

THANKS TO

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ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House develops, produces and presents dynamic cultural experiences, which enable people to make meaningful connections on a local, national and international level. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events, which are programmed to inspire dynamic community engagement.

Australia is home to the oldest living culture on earth. Respect and engagement with this ancient culture and its contemporary lineage continues to make a unique contribution to creativity in this place and inspire our collective consciousness and understanding. The presenters acknowledge and respect the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land. The artists and organisers respectfully acknowledge that this program takes place on the land of the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

Arts House has made every effort to offer wheelchair and limited mobility access throughout the program. Please contact Arts House on 03 9322 3719 for further information.



ThisSideUp acrobatics

CONTROLLED FALLING PROJECT

Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Wednesday 15 – Sunday 19 April 2009

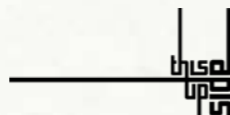
'A boisterous and beautiful exploration of the extraordinary heights the human body can reach...a rare beast – a circus performance that is equally successful for its theatricality and athleticism. This is a must see.' - Buzzcuts

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Controlled Falling Project

ABOUT THE COMPANY

ThisSideUp acrobatics was formed in 2006 by Christian Schooneveldt-Reid and Casey Douglas and James Brown, after they graduated from NICA. Their goal was to create full length contemporary circus shows for Australian and International markets.

In 2008 **ThisSideUp** toured Australia for three months followed closely by three months in Europe and the UK. They ended the year with the debut performance of their newest show "Down and Out" at the Woodford Folk Festival, featuring an expanded cast.

2009 has started strongly for **ThisSideUp**, at the Tasmanian Circus Festival they performed "Controlled Falling Project" to standing ovations, and featured at the Adelaide Fringe's Garden of Uearthly Delights with "Down and Out". The company currently works in collaboration with many other artists and support crew.

ThisSideUp have developed three full length shows, "Little Indecisions", "Controlled Falling Project" and "Down and Out" as well as a number of shorter acts tailored to the corporate and events markets. They have performed in Scotland (Edinburgh Fringe cabaret appearance), Italy, France, Singapore, China and nearly every major city in Australia, in addition to regional locations.

Securing an office and mentorship in Southbank with the Auspicious Arts Incubator last year, and running a training and rehearsal venue in Brunswick, Melbourne, **ThisSideUp** also receive ongoing industry support from their peers - major Australian companies such as Circus Oz, Strange Fruit, Circa, Strut n Fret and NICA. They also take regular corporate bookings around Australia, and with these solid and successful beginnings **ThisSideUp** is positioning itself as an innovative, successful and stimulating contributor to contemporary Australian circus.

thissideupacrobatics.com

A CIRCUS DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This performance is set in a timeless laboratory of mechanical contraptions and human experimenters who try things out with their bodies and their minds to reveal physics in action.

Controlled Falling, "it's what we do" says Casey, member of **ThisSideUp**, a group of contemporary circus performers, graduates of Australia's first national circus training institution NICA.

They use the strength of muscles and skeleton, the power of physical levers and the mechanics of joints to enable them to fly in the face of gravity. Forces, acceleration, mass, resistance, impact, orbits, shock waves are all finely calibrated.

We have always been excited by what the human body can do. And in acrobatics there's no half measures. You can either do a double back somersault or you can't. You either hold that handstand or you don't. With live percussion you hit that mark or you don't, you keep Time or you lose it. Related but very different explorations to the sporting world, closer to the painstaking repetition of contemporary dance.

Using imagination and rigorous practice the acrobats and drummer of **ThisSideUp** explore ways to entertain and inspire by expanding our experience of what is humanly possible.

BIOGRAPHIES

James Brown – Performer

Having trained in dance, theatre, gymnastics and acrobatics, circus seemed like a natural progression and was a wise career choice for James. In 2001 he moved from QLD to Melbourne to study at The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). This intensive Bachelor of Circus Arts saw him specialise in Hand Balancing, Duo / Group Acrobatics and Russian Bar. As a versatile acrobat in both the artistic and corporate entertainment industries, James has performed in Singapore, China, India, Dubai, Qatar, Italy, France and Scotland, and has appeared on several TV shows including Rove Live, The Price is Right and La Botla (Italy). In 2007 James turned his focus to ensemble work, becoming involved in ThisSideUp acrobatics.

