

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS



We acknowledge the Wiradjuri People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we train and operate.

We recognise and celebrate their continuing connection and contribution to culture, Country and community.





Our Circus Vision & Mission

VISION

To be the leading centre of contemporary circus in Australia.

MISSION

To train young people in the artform of circus and create extraordinary new circus works.



2024 in Review

January

- Summer workshops at Thredbo Alpine Resort
- Wagga Wagga Circus Camp with Wagga Civic Theatre
- TEMPO summer season at Arts Centre Melbourne
- Community circus workshops in Mansfield, Narrandera and Temora
- Community workshop for VMCH participants at FFFC

February

- Term begins for new and returning students in our full-time circus program
- 40th anniversary of The Great Leap Forward, documentary by Mike Willesee following the 1984 Nanjing Project
- Executive Producer featured on podcast, The Journey
- TEMPO ensemble perform at Wangaratta PAC season launch
- Under Construction residency: Rodeo Clown by Nicci Wilks, Susie Dee, Angus Cerini, Patricia Cornelius, Melissa Reeves & Wayne Macauley. Two work-inprogress performances in the Borderville Theatre
- Ensemble performs at Falls Creek Feastival
- Student talk from Polly Levinson
 PPEP
- Attendance at APAM Leaps & Bounds to pitch Spherical
- FFFC Alumni lunch in Adelaide

March

- Ensemble performs at the Tallangatta Show
- TEMPO begins eight week national tour
- Big Sky creative development
- Live & Famous announced in Carriageworks season

April

- Under Construction residency: Loose by Tom Flanagan
- Under Construction residency: Hinterland by Turcia Circus

May

- Under Construction residency: Confused and Concussed by Jessica Connell
- Big Sky creative development
- CEO Richard Hull attends Australia-Singapore Cultural Leaders Forum in Singapore

June

- Artistic Director Anni Davey travels to Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia, exploring collaborations
- Under Construction residency: Primal by Highwire Entertainment
- Foundation & junior Development students perform in Tuesday Vibes cabaret
- Senior students Rachel Phillips and Tal Shemesh attend the Arts8 Creative Collaboration with Head of Training Ben Lewis, hosted in Sydney by the Australian Film, Television & Radio School (AFTRS).
- Students work with Emma Valente and Cass Fumi from THE RABBLE on a new creative exploration

July

- 100 participants from all Australian states and territories attend the sold-out National Training Project
- Under Construction residency:
 Sack of Potatoes by Olivia Porter
- FFFC supports Wilcannia-based circus artist to spend 3 weeks in Broome and Beagle Bay (WA) as part of our Circus Passport program, in residency with Sandfly Circus, joined by FFFC senior student Chelsea Quaill.
- Shep Huntly joins the team as a guest artist, teaching sideshow and MC skills
- Rehearsal for Big Sky begins, under the direction of Artistic Director Anni Davey

August

 Big Sky opens for five performances at The Cube Wodonga, to an audience of over 1,200

September

- School Workshop with Albury North Public School
- Certificate III students perform a Sideshow Cabaret, guided by Master Showman Shep Huntly
- 25 circus artists participate in the first Cirque du Soleil NexGen Workshop at FFFC, focused on teeterboard, trampoline and hoop diving
- Development students perform in Borderville Cabaret
- Night Flies perform an end of term cabaret in the Borderville Theatre
- Big Sky premieres at Sydney Opera House, playing to an audience of over 5,000
- Circus Workshops delivered for holiday care providers

- Students and staff attend the National Circus Festival in Mullumbimby
- Year 11 student Lucia Richardson is invited to meet King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Sydney Opera House
- 27 young people audition for 2025 student intake

October

- Five artists from WA's Yuck
 Circus join the training team,
 and present two performances
 of Naughties in the Borderville
 Theatre
- FFFC invited to perform in Hanoi at the Australian Embassy's Taste of Australia Big BBQ event
- Two trainers travel to Wilcannia to work with OTYP's Louise Moriarty and the kids of the Wilcannia community, supported through our Circus Passport project
- Casus Creations join the team and rehearsal for Mirrored begins
- · Live & Famous rehearsals begin
- FFFC hosts the VAPAC Technical Managers Networking session

November

- FFFC hosts A Night at the Circus, a business after hours event in partnership with Albury Business Connect
- Live & Famous begins in the Famous Spiegeltent, inside Carriageworks Sydney
- Staff, students and families celebrate the Year 9 graduation from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School
- Staff, students and families celebrate with our Year 12 graduates at the Graduation night

December

- Over 6,000 people attend performances in the 2024 Borderville Festival, 3 - 20 December. Program includes:
- Circus Arts Showcase
- Swing Style
- Synthotronica's School Disco
- FLOP
- Mirrored
- Live & Famous



Company Statement

It always seems impossible until it's done.

2024 started with a bang at Arts Centre Melbourne with our tour of *Tempo*, and kept going at full pelt until the final bow of our Grads in *Live and Famous*.

Our most pivotal event from a company perspective was a welcome and necessary funding uplift from the Australian Government. As a member of the Arts8 group of national arts training organisations, we participated in an independent review of our future financial requirements, conducted by advisory firm KordaMentha. The outcome was increased funding that secures the long term sustainability of our circus. We are grateful to the Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke MP and the team at the Office for the Arts.

Tempo has been in our repertoire since 2021, in various incarnations. This year it took its final big road trip from Melbourne to Alice Springs via Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Narre Warren, Bendigo, Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Orange, Parramatta, Wyong, Port Macquarie, and Townsville.

2024 was the first year of full operations for our fabulous Borderville Theatre, which delivered on all our expectations and proved itself to be an invaluable new asset. It was the home to our Grad Show, *Under Construction* residencies, rehearsals and various events. In designing and building this new space we appear to have got a lot right; the Borderville has received wide praise from artists and audiences alike.

Under Construction supported six innovative new works at various stages of development. This program continues to increase in popularity and has almost outgrown our present facilities.

We focussed on collaboration, announcing Australia's only talent development partnership with the world's biggest producers of contemporary circus, Cirque du Soleil. The first NexGen workshops attracted participants from around the country and from overseas with advance training in teeterboard, hoop diving and trampoline.

We collaborated creatively with our Arts8 colleagues providing two students from each organisation with an opportunity to work together across multiple artforms at AFTRS in Sydney.

