



By Casus Circus

Presented by Metro Arts

14 - 18 July 2021

New Benner Theatre, Metro Arts

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Co-Director Natano Fa'anana:

COLLISION has been a slow burn creation over ten years. Early in my career I would have distinct physical and emotional reactions when watching circus. Whether it was on the ground or in the air I would dissect and play out that moment in my mind trying to understand what it was that gave me that thrill or elation. These same emotional and physical reactions would play out similarly when I watched dance. Whether it was Pasifika or ballet or hip hop I would find myself again replaying those moments in my mind wondering why I reacted the way I did.

COLLISION is the love child of those reactions exploring and celebrating each genres similarities and differences.

The impetus of many of the acts are a result of asking questions like "Why does your cartwheel look different to mine?". Or "Can the clean straight lines of circus' hand balance be translated to a street dance context and if so, why bother?". Or "How do you make an acrobat pop, lock or body roll without looking like they need medical attention?".

As per all Casus Circus' creations Jesse, Lachy and I are blessed to have the support of our Brisbane circus community who have our back. We maintain a legacy of trust and competency through our fierce producers at Cluster Arts. We are grateful for the support of Brisbane Festivals' Working Title Residency program. I am privileged to have Jo Thomas' trust in my vision at inception stage and I must thank the long black and weak soy latte shared with Meg Cooper from Mad Dance House. These two coffees eventuated into a lifelong partnership and ultimately the creation of *COLLISION*.

Co-Director Jesse Scott:

"As genres we sit on the fringes of our respective industries. Street Dance of the Dance World and Circus of the Theatre World. Similarly, our communities band together supporting one another and this is reflected in our ensemble. Whilst COLLISION is a fusion of circus and street dance it's not one or the other. It's new."

Whisk together three stellar circus performers, three dope street dancers and a creative team capable and dedicated in maintaining a vision despite lockdown, shake down and meltdown. Enforce these ingredients with a mutual respect and love for each other's craft. Bake over 2020 until crisp or until theatres are hot to the touch.

Voila, *COLLISION*. Best served with a pinot gris and a shimmy.

THANK YOU

Mad Dance House, Cluster Arts, Metro Arts, Brisbane Festival, Judith Wright Centre, Circa for the use of their space, Rob Scott - ongoing Casus creative consultant, Adelaide Fringe Artist Fund, Brisbane Old Museum.

BIOGRAPHIES

Casus Circus Casus Circus is recognised as a leader in contemporary circus on the international stage. Our performances are rich in human connection, integrity, cultural diversity and precise, intelligent choreography. Acrobats fill the stage with momentum and stillness, with strength and fragility, and overwhelm audiences with breathless emotion that often leads to a silent theatre throughout the performance - followed by a standing ovation at the end. Inclusion and diversity are at the forefront of all our work, giving light and energy to stories that are often absent from our stages, or heavily stereotyped. Casus is one of the most diverse companies in Australia, with more than 70 per cent of the company non-Caucasian, and strong representation from the LGBTIQX community. Casus also subverts gender normative stereotypes, with women demonstrating strength and basing complex balances, and men exploring delicate styles and moving with intimacy and finesse. Originating in Brisbane, the three co-founders (Jesse Scott, Lachlan Macaulay, and Natano Fa'anana) remain company members and close friends. Their home-town values of humanity, friendship and connection flow throughout the company and their performances. It is this that forms the backbone of Casus Circus signature style.

Riley Colquist Riley is a queer, hand-balancer and contortionist. He combines his love of fashion with over 17 years of circus training.

Ben Garcia Ben Garcia also known as BennyBucho is a street dancer/performer based on the Gold Coast. He has competed and toured internationally with many world class companies and crews.

Amy Stuart "I was inspired by Circus and knew I couldn't live without it. 10 years later I'm a professional acrobat specialising in Tumbling, group acrobatics and Hula."

Sam Evans Sam is street dancer specialising in popping and animated movement. For him, entertainment and fun always comes first.

Ela Bartilomo Ela is a passionate artist who thrives off sharing ideas and collaborating with other artists. Her enthusiastic attitude about life is reflected in the work she creates as both an acrobat and a visual artist.

Wanida Serce Wanida is an established creative director, choreographer and performance artist. She has become an industry leader in the dance world by educating, hosting events, producing work and continually pushing boundaries through movement and action.

CREATIVES

Natano Fa'anana
Director

**Jesse Scott &
Lachlan McAulay**
Co-Directors

Ché Pritchard
Creative Consultant/
Choreographer

COLLABORATORS

Andrew 'Panda' Haden
Lighting Designer

Mathew James
Associate Lighting Designer

**Natano Fa'anana, Jesse
Scott, Ché Pritchard,
Andrew Haden**
Music Design

Cluster Arts
Producers

Mad Dance House
Collaborators

PERFORMING ARTISTS

Amy Stuart

Ela Bartilimo

Wanida Serce

Riley Colquist

Sam Evans

Ben Garcia

For full artist bios, visit
metroarts.com.au/collision

Metro Arts and the artists acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, as the custodians of this land, recognising their connection to land, waters and community. We honour the story-telling and art-making at the heart of First Nation's cultures, and the enrichment it gives to the lives of all Australians.

METRO ARTS' PROGRAMMING TEAM

JO THOMAS

CEO + Creative Director

DANIELLE CARNEY

Producer

AMELIA (MILLY) WALKER

Associate Producer

SHANI GOULD

Programming and Ticketing
Administrator

PETA KISHAWI

Associate Producer

Metro Arts



METRO ARTS PARTNERS



Metro Arts is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.



Metro Arts acknowledges West Village and Hutchinson Builders as Founding Venue Partners.

Metro Arts is proudly supported by TAFE Queensland as Education Partner. The Emerging Producer Xchange is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation.

Metro Arts acknowledge the generosity of our Patron, Wesley Enoch AM.