



TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI
AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL

2026



TEN THOUSAND HOURS

gravity & other myths 

Ten Thousand Hours

Gravity & Other Myths

Major
Festivals
Initiative



Government of
South Australia



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La Strada
graz



Gravity & Other Myths is supported as an organisation by Arts South Australia.

Ten Thousand Hours has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. Commissioned by Chamäleon Berlin, La Strada, Graz and Gluttony, Adelaide.

The *Ten Thousand Hours* creative development was supported by the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Cover image by Millissa Martin

Thursday 19 — Sunday 22 March 2026

The Civic

Director

Lachlan Binns

Associate Director

Darcy Grant

Set & Lighting

Designer

Chris Petridis

Assistant Designer

Max Mackenzie

Composers

Nick Martyn

Shenzo Gregorio

Costume Designer

Olivia Zanchetta

Production Manager

Martin Schreiber

Creative

Producer

Jascha Boyce

Tour Managers

Lachlan Harper

Jacob Randell

Acrobats

Louis Gift

Chase Levy

Alyssa Moore

Annalise Moore

Axel Osborne

Jacob Randell

Martin Schreiber

Shani Stephens

Musician

Angus McKean

Image credit

Nikola Milatovic

1 hr no interval

Contains haze and loud music. Suitable for all ages.



About the Company

"We're a circus company with roots in Adelaide, Australia. We utilise an honest approach to performance to create work with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. Through this, we hope to maintain an exceptional and diverse artistic programme. After forming 2009 as a group of young Adelaide artists with a passion for circus and physical theatre, we've spent the past 13 years growing steadily and creating six critically acclaimed main stage works.

Our predominantly ensemble driven creative process encourages our artists to engage deeply with the work they are inhabiting and allows true investment in and commitment to the company's core values.

As a leader of contemporary circus in Australia, we feel it is our responsibility to continue to challenge circus as an artform."



About the Show

Everybody is a master of something.

Blink, step, jump, balance, flip, fly.

This is an ode to the countless hours needed to achieve great things. A tribute to the dedication required to realise our physical ambitions. An acknowledgement of the backstory that is often more spectacular than the finished product.

Eight acrobats and one musician investigate physical skill; how we obtain it, how we perfect it, and how it can transform our lives. Through highlighting the nuance of high level acrobatics, audiences experience a heightened appreciation of the countless hours required to master the skills they are witnessing. Set to a driving, dynamic and intricate musical score using percussion/ drums live on-stage, *Ten Thousand Hours* is a revelry of the distinct physical language that defines Gravity & Other Myths (GOM) and a celebration of the pursuit of mastery.

This is a love letter to our bodies and the amazing things they let us do every day.

This is an invitation to watch us work.



GOM photographed by Simon McClure

Lachlan Binns

Director, Co-founder of GOM



Adelaide born and bred, Lachlan has been involved in active and creative pursuits his whole life, starting circus classes at CirKidz at just eight years old.

It was here where Lachlan's passion for performance and training was developed, and formed the friendships that forged the beginnings of GOM.

Lachlan's love for the circus was solidified when he performed in a show called *Freaky* at the 2007 Come Out Festival for kids in Adelaide, as it gave him a chance to perform with professional adult artists from Circus Monoxide and with their CirKidz trainer, Triton, who also became a founding member of GOM.

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His first professional role was as a trainer for Cirkidz, and as a street performer at many of the various arts festivals in Adelaide. The turning point in Lachlan's career came in 2013, when he and the GOM team travelled to the UK to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe.

As a founding member of GOM, Lachlan's role within the company ranges from leader, mentor, and creative director, to designer and administrator. He is most often involved in conversations about the innovation and creative quality of GOM's work and sees this as his major contribution to the company.

His favourite moment on stage was performing *A Simple Space* at the 2013 Tasmanian circus festival, as it was the first time GOM had ever performed the work, in front of peers and the community, and was terrifyingly exhilarating!

Darcy Grant

Artistic Director, Co-founder of GOM



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.

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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.

Chris Petridis

Set & Lighting Designer



Chris is a lighting and video designer from Adelaide, South Australia. Following his completion of the Technical Production course at the Adelaide Centre of the Arts, Chris

has continued to develop his experience across theatre, dance, and other live events in Australia and internationally.

Max Mackenzie

Assistant Designer



British born and Perth raised, Max has had a love for the theatre and performing from a young age.

From singing centre-stage to discovering the craft and creativity

of lighting design, Max studied Lighting for Performance and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), before taking on his first professional lighting job at the 2015 Perth Fringe, followed by a stint at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe.

Max has been with GOM since 2017 after undertaking an internship with designer Geoff Cobham, who introduced him to the ensemble, and has grown and developed his lighting skills within the company — from the international tour for *Backbone*, to taking on lighting design and creation for *Out of Chaos*.