In September we presented our new major work *Big Sky* at Sydney Opera House. Directed by Anni Davy with Ben Lewis and an impressive creative and production team, this work was performed in traverse and played to an impressive 90% capacity. It received positive reviews and was nominated at the Sydney Theatre Awards for Best Production for Young People.

In October we were honoured to perform at the Taste of Australia event in Vietnam, organised by the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. Five young artists presented an entertaining original work to an audience of over 2,000.

In November, another original show was created for the stage of The Famous Spiegeltent. *Live and Famous* was presented by Carriageworks in Sydney and evolved further into our 2024 Grad Show. Seven students graduated at the end of a sell-out five show season in the Borderville Theatre.

Our signature annual events generated good interest with a capacity 100 participants attending the *National Training Project* in July and the Borderville Festival attracting over 6,000 to shows and events.

Circus Passport connected us with First Nations communities in Beagle Bay WA and Wilcannia NSW.

Financially the company achieved another strong year, building our asset base, diversifying our revenue streams and posting an operational surplus.

Our admiration and congratulations go to our 2024 Graduates and every one of our young acrobats. Thanks also to all our industry partners, our brilliant board, and our beautiful community.

We look forward to 2025 with excitement as the Flying Fruit Fly Circus continues to grow and provide ever more opportunities to discover, make and perform circus.



Lara Block



Anni Davey ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Richard Hull CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Photos by Nic Fenton, OGA.

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PERFORMANCE

We will make and tour the best shows for children and family audiences.



Tempo

PERFORMANCE DATES

14 - 21 January 12 March - 5 May

VENUES

Arts Centre Melbourne
Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre
Lighthouse Theatre Warrnambool
Bunjil Place Narre Warren
Ulumbarra Theatre Bendigo
Civic Theatre Wagga Wagga
Girffith Regional Theatre
Orange Civic Theatre
Riverside Theatre Parramatta
The Art House Wyong
Glasshouse Port Macquarie
Townsville Civic Centre
Araluen Arts Centre Alice Springs

24 Performances

9,351 Attendance

DIRECTOR

Jake Silvestro

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Ania Reynolds

CREATIVE CIRCUS ASSOCIATE

Lauren Shepherd

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kofi Isaacs

COSTUME DESIGNER

April Dawson

RIGGER

Darryl John

COMPANY MANAGER

Nyree Camden

SHOW TRAINERS

Bec Neill

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Scott Stoddart

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Tahni Froudist

CAST

Aoife Gordos

Barney Herrmann
Chelsea Quaill
Elise Doherty
Emma Giasoumi
Finn Neill
Imogen McDonald
Jacob Kavanagh
Maya Chynoweth
Nate Klippel

CHAPERONES

Pete Giasoumi

Tal Shemesh

Bek Gibbs
Cathy Doherty
Jackie McDonald
Stuart McDonald
Ana Gonzalez
Renee Gordos
Katie Chynoweth
Stephen Quaill



Big Sky

PERFORMANCE DATES

29 - 31 August 25 September - 5 October

VENUES

The Cube Wodonga Sydney Opera House

21 Performances

6,289 Attendance

DIRECTOR

Anni Davey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Ben Lewis

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Biddy Connor

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kris Chainey

SET DESIGNER

Tim Rutty

COSTUME DESIGNER

April Dawson

STAGE MANAGER

Felix Hauge

RIGGER

Andrew Bright

COMPANY MANAGER

Nyree Camden

SHOW TRAINERS

Misha Reale

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Scott Stoddart

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Tahni Froudist

Nominated as Best Production for Families, Sydney Theatre Awards

CAST

Alanna Cameron

Arabella Coghlan

Chot Walford

Chloe Pirie

Dakota Skrypczak

Elliott Mancer

Frankie Allison

Harry McEachern

Isabella Turner-Spessot

Joseph Keating

Lucie Mariethoz

Nicolaas Pope

Thomas Paydon

CHAPERONES

Carly Peters
Julian Walford

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It becomes clear there are more ways than you'd ever imagine to pass through rings as the performers roll, tumble, fly, step, gallop, and throw themselves through with increasing complexity, raising the stakes as the audience collectively gasps. Their movements are playful yet skilled, a perfect embodiment of the balance between collaboration and individual expression that defines adolescence.

- Australian Stage Online



Live & Famous

PERFORMANCE DATES

23 - 24 November 30 November - 1 December

VENUES

The Famous Spiegeltent, Carriageworks

8 Performances

1,100 Attendance

DIRECTOR

Anni Davey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Ben Lewis

LIGHTING DESIGNER

John Carberry

COSTUME DESIGNER

April Dawson

COMPANY MANAGER

Nyree Camden

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Scott Stoddart

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Tahni Froudist

CAST

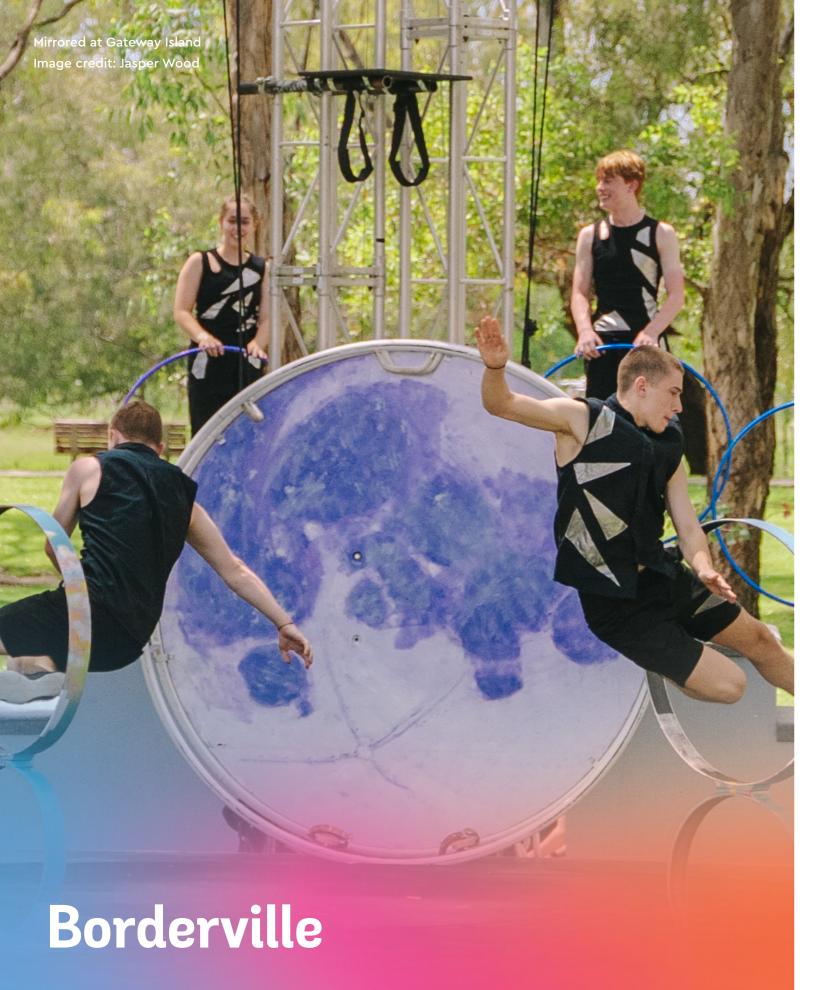
Abigail Sandral
Arabella Renwick
Chelsea Quaill
Hudson White
Khalan Walsh-Young
Lucia Richardson
Rachel Phillips
Tal Shemesh

