

8.15–9am

Registration & Coffee

9–10.30am

Session 1:

Welcome to Country

Welcome:

Simona Jobbagy

NICA Director

Keynote:

Opening Keynote

Darcy Grant

Gravity & Other Myths

10.30–11am

Morning tea / NICA FOYER

11am–12pm

Session 2:

Panel: The Mechanisms of Engagement

Session Description: In the dynamic realm of Australian art, audiences are the kingmakers calling the shots. Addressing audience expectations from show titles onward, this session features experts discussing changing audience trends and behaviours across art forms, aiming to adapt circus accordingly. It explores methods of adding extra enticement, explore tailoring experiences, and examines how circus can learn from other thriving art forms in this realm.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- A well informed understanding of current audience trends.
- Insights into successful techniques applied to other artforms.

SPEAKERS: **Anni Davey** Flying Fruit Fly Circus, **Katherine Connor** PAC Australia, **Elena Kirschbaum** Highwire Entertainment & Gluttony

FACILITATOR: **Nicole Beyer** Theatre Network Australia

LOCATION: NCC

Noon–1pm

Lunch / NICA FOYER

1–2pm

Sessions 3,4,5:

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE OF THREE

Panel 3: There's Laws for That

Session Description: When friends become colleagues and collaborators, what failsafe methods are in place to ensure everyone is given their fair share? This bite size session provides practical advice on anecdotal situations including ownership of IP, legal contracts, and how to best protect yourself in a deal involving more than one party.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An understanding of personal and legal rights when working on productions.
- Knowledge of how to seek out resources on legal matters, and who to approach if needed.

SPEAKERS: **Darren Sanicki & Chelsea Donoghue**

Sanicki Lawyers, **Katherine Giles** Arts Law Australia

FACILITATOR: **Nic Clark** Nicholas Clark Management

LOCATION: Movement Studio

Panel 4: Social Circus for Social Change

Session Description: We all know circus provides a jolt to the heart and is good for everyone – but you can't just learn circus by yourself. This candid session examines circus's systemic issue with a panel of experts who navigate social circus within their respective communities, with some serious advice on how artists and venues can enact some basic change today.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- Insight into positionality of the social circus landscape.
- Fundamental knowledge on access that can be applied to projects and venues.

SPEAKERS: **Thomas Hinz** Circability NZ,

Jill Maglio Circus Aid USA, **Andrea Ousley** NICA

FACILITATOR: **Alice Cadwell** Spaghetti Circus

LOCATION: NCC

Panel 5: A wealth of health

Session Description: Chasing your dreams requires some serious fuel that can deplete rapidly even in the best circumstances. Whether it be an artist honing their craft, a venue curating a bespoke program, or a producer making ideas into a reality, the all-consuming process can be draining. This invaluable panel brings tools to handle burnout, healthily process stress, and cultivate methods to look after yourself as a practising arts worker.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- what we can do to change the sector to create a future to support
- holistic models for prevention and care

SPEAKERS: **Dr Kathy Yu** NICA, **Dr David Munro**

NICA, **Jim Rimmer** Arts Wellbeing Collective

FACILITATOR: **Steph Cox** Women's Circus

LOCATION: Drama Room

2–3pm

Session 6:

Presentation: Presenter Pitches

Venues

Session Description: In this first of two sessions, venues from across Australia deliver a candid and complete gamut of their operations. Offering a firsthand insight into their business, this session explores their audience demographic and habits, discussing what they're looking to program, and what type of circus they're wanting to showcase with their community.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An understanding of the venues, their programming habits, the audiences they service, giving everyone a robust knowledge of what level of circus they engage with and how artists can engage with them in return.

