

For Immediate Release

Witness Human Athleticism Pushed to the Extreme with Circa: Humans 2.0 from Arts Commons Presents

January 23, 2024 - CALGARY – All the way from Brisbane, Australia, contemporary circus phenomenon Circa comes to Calgary for a jaw-dropping display of physical strength, agility and artistry performed to live music in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at **Arts Commons**. Join Arts Commons Presents for **Circa: *Humans 2.0*** on **Tuesday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.** as part of BD&P World Stage from Arts Commons Presents. Learn more at artscommons.ca/circa.

Founded in 2004, Circa Contemporary Circus is one of the world's leading performance companies, having performed in more than 40 countries to over 1.5 million people. Their latest show, *Humans 2.0*, builds on Circa's critically acclaimed *Humans*, exploring the intimate and often primal ideas of what it means to be human. Created by circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz and set to the pulsing music of composer Ori Lichtik, *Humans 2.0* is a "spellbinding physical drama, with just the right amount of play, death-defying tricks and whimsical imagery" (The Conversation) that is "a visual feast of wonder" (Broadway World). Circa has set itself apart by combining the drama tools of live theatre with the extreme physicality of circus "redraw the limits to which circus can aspire." (The Age). Premiering in 2001, Circa immediately grabbed the imaginations of audiences, hailed as nothing short of "... a revolution in the spectacle of circus." (Les Echos). [View high resolution video here.](#)

"Circa is an artform that is capable of moving people in the world and changing the very nature of what is considered a theatrical experience. We try to see how far circus can bend as an art form, how far it can cross-pollinate with theatre, dance and music when you stretch it beyond its normal limits. We also want to use the physical immediacy and danger and presence of circus to try to reinvigorate other art forms," says Circa Artistic Director and CEO, Yaron Lifschitz. *"Spontaneity and adaptability are all part of it. Acrobats constantly want to do new things, push themselves further."*

Recognized for his fresh perspective on circus performing arts, Yaron Lifschitz has directed more than 80 productions that have spanned the genres of: circus, opera, and theatre. In addition to his work with Circa, he is the founding Artistic Director of the Australian Museum's theatre unit, Head Tutor in Directing at Australian Theatre for Young People and has been a regular guest tutor in directing at the National Institute for Dramatic Arts (NIDA) in Sydney since 1995. His work has won him numerous awards including six Helpmann awards, which recognize excellence in live performing arts in Australia, and the Australia Council Theatre Award.

With Circa, Lifschitz endeavors to create another world on stage; one that is transportive for audiences through mood, lighting, and sound. Composer Ori Lichtik, a frequent collaborator with Circa, is one of the founding fathers of the techno scene in Israel. The score was composed in response to, and in communication with the performers, making for a seamless sound backdrop. All members of the troupe receive years of circus training, with some members also sharing dance backgrounds, yoga, and other theatrical training.

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"This company is so full of life! Direct from Australia, and filled with charm, fun and INCREDIBLE acrobatic feats, this show is going to thrill!" Says VP of Programming, Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS). "Circa's blend of fantastic music, dazzling light and contemporary moves, promises a night of deep good times."

BD&P World Stage enters its 23rd season of bringing the best that the world has to offer to Calgary's spectacular Jack Singer Concert Hall, giving our city the chance to experience something completely new. This season we welcomed **The Triplets of Belleville: 20th Anniversary Film in Concert** in early November, followed by the beloved holiday tradition of **The Barra MacNeils: An East Coast Christmas**. After **Circa: Humans 2.0**, we are thrilled to be hosting Cuba's leaders in contemporary dance, **Malpaso Dance Company with Arturo O'Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**. The season rounds out with **DakhaBrakha**, a multi-award winning Ukrainian folk music group and active ambassadors for Ukrainian music and culture, and a double bill of blind musicians, multi-GRAMMY Award-winning jazz legend **Diane Schuur with Raul Midón**.

Arts Commons Presents is the programming arm of Arts Commons, presenting a diverse line-up of concerts, speaker presentations, youth programming, and emerging artist showcases including the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit acpresents.ca.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Circa: *Humans 2.0*
When: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/circa

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **Burnett, Duckworth & Palmer**, supporting sponsors **ALSA Road Construction** and **SerVantage Services** as well as the **Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, the TD Amplify series, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.