



ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE AND  
FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS PRESENT

# GIRLS WITH ALTITUDE

#fruitflycircus #girlswithaltitude



## Director's Note - Anni Davey

Just as in Judy Horacek's most well-known book (with Mem Fox), in which a search for the Green Sheep uncovers that there are many different sheep, I hope that our show *Girls With Altitude* demonstrates that 'a girl' can be anything or anybody she wants to be.

At the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, through their study and training in circus arts, our students are encouraged to be physically strong and dextrous, disciplined and dedicated, alert, empathetic, and creative. Circus trains us to question and stretch the edges of possibility by constantly striving for combinations or sequences that are unexpected, surprising or seemingly impossible.

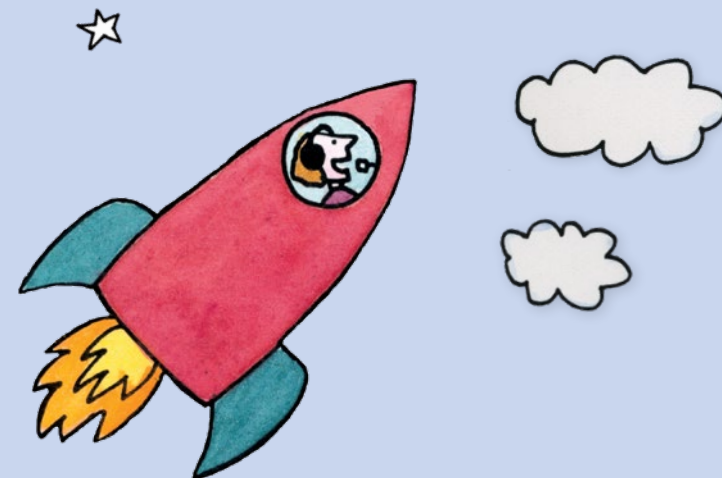
During the creation of *Girls With Altitude* the young cast members and I thought about Judy's whimsically beautiful and clever cartoons, with their gentle and yet fiercely feminist examination of the world around us. We have tried, by combining some of these images, some animations, and our circus skills to convey a spirit of curiosity, a subversive questioning of the status quo. We want to inspire our audiences to believe that they can do anything, that they don't have to be restrained by expectations, labels or 'shoulds'.



It has been a great privilege to work with such wonderful artists in the conception and production of this work over the four years since it was first suggested. It sounded simple then, make a collaboration with Judy Horacek and her wonderful cartoons. To all of the 'Fruit Flies' who have contributed to its development, and there are many more than the 16 who are on stage, I am so grateful for your skilful and generous ideas!

Enjoy our show, and thanks for supporting Australian Circus.

Anni Davey, Director



## The Performers

Abbey Szakal (17)  
Abigail Sandral (12)  
Ava Paydon (18)  
Bianca Hall (16)  
Chloe Pirie (15)  
Claire Braunack (15)  
Ella Saabel (19)  
Emma Giasoumi (13)  
Eryn Beattie (19)  
Maya Chynoweth (15)  
Monique Blackie (14)  
Natasha Hall (16)  
Natasha Meani (13)  
Rachel Phillips (16)  
Taria O'Connor (15)  
Tess Spry (19)

## The Creative Team

Ania Reynolds – Composer and Sound Designer  
Anni Davey – Artistic Director  
April Dawson – Costume Designer  
Bec Neill – Lead Trainer  
Bek Gibbs – Associate Producer  
Ben Lewis – Lead Trainer  
Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman – Animator  
Bosco Shaw – Set Designer  
Daryll John – Rigger  
Steph Young – Stage Manager  
Jacob Shears – Re-Lighter  
Jo Lancaster – Wardrobe Assistant  
Judy Horacek – Cartoonist  
Misha Reale – Trainer  
Richard Vabre – Lighting Designer  
Scott Stoddart – Technical Director  
Tahni Froudist – Executive Producer  
Tim Dennis – AV Technician

### Presenting Partner:

Arts Centre Melbourne

### Parents and friends on tour:

Con Giasoumi, Rachael Gadd

**Thanks to:** the dedicated team at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Bridie Hooper, Nick Hutchinson, Professional Audio Services, Bec Bennell and the team at The Cube Wodonga, the Arts on Tour team, Freyja and Conor Wild, Paul Lim, Ryan Taplin, Lyn Shields, Ian Sutherland, Helen Newman, Vivien Naimo and Katherine Wheeler for the Seahorse head dresses, Bec Cooen and Felix Hauge. The development of this production was supported by Sydney Festival through the Major Festivals Initiative.



## Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Ordinary Kids doing Extraordinary Things!