SPEAKERS: **Dylan Cole** Arts Centre Melbourne,

Stephen Henderson Bendigo Venues,

Jono Perry OPAC, **Fergus Linehan** Carriageworks,

Anke Politz Chamäleon Berlin

FACILITATOR: **Patrick McCarthy**

Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres

LOCATION: NCC

3–3.30pm

Afternoon tea / NICA FOYER

3.30–4.20pm

Session 7:

Presentation: Commercial

Adaptability

Session Description: From humble beginnings to incredible heights CIRCA and Chamäleon have engaged audiences across the globe with their unique approach to circus and their unfathomable capacity for adaptability. These companies and presenters lead a once-in-a-generation insight into how it all began, how it's going, and where they're going next.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An intimate insight into CIRCA and Chamäleon straight from the source, with a practical assessment of their adaptability in the landscape of entertainment.
- Inspiration and motivation to think differently about the form of circus.

SPEAKERS: **Shaun Comerford** CIRCA +

Anke Politz & Hendrik Frobel Chamäleon Berlin

FACILITATOR: **Malia Walsh** Circus Trick Tease

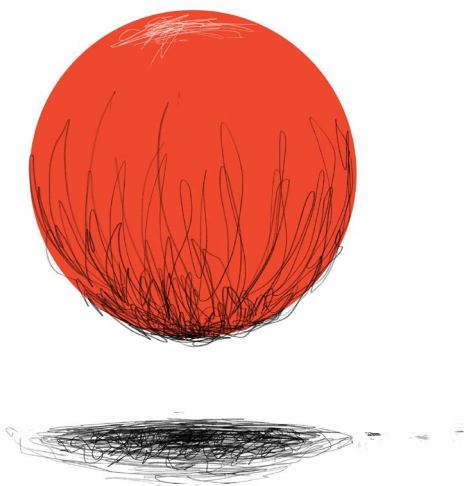
LOCATION: NCC

4.30pm

Day 1 Wrap Up

Networking Drinks

LOCATION: NICA Foyer & Forecourt



2023
**AUSTRALIAN
CIRCUS
SUMMIT**

DAY 1
THU 19 OCT

8.15–9am

Registration & Coffee

9–10am

Session 1:

Panel: **The Role of Circus within the broader Performing Arts**

Session Description: At the heart of the hustle and on the smell of an oily rag, circus continues to thrive socially and economically in extraordinary resilience. This session aims to look inwards in deep reflection, understanding circus' burgeoning positionality amongst long-established heritage forms. Determined to not be cast as 'the poor cousin', this session assembles circus experts with vast knowledge on cross collaboration in performance, circus history, about where circus sits, and its resounding impact of where it will go next.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An enhanced understanding of how circus relates to other artforms and identifying unique attributes within the ecology.

SPEAKERS: **Antonella Casella** NICA, **Kate Malone**

Cluster Art, **Pippin Remi** Regional Arts Victoria

FACILITATOR: **Stacy Clark** Circus Talk CAN

LOCATION: **NCC**

10–11.30am

Morning tea / NICA FOYER

10.30–11.25am

Session 2:

Presentation: **Presenter Pitches Festivals**

Session Description: In this second of two sessions, Australian and international festival directors and programmers deliver the complete gamut of their operations – exploring their audience demographic, discussing what they're looking to program.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An understanding of the festivals, their programming habits, the audience they service, giving everyone a robust knowledge of what they program and how artists can engage with them in return.

SPEAKERS: **Kate Fell** Darwin Festival,

Gideon Obarzanek RISING, **Emily Wells** YIRRAMBOI,

Aaron Marquise TOHU, MICC, CAN

FACILITATOR: **Heidi Irvine** Frankston Arts Centre

LOCATION: **NCC**

11.30am–12.30pm

Session 3:

Panel: **Run Like You Stole Something**

Session Description: Some work sells, but some work doesn't. This brutally honest session aims to give artists the tools to think pragmatically about their work. Demystify the business of circus by formulating a strong rationale behind a work, to considering its trajectory, to considering what venues to tap on the shoulder to tour to.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- The business of understanding your practice, venue and artists, why are you programming something, making something and what's the SMART business plan.