Nick Martyn

Composer



Nick is a drummer and performer extraordinaire who has played music everywhere except Antarctica in the last 18 years. Since finishing a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 2007,

Nick has worked with countless Australian artists including Gotye, Harry Angus (*The Cat Empire*), Matt Corby, Tex Perkins and The Sweetenoughs (a Hiatus Kaiyote side project). As a founding member of soul band Clairy Browne & The Bangin' Rackettes, Nick entered international touring life from 2010–2015. Since then, he has toured Australia with NYC punk icons James Chance and The Contortions, performed globally with Circus Oz and studied traditional folkloric rhythms in Havana, Cuba under master drummer Changuito. Since 2016 Nick has developed *Las Mar*, a one-man live show combining high-

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energy complex drumming, vocals and synths, releasing two albums and an EP in the process. Most recently, with violin virtuoso and GOM collaborator Shenzo Gregorio, Nick composed the music for *Ten Thousand Hours*.

Shenzo Gregorio

Composer



Shenton had a violin passed down to him from his older sister when he was just four 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.

Olivia Zanchetta

Costume Designer



Olivia is a Set & Costume Designer for theatre, film and events.

Based on Kaurna Land, she is interested in real stories, real people and dogs.

Martin Schreiber

Production Manager, Acrobat,
Co-founder of GOM



Born in Amsterdam, Martin moved to Adelaide with his family in 1997 and was inspired to take up circus performance after seeing a National Institute of

Circus Arts show with his grandparents in Melbourne as a child.

A keen gymnast from the age of eight years old, Martin competed at the state level until an injury led him to focus more on his circus training, which he'd begun at Cirkidz at age 12.

Soon joining Cirkidz' elite programme, The Troupe, Martin gained a higher level of training and began performing in public shows, including Fringe shows and school tours. It was during this time that Martin met the other founders of GOM.

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GOM's first show *Freefall* launched in 2009, and led to seasons at the Adelaide Fringe in 2010, 2011 and 2013, a 10 week regional Australian tour and an international tour following a successful Edinburgh Fringe season. Martin has been touring with GOM ever since.

Martin works as an acrobat in both the creation and performance of all GOM shows, and has also taken on the role of training manager, tour manager, and production manager for the company.

His favourite moment on stage with GOM was the premiere night of their performance of *Backbone* at the Adelaide Festival. The intense feeling of premiering a work in his home city, in front of friends and family, then finishing to receive a standing ovation, made the many months of rehearsals worth it.

Jascha Boyce

Creative Producer, Co-founder of GOM



After dabbling with dance as a little girl, Jascha started recreational circus classes at Cirkidz Circus School in Adelaide when she was just four years old. This initial

spark for the circus was fanned into a flame when she was offered a place in the Cirkidz Performance Troupe at age nine.

Over the next ten years, Jascha trained as a performer and creative with Cirkidz, eventually becoming a coach, teaching performers of all ages, and directing the junior performance troupe.

Jascha and her fellow Cirkidz colleagues founded GOM in 2009, and after a number of Adelaide Fringe performances they fell into full time touring, following a successful first season of *A Simple Space* at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2013.

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As one of GOM's ensemble acrobats, Jascha usually takes on the role of flyer or a middle, on stage. Behind the curtain, Jascha is also a key member of the managerial and directorial team for GOM, responsible for guiding and implementing future endeavours. She recently took on the role of Associate Director in GOM's, *Out Of Chaos*, and is co-directing a new piece, currently in development.

Her favourite moment onstage is always at the very end of each show, as the troupe wraps their arms around each other for their final bow.



GOM photographed by Darcy Grant



Jacob Randell

Acrobat, Tour Manager, Co-founder of GOM



A founding member of what has become one of Australia's largest and most successful contemporary circus companies, Jacob attended Adelaide youth circus school,

Cirkidz, from age 9. What started out as a hobby, soon became a career, when he and five others from his Cirkidz class formed GOM and toured with their first show *Freefall*. The creation and premiere of *A Simple Space* in early 2013 cemented the transition from hobby to career. The group took the show to Edinburgh Festival Fringe and received so much booking interest that Jacob deferred his engineering degree to take part in the international tour. Jacob has been performing, creating and touring full time with GOM ever since.

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In his off-stage time while touring, Jacob completed a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning. He also contributes to the company's management as Financial Controller. In addition to ensuring the GOM team is functioning at its peak, Jacob is involved with implementing the company's business strategy and loves the challenge of problem solving on the fly.

Jacob has always loved performing and can't believe his luck in winning the "job lottery" which allows him to train, perform and travel with a group of his best friends. Whilst the onstage moments give him the adrenaline hit he loves night after night, it's the offstage moments that will stay with him for life.