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We were blown away by the incredible talent... we couldn't get enough of the jaw-dropping tricks and acrobatics

- @eat_play_wander





18
Performances

4,442 Attendance

Dates: 3 - 20 December

Circus Arts Showcase

DIRECTOR Tracey D'Elton

ADMINISTRATOR & COSTUMES Bron Kouw

SOUND Marcela Scheuner

TRAINERS Chot Walford, Chelsea Quaill, Emma Giasoumi, Farrah Hurst, Genaveive Neal, Grace Cremer, Joe Keating, Lucia Richardson, Marcela Scheuner, Mitch Kilsby, Nat Dyball, Per Westman, William Ledingham, Zach Saltalamacchia

CAST Saturday Circus Arts students
LOCATION

Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury

DATE December 7th

PERFORMANCES 4

Attendance: 631

Swing Style: Night Flies

DIRECTOR Tracey D'Elton

ADMINISTRATOR & COSTUMES Bron Kouw

SOUND John Carberry

TRAINERS Diella Wade, Genaveive Neal, Joe Keating, Mitch Kilsby, Per Westman, Tracey D'Elton, William Ledingham, Zach Saltalamaccia

CAST Night Flies Ensemble

Akira Noonan, Amelia Pasqualotto, Amy Fritsch, Audrey Smith Ava Collins, Charlie Manwaring, Charlotte Kendrick, Charlotte Valenzisi, Cove Taylor, Elsie Johnson, Emily Jarrott, Ethan Dimitrovski, Evan Sergi, Evie Blunden, George McEachern, Grace Hibberson, Grace Meacham, Harleigh Winter, Isabella Valenzisi, Isla Britt, James Thomas, Katherine Turner, Lacie Schneider, Lina Dietrich-Silveira, Oliver Adams, Torben Rodgers

LOCATION

Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury

DATE December 3rd

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 115

Mirrored

DIRECTORS Casus Creations: Jesse Scott, Lachlan McAulay, Natano Fa'anana

TRAINERS Bec Neill, Byron Hutton, Catherine Daniel, David Trappes, Genaveive Neal, Lauren Shepherd, Misha Reale, Mitch Kilsby, Per Westman, Scott Neill, Tracey D'Elton, Vilen Mergenov, William Ledingham, Zach Saltalamacchia

COMPOSER & MUSICIAN Ania Reynolds

COSTUME Lachlan McAulay & Natasha Meani

RIGGER Andrew Bright, Lachlan McAulay

CAST Alanna Cameron, Allera Wight, Alyssa Lambert, Amber McDonald, Anastasia McMahon, Aoife Gordos, Ava Dedic, Ava Hitchcock, Aysha Guilliamse-Witt, Barney Herrmann, Charlotte Payne, Charlotte Pugh, Chilali Smith, Chloe Pirie, Chot Walford, Claire Braunack, Clancy Rosewarne, Dakota Skrypczak, Eli Jones, Elise Doherty, Eliza Nugawela, Elliott Mancer, Emilia Russell, Emma Giasoumi, Erin McNab, Ethan McDonald, Etta Gramlick, Evelyn Tilley, Finn Neill, Frankie Allison, Fraser Hanssens, Griffin Castagna, Harry McEachern, Hunter Rush, Imogen McDonald, Isabel Stirling, Isabella Turner Spessot, Isla Lewis, James Sheil, Jemima Paine, Joseph Keating, Kai Wheatley, Lily Falkner, Lucie Mariethoz, Macie Hamilton, Macy Hossack, Massimiliano Bertacco, Maya Chynoweth, Meghan Edinborough, Monique Blackie, Natasha Meani, Nate Klippel, Olivia Crawford, Peter Giasoumi, Peyton Cullinger, Peyton Rose Canning, Rhianna Denton, Rosie Castagna, Ruby Muth, Rylan McDonald, Spencer Haberecht, Temperance Parker, Thomas Paydon, Tia Young, Tyce Binding, Zahra Pirie

LOCATION

Gateway Island Amphitheatre

DATE December 12th - 14th

PERFORMANCES 5

SUPPORTED BY City of Wodonga

Attendance: 3,000

Flop

PERFORMER Arthur Hull
LOCATION Borderville Theatre
DATE December 6th - 7th
PERFORMANCES 2

Attendance: 176

Synthotronica's School Disco

PERFORMERS Ania Reynolds, Arthur Hull, Emma Giasoumi, Peter Giasoumi

LOCATION Borderville Theatre

DATE December 5th

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 70

The Grad Show | Live & Famous

DIRECTOR Anni Davey
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Ben Lewis

COSTUME DESIGNER April Dawson

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICIAN John Carberry

RIGGER Andrew Bright

CAST Abigail Sandral, Arabella Coghlan, Arabella Renwick, Chelsea Quaill, Farrah Hurst, Hudson White, Khalan Walsh-Young, Lucia Richardson, Nico Pope, Tal Shemesh

LOCATION The Borderville

DATE December 16th - 20th

PERFORMANCES 5

Attendance: 450



Falls Creek Feastival

DIRECTOR Anni Davey
TRAINER Ben Lewis

CAST Alanna Cameron, Clancy Rosewarne, Griffin Castagna, Hudson White, Khalan Walsh-Young, Natasha Meani, Peyton Cullinger, Rylan McDonald, Tia Young, Tom Paydon

LOCATION Falls Creek Alpine Resort

DATE February 17th

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 1,000

Tallangatta Show

DIRECTOR Anni Davey

TRAINERS Ben Lewis, Bec Neill

CAST Alanna Cameron, Clancy Rosewarne, Griffin Castagna, Hudson White, Khalan Walsh-Young, Lucie Mariethoz, Natasha Meani, Peyton Cullinger, Rylan McDonald, Tom Paydon

LOCATION Tallangatta Show Grounds

DATE 9 March

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 300

Cabaret Term 2 - Tuesday Vibes

TRAINERS Tracey D'Elton, Byron Hutton, Manelaya Kaydos-Nitis, Mitch Kilsby, Ben Lewis, Vilen Mergenov, Genaveive Neal, Scott Neill, Misha Reale, Diella Wade, Per Westman

CAST Allera Wight, Amber McDonald, Ava Hitchcock, Charlotte Pugh, Eli Jones, Elise Doherty, Elliott Mancer, Emilia Russell, Erin McNab, Etta Gramlick, Ethan McDonald, Frankie Allison, Fraser Hanssens, Griffin Castagna, Hunter Rush, Isabel Stirling, Isla Lewis, Jemima Paine, Macy Hossack, Olivia Crawford, Peyton Cullinger, Rhianna Denton, Rosie Castagna, Ruby Muth, Spencer Haberecht, Temperance Parker.

NIGHT FLIES CAST Akira Noonan, Amelia Pasqualotto,
Amelie Iori, Amy Fritsch, Asha Mardling, Ava Collins, Charlie
Manwaring, Charlotte Valenzisi, Cove Taylor, Eden Hutchins,
Elsie Johnson, Ethan Dimitrovski, Evan Sergi, George
McEachern, Grace Hibberson, Grace Meacham, Harleigh
Winter, Henry Leahy, Isabella Valenzisi, Isla Britt, Isla Dixon,
James Thomas, Katherine Turner, Lilah Sisley, Lina DifterichSilveira, Oliver Adams, Pippa Rotherham, Reuben Gordos,
Taria O'Connor, Torben Rodgers, William Dixon

LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus

DATE 18 June

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 150

Cabaret Term 3 – Borderville Cabaret

COORDINATED BY Bec Neill

TRAINERS Bec Neill, Byron Hutton, Crystal Stacey, Dan Power, Genaveive Neal, Gerramy Marsden, Lauren Shepherd, Matthew Brown, Scott Neill, Vilen Mergenov

CAST Abigail Sandral, Aoife Gordos, Arabella Renwick, Barney Herrmann, Chelsea Quaill, Claire Braunack, Emilia Russell, Farrah Hurst, Isabel Stirling, Finn Neill, Hudson White, Jacob Kavanagh, Khalan Walsh-Young, Lucia Richardson, Macy Hossack, Monique Blackie, Peter Giasoumi, Rachel Phillips, Rylan McDonald, Tal Shemesh, Tia Young, Tyce Binding

LOCATION Borderville Theatre

DATE 12th – 13th September

PERFORMANCES 2

Attendance: 202

Night Flies Cabaret

DIRECTOR Tracey D'Elton

TRAINERS Tracey D'Elton, Mitch Kilsby, Genaveive Neal, Rachel Phillips, Diella Wade, Per Westman

CAST Night Flies Ensemble

Akira Noonan, Amelia Pasqualotto, Amy Fritsch, Asha Mardling, Audrey Smith, Ava Collins, Charlie Manwaring, Charlotte Kendrick, Charlotte Valenzisi, Cove Taylor, Eden Hutchins, Ethan Dimitrovski, Evan Sergi, Evie Blunden, George McEachern, Grace Hibberson, Grace Meacham, Harleigh Winter, Isabella Valenzisi, Isla Britt, Isla Dixon, James Thomas, Katherine Turner, Lacie Schneider, Lilah Sisley, Lina Difterich-Silveira, Oliver Adams, Reuben Gordos, Taria O'Connor, Torben Rodgers

LOCATION Flying Fruit Fly Circus

DATE September 19th

PERFORMANCES 1

Attendance: 200

Arts8 Collaboration

TRAINERS Ben Lewis and Anni Davey
PARTICIPANTS Tal Shemesh, Rachel Phillips
LOCATION ARTRS Sydney
DATE 21st - 23rd June
PERFORMANCES 1



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We will be a beacon of excellence for creative learning and circus training.



Circus

STUDENTS 80 ENROLLED:

Preparation Group

Basic Weekly Training Hours

In the Preparation Group, younger Fruities learn to control and understand their bodies, and are trained in the fundamentals of five major disciplines – balance, acrobatics, aerial skills, manipulation and performance.

Foundation Group

Basic Weekly
Training Hours

In the Foundation Group students further develop the five disciplines, increase core strength and agility, improve their understanding of body mechanics and begin to concentrate on particular disciplines or apparatus. Foundation students learn about structuring acts and creating their own performances. They also perform regularly for a family and friends audience in informal cabarets and other offerings.

Development Group

Basic Weekly
Training Hours

It is in the Development Group that students begin to specialise their training in particular circus apparatus and artistic sensitivities. Each student has an individual training program that is inspired by the natural skills and interest of the student. Development students learn about incorporating different theatrical styles into their performances, creating from different stimulus, and are encouraged to develop a more conceptual approach to their performance making.

We maintain a program of training that is performance-led. This means that students are involved in creating work and performing for various audiences throughout their training. We aim to provide every student with a meaningful performance opportunity at least once in every year. Some of the performance opportunities that are regularly available to students include;

- (a) Immediate community shows cabarets, or less formal presentations for other students and a 'family and friends' audience.
- (b) Local Community performances local festivals or community events often feature appearances from FFFC students.
- (c) Self-produced seasons the new Borderville Theatre offers opportunities to make and deliver shows for our local audience. The most regular of these is the annual Grad Show.
- (d) Main stage shows FFFC regularly produces major circus works that are available for touring regionally, in capital cities and sometimes to international destinations.

FFFC strives to encourage circus literacy, on-stage confidence, personable and unique-to-each-student performance style and a curiosity about our artform. Our students are capable of exploration and innovation because they understand their history and have a good grasp of current trends. We do this through;

- (a) Weekly creative training classes
- (b) Circus Links –regular lessons on Australian Contemporary Circus History and Current Trends delivered as part of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus school curriculum
- (c) Exposure to different modes of exploration and development through our Artist in Residence programs that support professional artists to develop work in our spaces and show work at various stages of development to our students and community.





2024 Student Statistics

Students

Total Students: 80

PREPARATION 12
FOUNDATION 28
DEVELOPMENT 40

Age

UNDER 14 56 15-17 22 18-20 2

Gender

FEMALE 54 MALE 25 NON-BINARY 1

State of Origin

NEW SOUTH WALES 29
VICTORIA 43
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY 1
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1
NORTHERN TERRITORY 1
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 4
TASMANIA 1

5 Year Snapshot	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
STUDENTS CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	60	66	70	64	66
NEW STUDENTS	14	20	15	18	14
TOTAL INTAKE	74	86	85	82	80
STUDENTS WITHDRAWN	2	10	9	6	2
END OF YEAR COMPLETIONS TOTAL	72	76	76	76	78
YEAR 12/13 GRADUATIONS	3	6	13	7	8



Certificate III in Circus Arts

The Certificate III in Circus Arts provides a vocational qualification in elementary level circus skills and knowledge. In collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology with National Institute for Circus Arts (NICA) and Wodonga Senior Secondary College, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus is the only organisation in Australia currently delivering this qualification.

This course is perfect for aspiring circus artists seeking a qualification and as a pathway for further learning. The Certificate III in Circus Arts can be used as preparation for the Certificate IV in Circus Arts and Bachelor of Circus Arts courses at NICA or other tertiary institutions.

Students: 26

Our Schools

From years 3–9, our students enjoy exclusive enrolment in the Flying Fruit Fly Circus School, situated in a purpose-built facility on the Wodonga Middle Years College Felltimber campus. This specialist school has a team of dedicated and experienced teachers who work closely with our students, supporting them to be successful in their learning and development. In-school training at the circus is incorporated into the curriculum and timetable flexibility allows for rehearsals, touring and other performance commitments. In 2023 morning training was also held on school grounds to facilitate the theatre construction project at the circus.

From years 10–12, students attend the Wodonga Senior Secondary College, which provides support and flexibility for our students to maintain their circus education and offers one of the broadest subject ranges in the state.

This unique educational partnership with the Department of Education and Training Victoria ensures our students receive a complete and high quality learning experience during their time with us.





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We are proud of our regional home and the communities we share it with.



Public Classes

Our public classes offer an opportunity for our community to enjoy circus, regardless of age and ability. From tots to senior citizens, everyone can experience the physical, creative and social benefits of circus training.

Classes in 2024

Tots & Parents (age 18 months - 2)
Circus Tots (age 2 - 4)
Circus Pre-School (age 2-6)
Home School Circus (age 4 - 16)
Saturday Circus Arts (age 4-18)
Opportunity Group (age 6-9)
Night Flies (age 9-18)
Adult Night Flies (age 18+)

Attendance: 16,440

Fruit Bats (age 55+)

Circus Passport

Circus Passport is a program funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Arts Fund. For three years we have connected with regional and remote communities supporting existing circus activities.

In 2024 we continued our relationship with Outback Theatre for Young People in the remote NSW community of Wilcannia. Circus trainers Catherine Daniel and John Nyagah worked with Wilcannia based trainers Louise Moriarty and Sister Liz to deliver circus and performance workshops for one week in October.

We supported Louise Moriarty to undertake professional development and important network building by paying her to work with Theatre Kimberley on their Sandfly Circus program in Beagle Bay and Broome, WA.

After an impactful internship on the Beagle Bay project in 2023, we were pleased that FFFC graduating student Chelsea Quaill was employed by Theatre Kimberley to return to the project in 2024.

Attendance: 71

Inside the Circus

Inside the Circus is a unique experience for audience members to see behind the scenes of Australia's national youth circus while on tour. In 2024 Inside the Circus was offered alongside the national tour of *Tempo* and during *Big Sky* at Sydney Opera House. Participants had an exclusive look at the performers warming up, a chat with touring staff, and met the cast after the show for an exclusive Q&A.

Workshops: 6
Participation: 210

Community Workshops

In 2024 our training team delivered 26 workshops within our local community as well as additional workshops and circus experiences throughout our tours

Connecting with surrounding communities such as Finlay, Wangaratta, Temora, Mansfield, Thredbo and Wagga Wagga.

The Wagga Wagga Circus Camp was delivered in conjunction with Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre. It focused on newly arrived families and young people who could not easily access circus

Our workshops are facilitated by senior trainers along with FFFC students who learn to teach under direct supervision from our more experienced trainers.

Attendance: 1,118





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Our Creative Headquarters will meet the needs of the next generation of students, artists and visitors.



Creative Headquarters

Our building is owned by Albury City Council and leased to us on a secure long-term basis, managed and maintained through a successful partnership arrangement.

This purpose built 2,304m2 facility caters for the widest possible range of circus making and education. It features a fully equipped training hall rising to a height of 13m; three rehearsal studios; the versatile 100-seat Borderville Theatre with dressing rooms and loading dock; storeroom; costume room; modern offices and amenities; public foyer; landscaped outdoor areas and carpark.

Looking forward to 2025, our ambition is to expand our facilities to provide more spaces and opportunities for students, graduates and the sector.



Great people, a great program and a great facility

 André Lachance, Senior Director of Casting, Cirque du Soleil

Circus House

Our two units in South Albury provide free or discounted accommodation close to the circus for visiting artists, trainers, directors and professional staff who are working with us on limited engagements. The secondary purpose is to generate income from commercial short-term rentals that contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

The artist accommodation has increased the organisation's capacity to offer residencies to circus and physical theatre artists and is key to our Under Construction residency program.

In 2024 we provided 668 nights of accommodation to artists at no cost. Only limited short-term rentals were possible due to the busy schedule.

RENTAL INCOME

31 nights - \$3,410

ACCOMMODATION SAVINGS

668 nights - \$75,770*

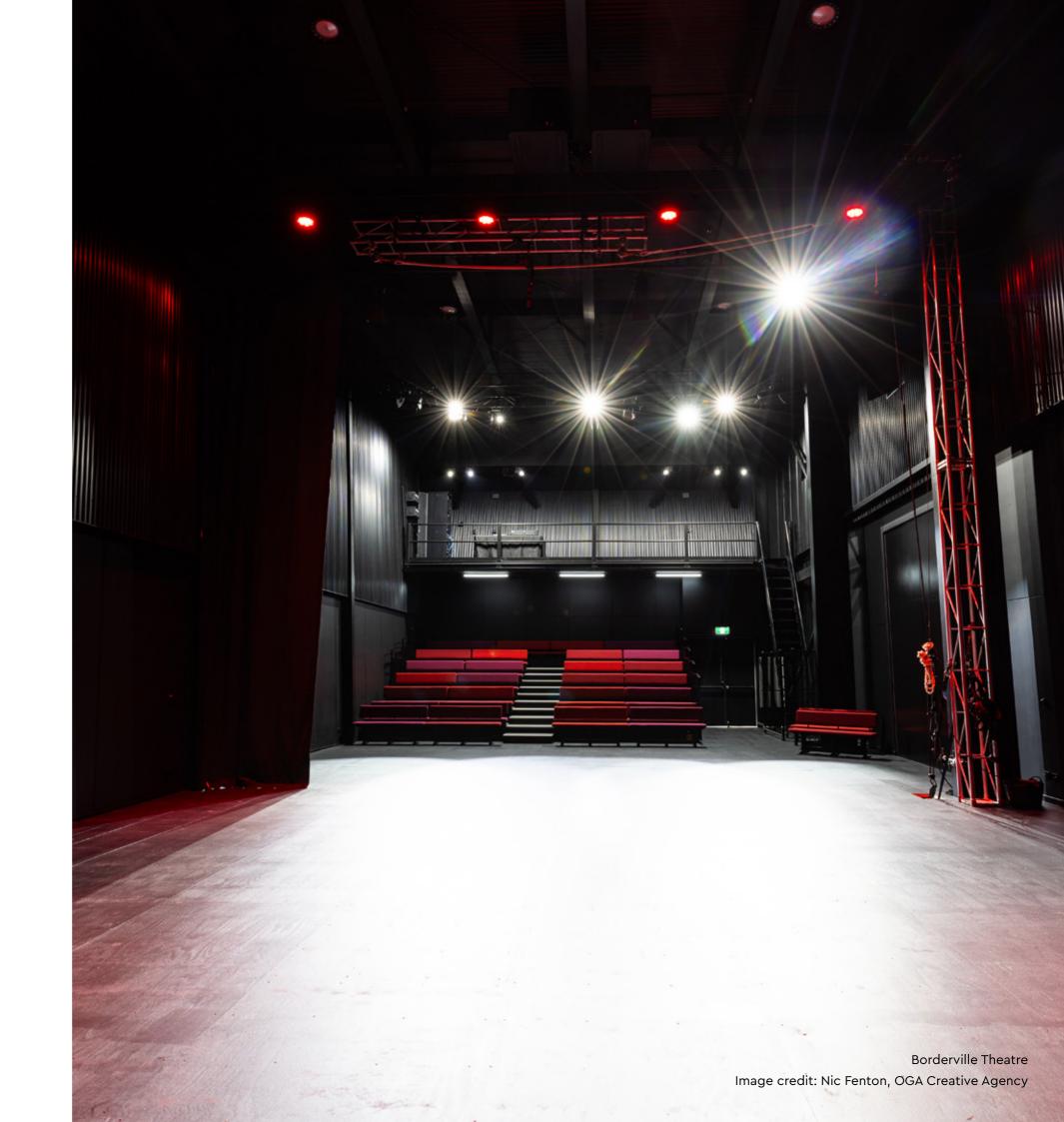
RENTAL COSTS

(\$48,775)**

Total Cost: \$28,115

*number of artist nights provided multiplied by \$110/ night

**not including depreciation costs





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We will support the creation of new circus works and be a welcoming destination of choice.



Cirque Du Soleil Under NexGen Consti

Mitch Head (Trainer), André LaChance (Senior Head of Casting) and Charlie Burrows (Senior Casting Advisor) visited Albury as part of our partnership with Cirque du Soleil. Andre and Charlie both treated our student cohort to very informative information sessions around the Talent Development and Casting processes at Cirque.

Mitch stayed for two weeks and headed up Hoop diving, Teeterboard and Tramp Wall coaching with 20 acrobats selected from around the country plus two internationals. Three of our students were also involved in the training although they are too young to be considered yet. Other selected senior students were also able to benefit from some sessions.

Most of the participants were recommended for further training or other opportunities with Cirque.

PARTICIPANTS: Sam Waite, Luke Whitefield, Zachariah Saltalamacchia, Thomas Adams-Walker, Jacob Kenner, Nathan Jones, Celso March, Zoe Marshall, Sam Holden, Matilda Hendrie, Raphael Vabre, Ray Ostrow, Griffin Hooper, Will Ledingham, Finn Neill, Barney Hermann, Jake Kavanagh

Under Construction

The Under Construction National Circus Residency Program supports circus artists to develop new work. Residents receive free access to our award-winning training facility and rehearsal spaces, accommodation, staff time and seed funding towards their costs.

Our 2024 Under Construction Residents were:

Steph & Camille Bontout-Mouat – Kiss the Beast, Eat the King **Highwire Entertainment** – Primal

Jessica Connell - Concussed and Confused

Jess McCrindle - The Cycle Project**

Turcia Circus - Hinterland

Nicci Wilks - Rodeo Clown*

Olivia Porter - Sack of Potatoes*

Thanks to the Victorian Circus Fund through Creative Australia, Victorian Under Construction residents were able to access additional seed funding.

*2023 residencies postponed to 2024.

**2024 residency postponed to 2025.





National Training Project

The National Training project is an annual training intensive for students from around the country to train at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus with our core training staff and guest artists. 2024 was the third year of our partnership presenting NTP with Circa Contemporary Circus.

In 2024 the National Training Project was attended by 91 participants, from all Australian states and territories.

DATE 1 - 12 July 2024 ATTENDANCE 91

TRAINERS

Alice Muntz (Circa) – Static Trapeze, Aerial Hoop/Lyra, Ensemble & Sequence Creation

Anni Davey (FFFC) - Double Trapeze, Act Doctor, Cabaret

Arthur Hull (FFFC) - Trampoline, Tramp Wall

Ben Lewis (FFFC) - Straps, Handstands, Chinese Pole Byron Hutton (FFFC) - Juggle

Crystal Stacey (Independent) - Hula

Dan Power (Independent) - Aerial Hoop/Lyra, Rope, Tissu

Genaveive Neal (FFFC) – Static Trapeze, Aerial Hoop/Lyra

Gerramy Marsden (Circa) – Group Acro, Ensemble & Sequence Creation

Jake Silvestro (FFFC) - Group Acro, Tumble,

Manelaya Kaydos-Nitis (Independent) – Group Acro, Static Trapeze, Tumble

Marco Paoletti (NICA) - Juggle, Manipulation

Misha Reale (FFFC) - Cloudswing, Active Flex, Tissu

Mitch Kilsby (FFFC) - Tramp Wall, Trampoline

Per Westman (FFFC) – Group Acro, Juggle, Chinese Pole,

Scott Neill (FFFC) - Teeterboard, Trampoline, Tramp Wall

Stephen Williams (Independent) - Handstands, Straps

Tracey D'Elton (FFFC) - Handstands

Vilen Mergenov (FFFC) - Group Acro, Tumble, Teeterboard



Open Training

The Open Training program provides free space for senior students, alumni, staff and other circus professionals to explore and improve their practice.

In 2024 the following artists accessed the space for open training:

7 Fingers GOM
CIRCA Head First Acrobatics

Circus Monty LA Circus School

Circus Rio NexGen students from Australia, France, San Francisco

Cirkids

Cirque du Soleil

Throw Catch Collective emerging artist

Flipside program

Fruit Fly Students Quebec Circus School

Sector Partnerships

ARTS8

The Arts8 is the group of eight national arts training organisations convened by the Australian Government to nurture excellence and creative talent across the country. We are proud to be a member of the group with the Australian Ballet School (ABS), Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO), Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), NAISDA Dance College, Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA).

Senior students Rachel Phillips and Tal Shemesh joined Head of Training Ben Lewis at the annual creative collaboration, hosted by AFTRS in Sydney.

NICA

We continued our strong relationship with our Arts8 partner the National Institute of Circus Arts. Swinburne/ NICA continue to auspice our Certificate III, delivered in partnership with Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

Sydney Opera House

We continued our partnership with Sydney Opera House in 2024, premiering a new work *Big Sky*. Our season was a mix of schools performances which sold out to exuberant crowds of young people, and general public performances including two Inside the Circus behind-the-scenes experiences.

The Cube Wodonga

The Cube continues to be an important partner as the venue where we preview seasons of our new works before embarking on tours or other city presentations. It ensures we can play to local audiences first. In 2024 we performed five performances of *Big Sky* at The Cube before heading to Sydney.

The City of Wodonga also supported us to present Mirrored as part of Borderville Festival.

FEDEC

We are a full member of FEDEC which is an international network of about 70 members representing secondary, vocational and higher education training institutions as well as information, research and circus arts advocacy, located in more than 20 countries in Europe and beyond. FEDEC is committed to supporting the development and evolution of training, teaching and creation in the field of circus arts.

Arts on Tour

Arts on Tour continues to be an essential partner for our regional touring work. They assist us to plan tour itineraries, build relationships with our regional presenting partners and develop our funding applications. Arts on Tour provide comprehensive logistical support when we are on the road.

In 2024 Arts on Tour we developed the 2024 tour of *Tempo*, securing Creative Australia and Creative Victoria funding for the tour.

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We will be a dynamic and financially resilient organisation that proactively reduces our contribution to climate change.



Environment

Students and Staff

We believe hope is our most fundamental strategy. We want our students and staff to feel empowered and supported to examine their own practice and decision making, with ideas for change filtering throughout our organisation. We also enable visitors, contractors, stakeholders and audiences to understand and minimise their pollution and carbon footprint when engaging with us. We have a ban on single use plastic and multiple recycling stations.

Our Building

Our building is 13 years old and already benefits from a number of good sustainable design features. In recent years we have installed solar panels and a water tank and fitted LED lights in the training hall. Our Borderville Theatre project will deliver an extension to our existing facilities incorporating the latest environmental features.

Transport

As the Flying Fruit Fly Circus tours and our schools arrange excursions around the region, Australia and overseas, we continually assess the impact of our travelling and work to minimise carbon impact.

Our Artistic Program

We continue to tell resonant stories, relevant to our young people and that help to galvanise positive change. Accurate climate and ecological concerns are reflected in our work.

Making contemporary circus

We consider each step of the process of creating and producing shows to better understand how we can reduce their environmental impact. We share our learnings with the community and industry and encourage an exchange of ideas.

Decision making

Environment is a standing agenda item for all meetings, ensuring impact is considered at every level.



Fundraising

In 2024 we were pleased to be invited to participate in the Art & Science of Fundraising program, run by Philanthropy Squared and Creative Australia.

Our fundraising focus for 2024 was on professional development and learning, to develop a new strategy that will take us to our 50th anniversary in 2029 and beyond.

Thank you to the following individuals who donated to the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in 2024:

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation

Fruit Bats

Kerrie Warburton

Kerstin Bateman

Mary Harvey

Richard Hull

Turner Family

Noel Tovey Scholarship Fund

Hon Ben Franklin MLC

Leanne Bailey

Nicolaas Pope

Paul Ingwersen

Rob Scott

Tina Palermo

Walford Family





Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities
ABN 76 007 293 389

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Consolidated		
	Note	2024	2023	
		\$	\$	
Revenue & Income	4	4,064,186	5,542,225	
Employee related expenses		2,483,042	1,809,370	
Production expenses		407,213	173,249	
Administration expenses		217,655	149,717	
Lease expense	2	250,000	250,000	
Travel and accommodation costs		333,763	49,537	
Marketing expenses		115,519	62,769	
Insurance costs		42,057	49,138	
Other expenses		123,923	105,289	
Surplus before income tax and depreciation	_	91,014	2,893,156	
Depreciation and amortisation	5	142,955	60,282	
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-	
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>-</u>	(51,941)	2,832,874	
Other Comprehensive Income Items that will not be reclassified to net result: Land & buildings revaluation increment		125,668	-	
-	_	•	2 022 074	
Total Comprehensive Result for the year	_	73,727	2,832,874	