SPEAKERS: **Stacy Clark** Circus Talk CAN,

Monica Davidson Creative Plus Business,

Laura Colby Elsie Management USA,

Shaun Comerford CIRCA

FACILITATOR: **Edwina Lunn** RISING

LOCATION: **NCC**

12.30–1pm

Lunch / NICA FOYER

1–2pm

Sessions 4,5,6:

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE OF THREE

Panel 4: **The Culture of Creativity**

Session Description: Cultural storytelling: a conversation about how culture influences the creative process. Exploring Cultural Consultancy in circus, venues and festivals, and how to be more culturally competent.

- A deeper understanding how a persons culture can form the roots of creative practice.
- Highlighting common mistakes and ways to approach this with sensitivity.

SPEAKER: **Kahuraki Marino Aroha**

Bronsson-George Circability NZ, **Sherene Stewart**

YIRRAMBOI, **Dylan Singh** Independent Artist

FACILITATOR: **Natano Fa'anana** Casus Creations

LOCATION: **Movement Studio**

Panel 5: **Putting the Fun(d) in Fundraising**

Session Description: The session aims to lay a foundation of knowledge and cultivate inspiration to approach all aspects of philanthropy, including where to look for donors, how to invent a compelling case for business partners, and retain meaningful connections.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- An introduction to potential fundraising streams, and how to approach them.
- Correct language and dialogue to create meaningful ongoing connections.

SPEAKERS: **Steven Richardson** Creative Australia,

Mary Chackola Philanthropy Australia,

Suzanne Daley Arts Centre Melbourne

FACILITATOR: **Mark Sinclair** Committee for Melbourne

LOCATION: **NCC**

Panel 6: **It's all rigged: How to anchor the industry**

Session Description: Rigging can seem daunting or downright impossible in small venues; but it's more attainable than some might think. Kicking off the conversation, this session aims to close the communication gap between regional arts centre and qualified riggers, understanding what a production needs, exploring the logistics, and finding a solution for the desired outcome.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- The roadmap of how to do it and who to bring in to make it happen.
- Tangible knowledge on enabling the ability to rig aerial performance confidently within venues.
- Facilitate dialogue between venues, riggers, artist and discuss possibilities and compromises.

SPEAKERS: **Jay Withee** TAIT Hong Kong, **Tiny Good**

Showtech Australia, **Rockie Stone** Independent Production

Manager, **Sarah Plattts** Independent Stage & Production Manager

FACILITATOR: **Michelle Bingham** The Drum Theatre

LOCATION: **Drama Room**

2–3pm

Session 7:

Panel: **Getting on with it**

Session Description: If no one backs your vision, you need to take matters into your own hands and get on with it. With some of Australia's most widely touring companies receiving a fraction of funding as their professional counterparts, this session is a headfirst dive into the true costs of being independent circus artists, both financially and emotionally. Get an insight into how these independents have and continue to transform the touring landscape, understand how they make it work, and what we can ALL be doing to future proof the industry.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- How can venues, festivals and producers assist the independent artists and the companies have they run as well as ideas & actions we can take to future proof the industry.

SPEAKERS: **Nicci Wilks** Freelance Artist, Circus Oz,

Tom Gorham Head First Acrobats,

Harlow Carey Gravity Dolls

FACILITATOR: **Simon Abrahams** Melbourne Fringe

LOCATION: **NCC**

3–3.30pm

Afternoon tea / NICA FOYER

3.30–4.20pm

Session 8:

Closing Keynote:

A Big Top of an Idea

Session Description: Every mammoth project, superstar company, and gigantic dream starts with the smallest of ideas. Anna Robb, Executive Producer of Our Legacy Creations Hong Kong, brings a plethora of experience from working with the world's greatest entertainment companies, to starting it all again from scratch in this illuminating case study on how the smallest idea can transcend into the next big idea.

SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

- How do you create a show, where do you begin and who do you invite in to collaborate with.

SPEAKER: **Anna Robb** Our Legacy Creations

FACILITATOR: **Malia Walsh** Circus Trick Tease

LOCATION: **NCC**

4.30pm

Wrap Up

Networking drinks

LOCATION: **NICA Foyer & Forecourt**



2023
**AUSTRALIAN
CIRCUS
SUMMIT**

DAY 2
FRI 20 OCT

