sydney Rock string quartet 'Fourplay' for 12 years and continues to be one of the highest in-demand musicians in Australia.



LEWIE WEST

Lewie is an Australian acrobat through and through. He probably literally has circus in his blood stream due to all the rosin, chalk and acrobat sweat he's accidentally ingested over the years. He started in

Warehouse Youth Circus in Canberra before training at The National Institute of Circus Arts. After earning his Bachelor degree Lewie performed, created and choreographed with Circa for seven years, finding time to sneak off and earn a Gold medal in Paris at the Mondial du Cirque de Demain or what his Mum calls "The Circus Olympics" for his solo aerial straps act. In spite of this, Lewie still considers himself to be mostly an ensemble acrobat and is very happy to come into "work" every day to create, move and play with the group.



MIEKE LIZOTTE

Mieke specialises in high-energy hula hoops, combined with a knack for being thrown around, and an ability to turn herself inside out and upside down. She started her career at a young age in the

small, yet talent-rich state of Tasmania, with a local youth circus: Slipstream Circus. After over six years performing and teaching circus across Australia, she moved on to train at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and the Beijing International Acrobatics School, where she trained intensively in hula hoops, flexibility, hand-balancing, and acrobatics. She has a genuine love for all things circus and her contagious smile will no doubt delight audiences everywhere.



LEWIS RANKIN

Lewis has been very active since a young age with his involvement in sports and a love for the outdoors. He found contemporary dance later in life which he trained at Adelaide Centre for the Arts.

Since graduating he has performed with Shaun Parker & Company, Leigh Warren & Dancers, Sandpit and numerous other independent Companies. Circus and acrobatics is a recent discovery and now he is passionate about combining and evolving these different art forms.



DARCY GRANT

Darcy is a classically trained acrobat, award-winning fine art photographer, physical theatre director and founding member of Circa, revered as one of the world's most adventurous, genre-

defying circuses. He has trained, taught and toured work on the cutting edge of New Circus to some of the world's most prestigious venues. Where theatre, dance, circus and visual art meet is where Darcy likes to practice. His visual aesthetic is foundation and scaffold to his show making. In 2017 Darcy was commissioned by Adelaide International Arts Festival to direct *Backbone* by GOM. The show premiered to 5-star reviews and standing ovations, also attracting three Helpmann Award nominations including Best Choreography and Best New Australian Work. Also a brilliant photographer, Darcy regularly shoots live performance for companies such as Opera Australia and The Farm. Darcy has had solo photographic exhibitions in Brisbane, Melbourne and Berlin.

AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Arts Festival is a place for ambitious ideas by storytellers, provocateurs and creators.

The Festival reflects our contemporary, cosmopolitan city with its many communities. It challenges artists and audiences to be bold and take a risk. Through the work of artists of Aotearoa and across the world, we aim to inspire, provoke and entertain the people of Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau and our many visitors.

A globally recognised celebration of art and culture taking place each March in New Zealand's largest city, AAF will be presented for the 11th time in 2019. The Festival has attracted nearly two million visitors to date.

Festival People

Patron

The Governor General,
Her Excellency
The Right Honourable
Dame Patsy Reddy,
GNZM, QSO

Board of Trustees

John Judge (Chair)
Angela Clatworthy
Rick Carlyon
Evan Davies
Sarah Judkins
Tarun Kanji
Angela Watson
Fred Ward