Travelling the world with GOM has enabled Jacob countless great memories with friends at festivals all over the world. Some highlight moments include snowboarding in Canada, sailing in Croatia, salsa dancing in Sao Paulo and safariing in Zimbabwe.

Lachlan Harper

Tour Manager



Lachlan was age four 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. After two years at NICA, Lachlan joined GOM and never looked back; six years on he's never been happier.

Louis Gift

Acrobat



Louis started his acrobatic journey doing Parkour/Freerunning in the streets of London, and found a love of performing acrobatics on stage after appearing in a

production of Oklahoma at college. He attended the BA degree at the National Centre of Circus Arts in London, passing with a first, and started a company with two friends called Barely Methodical Troupe (BMT).

BMT debuted their first show at Edinburgh Fringe in 2014, picking up the Total Theatre award for best new circus, and performed many subsequent years to sold out runs. BMT went on to perform their blend of circus and breakdancing/parkour/tricking for another decade around the UK and internationally.

Louis started working with GOM in 2023, touring with *Backbone* and *The Pulse*, and playing drums in *A Simple Space*.

Chase Levy

Acrobat



Chase is an acrobat from the USA. He found his love for circus and performing at a young age with Circus Smirkus summer camp; then toured with Smirkus, performing more than

200 full length shows over four summers.

Chase then spent a year at the Québec City Circus School before entering the National Circus School in Montréal. He graduated ENC in 2024 as a hand-to-hand major with training in columns, banquine, Russian bar and Russian cradle. As an artist, Chase is interested in group acrobatic work and the intersection between performing and visual arts. When not training or performing, Chase loves cooking, photography/filmmaking and watching movies. He's often thought if he were not a circus artist, he would open a food truck, serving fresh food with ingredients from local farmers' markets. Chase also loves mixing circus and film, creating projects with his talented friends.

Alyssa Moore

Acrobat



Alyssa is a versatile acrobat, aerialist and full-time hot mess. Since leaving the small coastal town of Ulladulla, she has travelled around performing a myriad of roles as a circus artist.

From the prestigious Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, to exploring the entirety of New Zealand as a pirate and back to the land down under with Circus Oz are just a few highlights. She has also helped devise and produce several independent productions that have travelled interstate and internationally. Her dream is to continue this life of collaborating, travelling, laughing, and one day be a hot circus mum.

Annalise Moore

Acrobat



Annalise began her endeavours as a performer through Artistic Gymnastics at age seven where she competed nationally through to the age of sixteen. She then found

hip hop dance and discovered circus at age 18. Circus allowed her to combine both elements of gymnastics and dance as well as providing a creative outlet. Annalise went on to train at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and later continued her training in Montreal, specialising in Hand to Hand and Hand balancing. Some of Annalise's notable work includes performing with Recirquel company, Cirque Du Soliel's 45 Degrees, Circus Oz and now GOM. Annalise is thrilled to be part of such a strong ensemble where she can share her passion for group acrobatics with the world.

Axel Osborne

Acrobat



Axel has dedicated his life to the study and teaching of acrobatics. With over 12 years of elite gymnastics and acrobatics, and more than 10 years of coaching experience,

his understanding of movement and mechanics has lead him to many accolades such as the silver medal at the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships in 2016. Since retiring from competition, Axl has performed on TV shows such as, *America's Got Talent* and *Le Plus Grand Cabaret du Monde*, and has performed on stages all over the world. Currently he works with the Adelaide-based circus company GOM.

Shani Stephens

Acrobat



Shani grew up in a little country town with two big brothers that rustled her around. After years of flipping off fences and leaving dirty sock marks on the

walls, she quickly realised that she was happiest when upside down. Shani spent several years competing Gymnastics and attending Youth Circus classes before venturing to The Flying Fruit Fly Circus to take her training to a National level.

After Graduating in 2017, Shani toured with Circus Oz before joining her dream company, GOM.



Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is a melting pot of shared experiences, whakaaro, live entertainment and kōrero every March.

Ko ngā mahinga toi whānui me te ahurea ki Tāmaki Makaurau o nāianei te pūmanawa o te Ahurei.

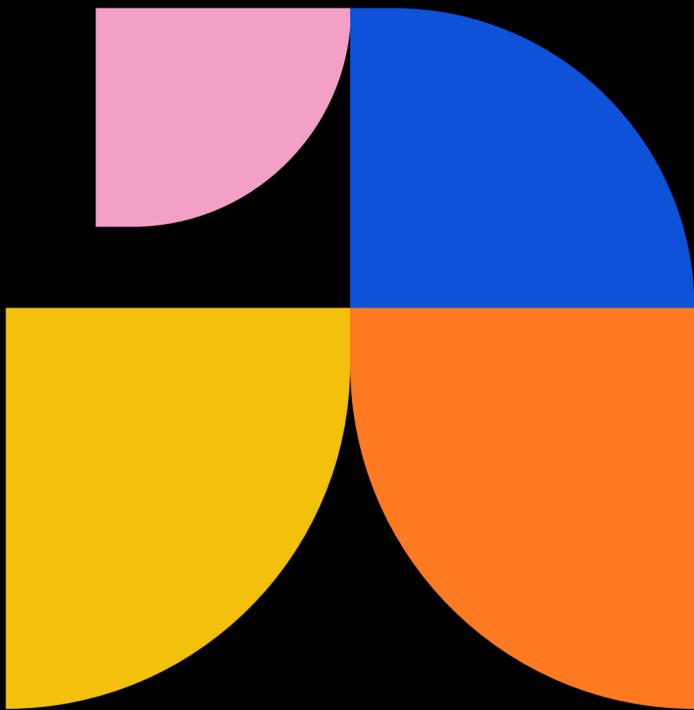
The Festival's lifeblood is arts and culture in contemporary Tāmaki Makaurau. We care deeply about celebrating artists and their kaupapa, serving the creatives and communities behind the works we present, honouring te reo and te ao Māori in all that we do, and contributing to a better city and society. That's us. Koia pū!

Every March you'll see a big reunion with our city's arts community alongside our mahi towards better accessibility and education opportunities for our audiences. We're also passionate about the works we curate and our collaboration with the many people who make those experiences happen. We strive to celebrate with generosity; human connection and manaakitanga will always be at the heart of what we stand for.

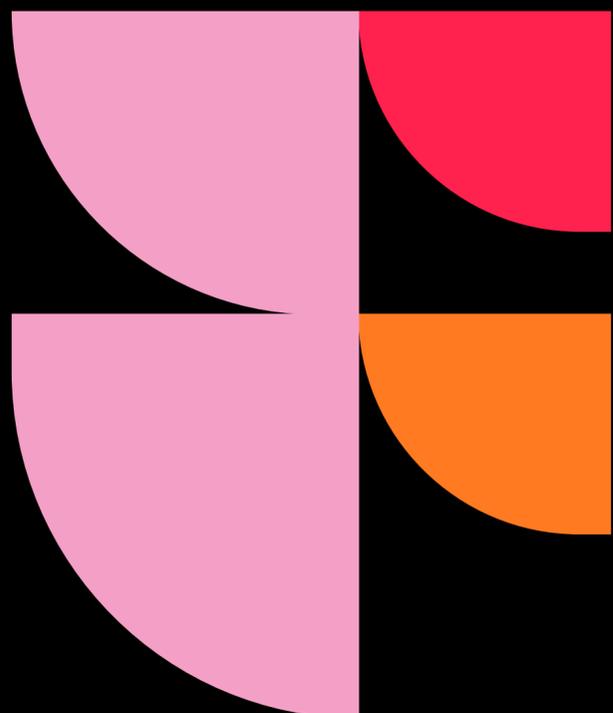
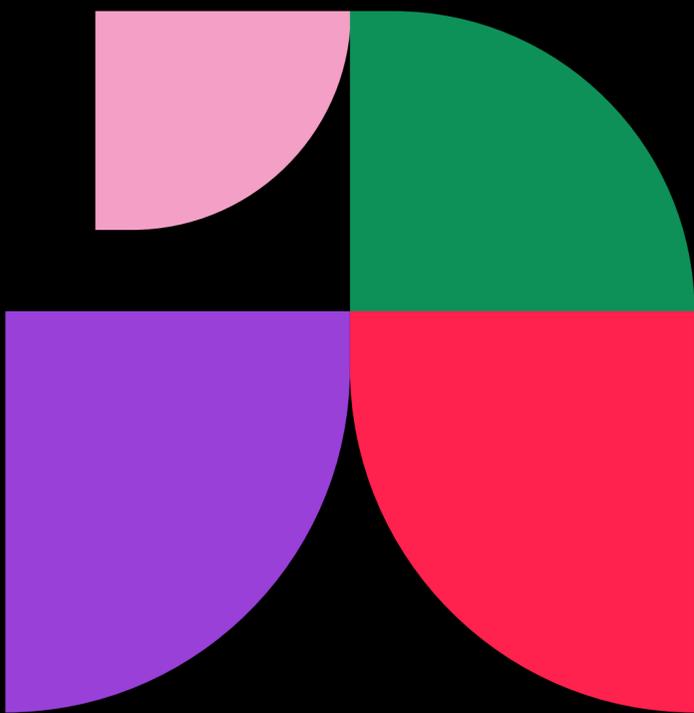
When we're on, we're on a mission to make Auckland an amazing place to socialise and be entertained in. Whether you're discovering the city for the first time or rekindling your love for its hidden gems, we truly believe that the Festival has something for everyone.

18 unforgettable days and nights.

For the ❤️ of TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU.



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AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

5—22 o Māehe • March 2026

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