Australia's Flying Fruit Fly Circus is one of the world's premier youth arts companies. In 1979 it began as a local circus project for school kids. Today, over 40 years later, it is an institution of national and international significance.

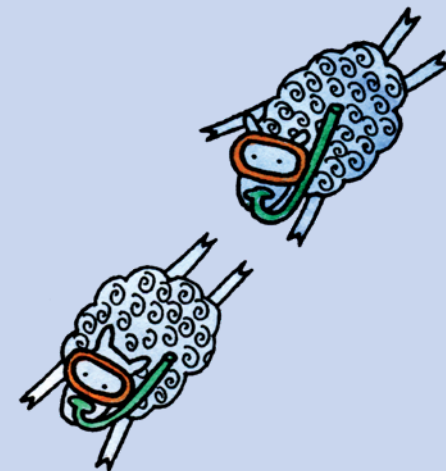
The kids of the Fruit Fly Circus, known as the 'Fruities', have tumbled their way into the hearts of millions of people throughout Australia and the world. Their combined energy, expertise and commitment demonstrates the potential of young people in the most spectacular and joyful of ways.

Based in Albury Wodonga, the Circus is made up of kids who perform, attend school at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School,

and train up to 20 hours a week at our state-of-the-art training facility. The full-time training program caters for children aged 8 to 19 years old, and focuses on circus skills development, fitness and conditioning, and training in contemporary performance making practice. Working together, the Fruities have a developed sense of group pride, self-confidence and achievement.

*Girls With Altitude* is our most recent major work, directed by our Artistic Director Anni Davey and featuring cartoons by renowned Australian illustrator Judy Horacek. Please enjoy this extraordinary performance from this very special bunch of ordinary kids!

**"Australia's most influential circus company"** Arts Hub



In addition to the kids who are performing for you today,  
the following people are back home in training:



Allera Wight  
Alyssa Lambert  
Amelia Cole  
Arthur Hull  
Astaria Benne-Keeble  
Ava Hitchcock  
Aysha Guilliamse-Witt  
Barnard Herrmann  
Blake Durnan  
Caitlin-Ann Kellett-Surridge  
Chot Walford  
Charlotte Pugh  
Chelsea Quaill  
Clancy Rosewarne  
Dakota Skrypczak

Dakota-Rose Denyer  
Edwina Harrington  
Eli Jones  
Emilia Russel  
Erin McNab  
Etta Gramlick  
Ewan Schell  
Felicity Rose Lyell  
Fidel Lancaster-Cole  
Finn Neill  
Frankie Rose Allison  
Fraser Hanssens  
Griffin Castagna  
Harry McEachern  
Heidi Sigmund  
Hudson White

Hunter Rush  
Imogen Cole  
Imogen McDonald  
Isabella Turner-Spessot  
Jay Rensen  
Jacob Kavanagh  
James Wilson  
Khalan Walsh-Young  
Liam Mooring  
Lucie Mariethoz  
Meghan Edinborough  
Nate Klippel  
Nicolaas Pope  
Olivia Crawford  
Peter Giasoumi  
Peyton Rose Canning

Ruby Muth  
Rylan McDonald  
Sophie Norris  
Spencer Haberecht  
Tal Shemesh  
Talia Essop  
Taliyah Walsh-Young  
Tameka Rees  
Thomas Paydon  
Tia Young  
Tyce Binding  
William Ledingham  
Yoav Shemesh  
Ysabella Yaxley

### Staff at the Circus

Amber Kaldor – Trainer  
Bron Kouw – Public Programs Administrator  
Cathy Williams – Finance (Findex)  
Daniel McBurnie – Circus Program Coordinator  
Dominique Cravero – Trainer  
Don Gargan – School Liaison Officer  
Donna Baldwin – Executive Officer  
Genaveive Neal – Trainer  
Ian Cuss – Cuss Bus Lines  
Jake Silvestro – Trainer  
Jules Wilson – Property & Maintenance Officer  
Kate Muntz – Trainer

Lauren Shepherd – Trainer  
Natalie Dyball – Trainer  
Per Westman – Trainer  
Phil Witt – Trainer  
Rhiannon Ersser – Trainer  
Richard Hull – Chief Executive Officer  
Scott Neill – Trainer  
Seth Scheuner – Trainer  
Simon Yates – Rigger  
Tanya Lester – Public Programs Coordinator  
Tracey D'Elton – Trainer

### Board

Dr Dianne McGrath (Treasurer)  
Glenn Mancer  
James Jenkins  
Lara Block (Chair)  
Margaret Murray  
Marguerite Pepper  
Nicholas Marks  
Vern Hilditch