Chief Executive

David Inns

Artistic Director

Jonathan Bielski

Business &

Finance Director
Shona Roberts

**Accounts &
Payroll Administrator**
Mirena Tomas

Accounts Assistant
Suzanne Watt

Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Swinburn

Office Manager
Gill Saker

Pou Tikanga
Eynon Delamere

Head of Programming

Dolina Wehipeihana

Creative Associate

Tama Waipara

**Senior Programme
Manager**
Steph Walker

**Programme Manager,
Toitū Te Reo**
Ngatapa Black

**International Music
Consultant**
Declan Forde

**Creative Learning &
Community Engagement
Coordinator**
Natasha Lay

**Programme &
Access Coordinator**
Helen Winskill

**Programme Coordinator,
Whānui**
Noma Sio-Faiumu

Project Assistant, Whānui
Scotty Cotter

**Programme Administrator,
Toitū Te Reo**
Whetu Silver

**Programme Coordinator,
Tōku Reo Waiaia & TIRA**
Aroha Rawson

**Creative New Zealand
Pasifika Intern**
Haanz Fa'avae Jackson

Access Programme Intern
Ekta Kumar

Technical Manager

Nick Tomlin

Technical Administrator

Catherine Hart

Artist & Logistics Manager
Megan Andrews

Artist Liaison Assistant
Rina Patel

Head of Staging
Andrew Gibson

Head of Lighting
Abby Clearwater

Head of Sound
Sandy Gunn

Head of AV
Simon Barker

Spiegeltent Site Manager
Jamie Blackburn

Production Manager
Vicki Cooksley

aaf.co.nz

CONTACT

Ph: +64 09 309 0101
Email: info@aaf.co.nz

**Level 5, Wellesley Centre
44–52 Wellesley Street West
PO Box 5419
Auckland 1141**

**Marketing &
Communications Director**
Thierry Pannetier

Marketing Manager
Sally Woodfield

**Brand & Content
Creation Manager**
Tim Wong

Media & PR Manager
Siobhan Waterhouse

Publicist
JP Bolton

Marketing Assistant
Camila Araos Elevancini

Marketing Intern
Stacey Mulholland

Partnerships Executive
Vanessa Morgan

Partnerships Assistant
Carrie Rae Cunningham

Ticketing Manager
Jillian Davey

Ticketing Assistant
Evan Phillips

Founding Friends
Adrian Burr
Graeme Edwards
Friedlander Foundation
Dame Jenny Gibbs
Sir Chris & Dayle, Lady Mace

Festival Supporters

CORE FUNDERS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



CORPORATE PATRONS



MAJOR FUNDERS



FUNDING PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



PLATINUM PATRONS

Janet Clarke & John Judge
Sir Roderick & Gillian, Lady Deane
Andrew & Jenny Smith
Sir James Wallace
(The Wallace Foundation)

GOLD PATRONS

Bill & Frances Bell
Friedlander Foundation

SILVER PATRONS

Brian & Julie Cadzow
Jeremy Collins
Christine & Richard Didsbury
Jan & Trevor Farmer
Kent & Gaye Gardner
Dame Jenny Gibbs
John & Jo Gow
Ian & Wendy Kuperus
Rochelle McLaren
Sir Chris & Dayle, Lady Mace
Sonbol & Farzod Taefi
Walker & Hall Trust
Fran Wyborn

BRONZE PATRONS

John Barnett
John Billington QC
Rick & Jenny Carlyon
Rosslyn Caughey
Mark & Angela Clatworthy
Sally Clatworthy
Graham Cleary
Nicola Johnson & Stephen Mills QC
Kate Plaw
Fran & Geoff Ricketts
Michelle & Will Rouse
Catherine & Martin Spencer
Lady Philippa Tait
Fred & Nicky Ward
Sally Woodfield & David Inns

JADE PATRONS

Victoria & John Carter
Johnny & Jo Chaplin
Martin Cooper
Amber Coulter & Andrew Lewis
Tarun Kanji
Vanessa Morgan
Shona Roberts
Chris Simcock & Camilla Hope-Simcock

SHANGHAI DRAMATIC ARTS CENTRE
GECKO THEATRE COMPANY



“A stunning
production...
that should be
on the top of
your list to
see this year.”

— BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

Twelve Dreamers

AN EPIC
THEATRICAL
FANTASY INSPIRED
BY SHAKESPEARE'S
**A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM**

SUPPORTED BY



Asia
New Zealand
Foundation

21–24 March • The Civic

BOOK AT AAF.CO.NZ

ALSO AT
AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL