

## Circus Under My Bed

**"This is family circus at its very best. Great tricks, gorgeous costumes, lighting and music, lots of clever and original ideas and most of all, plenty of joyful surprises."** *Sydney Morning Herald*

**"Australian circus is some of the best in the world and a fair share of that talent can be traced back to the Flying Fruit Fly Circus... quality family theatre that hits the mark and never compromises circus technique... Fruit Flies, you rock!"**  
*Herald Sun*

**"Flying Fruit Fly Circus was Australia's first world-famous youth circus – and it's still the best... the circus we know and love for its young performers (aged 8-18), rural base, clever ideas, expertise and sense of humour."** *Arts Hub*

**"This is the future of contemporary Australian circus... this show literally blew me away... 10/10."** *Toorak Times*

**"The Flying Fruit Fly Circus may be composed of young people who are still in the process of learning the craft, but they deliver such a fine-tuned performance which promises foreseeable greatness, surely to be envied by vintage artists in the field now."** *Australian Stage*

**"You MUST take your kids to see this show. If you don't have any kids – go anyway."** *Squirrel Comedy*

**"Take your kids to experience the wonder, but make sure to applaud yourself, because silks, hoops, acrobatics, juggling and trapeze at this level are all amazing... Five Stars."** *Funny Tonne*

**"Dazzling and lyrical. Quick, book and treat the whole family."** *Sydney Arts Guide*

**"Gasp inducing acrobatic feats... the performers captivate and inspire, and seem destined to join the ranks of the grown-ups."** *Daily Telegraph*

**"Works a treat... the performers are terrific."** *Sunday Telegraph*

**"...the country's next generation of circus performers link impressive acts with a warm story... inspired."** *The Australian*

**"Hurry, hurry and step right up to the most captivating live show to hit Sydney Opera House these school holidays. A jaw- dropping, whimsical display of acrobatics, artistic performance and sheer mind-boggling skill."** *alphabetstreet.com.au*

**"Circus Under My Bed is lovely, overwhelming in its delicate beauty at times, and extremely awe inspiring. Highly recommended."** *kidbucketlist.com.au*

**"Great acrobatic and circus tricks that keep you on the edge of your seat and wanting more. Circus Under My Bed is a truly wonderful and spectacular show."**  
*littleopinions.com.au*

**"Breathtaking... it's a production many children in the audience will remember for decades to come."** *Stage Whispers*

**"The only people who wouldn't like it are people who have a bad taste in stuff."** *Iris - aged 10*

Sydney Morning Herald:

## Flying Fruit Fly Circus show puts youngsters on top

January 17, 2014

**Elissa Blake**

Arts writer

**Reviewer rating:** ★★★★★

**Reader rating:** ★★★★★

**Circus Under My Bed Flying Fruit Fly Circus Studio, Sydney Opera House January 17 until January 25**

This delightful 55-minute show by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in the Studio at the Sydney Opera House is easily one of the best circuses in town.

Performed by youngsters aged 10 to 19, with skills to rival, if not put to shame some of the adult performers working in assorted tents around Sydney this month, *Circus Under My Bed* tells the story of Celeste, a little girl about to move house, under pressure from her mum to pack up all her stuff. But Celeste is a dreamer and she can't find her favourite book. Enter a group of hugely talented performers who play a range of zany imaginary characters.

The gentle storyline makes this show a rich theatrical experience for children. Instead of presenting trick after trick for no reason, each circus act has meaning and nuance and the performers are able to show off their acting skills.

An impressive tumbling sequence is played as gambolling lambs being rounded up by a sheepdog; a plate-spinning routine is performed by a crazy chef with hungry children waiting to be served; a simple chair-stacking act is made serenely beautiful as we watch two young girls pile up rainbow coloured chairs to catch a floating balloon, just out of reach.

The most beautiful moment arrives when Celeste falls asleep and two acrobats dressed in unitards printed with words perform all of the stories she has ever read. As they stretch out their arms, the pages of books unfold from the inside of their elbows, more pages unfold from behind their knees. The costume is inspired. This is family circus at its very best. Great tricks, gorgeous costumes, lighting and music, lots of clever and original ideas and most of all, plenty of joyful surprises.

Highly recommended.

**Arts Hub:**

## **Flying Fruit Fly Circus: Circus Under My Bed**

SUZANNE YANKO

15 APRIL, 2014

**As the Fruit Flies swarmed up and down and over the stage, the excited audience ooh-ed and aah-ed – and occasionally screamed.**

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is growing up – but, don't worry, it's still the circus we know and love for its young performers (aged 8 to 18), rural base, clever ideas, expertise and sense of humour.

The circus is still true to its origins when, around 1980 the Murray River Performing Group (MRPG) began a circus project that would become the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Involvement with Circus Oz and, critically, the Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe of China, meant there was a critical injection of professionalism early in the Circus's development – and nearly 30 years on, it shows.

Not that any of this would mean much to the young audience that packed the Fairfax Studio at the Arts Centre for a performance of *Circus Under My Bed*, the Flies' contribution to this year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Kids and adults alike thrilled to the fast-paced performance as the children and teens in the troupe dazzled them with a great variety of routines.

My guest was in the upper age range of children in the audience and so was able to appreciate the story element of the show, and liked the bed that also served as a huge storybook. On the eve of moving house, a young girl has to pack her toys and books - and memories – and has a last chance to play with the circus hidden in her room – literally, under her bed.

Her dolls turn into clown-like characters, woolly soft toys become a happy bouncing flock of sheep, magicians, acrobats and others tumble out from the pages of her books. All this perfectly sets the scene for a circus with tricks from trapeze work to clowning, balancing on chairs and spinning plates (these two a legacy of the Chinese tradition).

This being an ensemble piece, it's hard to single out performers for special mention – and indeed all played to their strengths. The minimal dialogue was clearly enunciated, so the story was easy to follow; there was care to have the older boys in place for extra security and also swift moving of props.

But the young audience was blissfully unaware of these details. From the moment the circus music struck up off-stage we were drawn into a world of colour and light, and exciting action as the Flies swarmed up and down and over the stage, while the excited audience ooh-ed and aah-ed – and occasionally screamed. One last flying leap and it is was over – all too soon.

Flying Fruit Fly Circus was Australia's first world-famous national youth circus – and it's still the best. And a great hour of fun besides!

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

*Circus Under my Bed* Performed by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus

Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre Melbourne, St Kilda Rd Melbourne International Comedy Festival