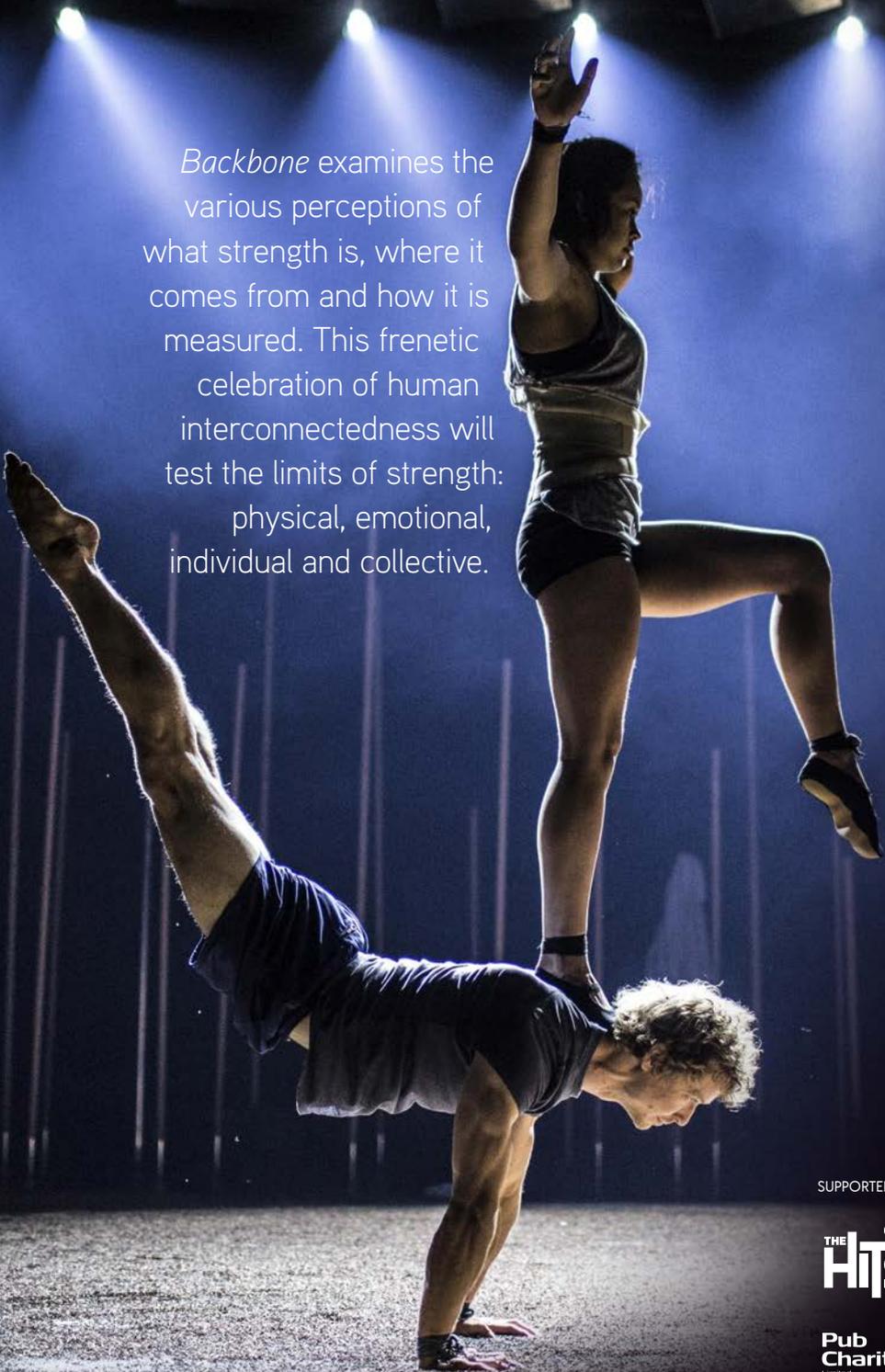


Gravity & Other Myths

March  
7-24 2019  
**AUCKLAND  
ARTS FESTIVAL**

# 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 MAKĀURĀU

**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 Waiata & 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

#### Spiegelent Site Manager

Jamie Blackburn

#### Production Manager

Vicki Cooksley

aaf.co.nz

#### CONTACT

Ph: +64 09 309 0101

Email: [info@aaf.co.nz](mailto: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)

## 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 and 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

## GOLD PATRONS

Bill & Frances Bell  
Friedlander Foundation

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

# Five Dreamer

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

ALSO AT  
AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

SUPPORTED BY



21–24 March • The Civic

BOOK AT [AAF.CO.NZ](http://AAF.CO.NZ)