Christian Schooneveldt-Reid – Performer

Christian has always been an acrobat, teaching himself to walk on his hands at the age of six, and jumping off the roof of the family house in Canberra. Ten years of gymnastics taught him control and in 2001 after being accepted into The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), Christian found his passion. Specialising in Hand Balancing and Acrobatics, Christian's career highlights include working with Brazilian circus directors Rodrigo Matheus and Carla Candiotta, creating two shows "Love Happens" and "New Breed". He has performed across Australia, in Singapore, China, Italy, France, Spain and Scotland. Experienced in traditional, contemporary and corporate circus settings, Christian currently focuses his time and energy on building the new circus company ThisSideUp acrobatics.

Casey Douglas – Performer

Casey is from WA and has over 10 years training in competitive gymnastics, representing Australia in China, America and New Zealand. In 2002 Casey packed his bags and headed to Melbourne to study at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), where he specialised in Handstands and Russian Bar. Since graduating in 2005 Casey has worked as a freelance performer in circus theatre, corporate acts and cabarets. Performing his worldclass handstand routine, Casey was invited to Chateaufort in France to participate in Handstand Workshops at the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (Fédération européenne des écoles de cirque professionnelles - FEDEC). Casey has performed throughout Australia, in France, China, Qatar, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore and Scotland. He is a driving force in the contemporary circus company ThisSideUp acrobatics.

David Joseph – Performer

David has been a professional freelance performer for over 20 years. He has worked as an actor, dancer, musician, circus performer and teacher for some of this country's most prestigious performing arts companies including Melbourne Theatre Company, Circus Oz and Chamber Made Opera. David has toured extensively both nationally and internationally and performed at many of the worlds foremost arts festivals including Edinburgh, Glastonbury, the South American Theatre Festival (Colombia), Hong Kong Arts Festival and many major festivals in Australia. He is currently leading Skazz, an 8 piece Jamaican jazz band, playing drums with King Marong (master djembe player) and Afro-Mandinko, teaching circus skills at Circus Oz (corporate training program) and 5 metropolitan schools (including special needs and at-risk youth), performing in children's shows, performing with Batacoda (street theatre troupe), as well as his involvement with ThisSideUp which began in 2007 when he joined the company at the development stage of "Controlled Falling Project".

Robin Laurie – Circus Director

Robin has been working in devised comic and physical performance for over 30 years. She is a performer, director, researcher, dramaturg, activist and Feldenkrais teacher. She was an original member of the Pram Factory, a co-founder of Circus OZ and the first Women's Circus. She has worked with many contemporary performance companies including Sidetrack Theatre, Melbourne Workers Theatre, Flying Fruit Fly Circus and Club Swing. She has researched and devised large scale multi-lingual community performances and arts events with the East Timorese, Italian, Middle Eastern, Warlpiri and refugee communities. Most recently she directed NICA's end of year show 20's 05, and contemporary Irish dance and music performance Square. She was performance director for City of Melbourne's Eating the City where the audience ate a map of Melbourne made out of food, director/facilitator of the East Timorese Comedy Skills Development Project, researcher/director of Kan Yama Kan an Asylum Seekers performance with actors, musicians and 30 person choir and dramaturg/director of Passport to Happiness and Queen of the Snakepit for 10 Days on the Island. In 2006 she directed and devised Bugs Backyard Circus at Museum Victoria which was seen by 30,000 people. For the past 3 years she has been Artistic Director of Generations Wangaratta. The Generations project is a national initiative of the Cultural Development Network. 5 projects in 3 states are exploring the potential of relationships between communities, artists and local councils. She has been working with This Side Up acrobatics off and on since 2006.

ARTISTIC CREDITS

Created and performed by:

ThisSideUp acrobatics: Christian Schooneveldt-Reid,

Casey Douglas, James Brown

Musical Director/Drummer: David Joseph

Circus Director: Robin Laurie

Lighting Design and Operation: Gina Gascoigne

Sound Operator: Geoff Adams

Drawing Machine : Cam Robbins

Bicycle Light: Alan Robertson (original concept Casey Douglas)

Occasional Consultant: Rinske Ginsberg

Production Coordinator: Aneke McCulloch

Cover Image: Michael Whiteman

65 minutes no interval

Warning: Flashing light, smoke effects