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024

		Consolidated		
	Note	2024	2023	
		\$	\$	
ASSETS				
Current Assets	_			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	625,868	1,155,840	
Trade and other receivables	7	39,424	220,658	
Other financial assets	8	403,503	400,120	
Inventories		4,803	3,632	
Other		20,960	48,436	
Total Current Assets	-	1,094,558	1,828,686	
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	9	4,573,868	4,556,600	
Total Non-Current Assets	-	4,573,868	4,556,600	
Total Assets	_	5,668,426	6,385,286	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	10	195,044	303,415	
Provisions	11	268,543	213,114	
Contract liabilities	12	133,521	884,374	
Total Current Liabilities	_	597,108	1,400,903	
Non-current Liabilities				
Provisions	13	23,676	10,468	
Total Non-current Liabilities		23,676	10,468	
Total Liabilities		620,784	1,411,371	
Net Assets		5,047,642	4,973,915	
	_	•		
EQUITY		4 252 222	4 272 202	
Retained surplus		1,359,392	1,370,083	
Asset revaluation reserve		429,300	303,632	
Capital grant funds reserve		3,258,750	3,300,000	
Settlement funds	_	200	4 072 015	
Total Equity	_	5,047,642	4,973,915	

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Consolidated				
	Retained Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Grant funds reserve	Settlement Funds	Total	
	\$	\$		\$	\$	
Balance as at 1 January 2023	1,837,209	303,632	600,000	200	2,141,041	
Land & buildings revaluation increment	-	-	-	-	-	
Surplus for the year	2,832,874 (3,300,000)	-	3,300,000	-	2,832,874	
Transfer to capital grant funds reserve (a)	(=,===,===,		.,,			
Balance as at 31 December 2023	1,370,083	303,632	3,300,000	200	4,973,915	
Land & buildings revaluation increment	-	125,668	-	-	125,668	
Transfer to/from reserves (a)	41,250	-	(41,250)	-	-	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(51,941)	-	-	-	(51,941)	
Balance as at 31 December 2024	1,359,392	429,300	3,258,750	200	5,047,642	

(a) \$3,300,000 of capital grant funding was received from Create NSW in respect to the Borderville Theatre training facility extension project. \$600,000 was recognised as income during the year ended 30 June 2022 and the remaining \$2,700,000 recognised as income during the year ended 30 June 2023. These funds have been allocated to a capital grant funds reserve in the year ended 30 June 2023 and is being released to accumulated surplus in line with the depreciation incurred on this capital project.

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Limited and Controlled Entities

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Consolidated		
	Note	2024	2023	
		\$	\$	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Receipts from grants and patrons		3,187,095	5,630,404	
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,736,601)	(2,291,908)	
	- -	(549,506)	3,338,496	
Distributions from investments		28,725	-	
Interest received		18,374	20,355	
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	- -	(502,407)	3,358,851	
Cash Flows from Investing Activities				
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(38,564)	(2,989,491)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		10,999	-	
Purchase of investments (net)		-	(40,878)	
Net cash outflow from investing activities	-	(27,565)	(3,030,369)	
Č	· -	, , ,		
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		(529,972)	328,482	
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,155,840	827,358	
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	6	625,868	1,155,840	
	_		<u> </u>	

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.





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We will be a place where the best in the industry aspire to work and collaborate.



People

2024 Circus Personnel

Artistic Director Anni Davey

Rigger Andrew Bright

Trainer Arabella Slattery

Head of Training Bec Neill

Associate Producer Bek Gibbs

Head of Training Ben Lewis

Public Programs Administrator Bron Kouw

Trainer Byron Hutton

Finance Officer (Findex) Cathy Williams

Trainer Catherine Daniel

Trainer Deni Davidson

Dance Teacher Diella Wade

Executive Officer Donna Baldwin

Trainer Genaveive Neal

Trainer Jacob Silvestro

Technician John Carberry

Property and Maintenance Coordinator Julie Wilson

Trainer / Injury Management Lauren Shepherd

Trainer Misha Reale

Trainer Mitchell Kilsby

Trainer Natalie Dyball

Trainer Per Westman

Trainer Phillip Witt

Chief Executive Officer Richard Hull

Trainer Ryan Hooper

Trainer Scott Neill

Technical Director Scott Stoddart

Executive Producer Tahni Froudist

Public Programs Coordinator Tanya Lester

Acting Public Programs Coordinator Tracey D'Elton

Trainer Vilen Mergenov

Trainer Will Ledingham

Trainer Zachariah Saltalamacchia

2024 School Personnel

Teacher Greg Glasson

Teacher Shelley Kay

MHiPS Susanne Mackie

School Coordinator Melanie McClure

Teacher Brooke Pearce (WSSC)

Teacher Will Pleydon

Teacher Holly Rodway

Teacher Helen Vardy

Administrator Jan White

Executive Principal Vern Hilditch (WSSC)

2024 Guest Personnel

Abbey Szakal

AJ Saltalamacchia

Alex Mizzen

Ania Reynolds

Anne Arellano

April Dawson

Asvin Lopez

Bianca Hall

Biddy Connor

Caleb Hope

Crystal Stacey

Daniel Power

Daryll John

David Trappes

Felix Hauge

Gerammy Marsden

Grace Cremer

Grace McNamara

Jake Kenner

Jasper Wood

Jesse Scott

John Nyagah

Justin Grant

Kofi Isaacs

Kris Chainey

Lachlan McAulay

Liam Jones

Louise Moriarty

Manelaya Kaydos-Nitis

Marcela Scheuner

Miller Hearn

Mathew Brown

Mozes

Natano Fa'anana

Nyree Camden

Rachel Robinson Richard Sullivan

Roscoe Harris-Westman

Ryan Taplin

Shep Huntly

Skip Walker-Milne

Stephen Williams

Steve Froudist

Tim Rutty

Toni Gutierrez

Life Members

Audray Banfield

Kath Dobson

Karen Donnelly

Mara Giourouki

Heather Heather

David Lester

Guang Rong Lu

Trevor Matthews

Dr Jane Mullett

Jacqui Nelson

Charles Parkinson

John Paxinos

Robert 'Bomber' Perrier

Jim Saleeba

Rob Scott

Faye Stevens

Kim Walker Elizabeth Walsh

In loving memory of Neil McDermott

Board of Directors

Dianne McGrath (Treasurer)

Glenn Mancer

James Jenkins

Lara Block (Chair)

Mary Harvey

Margaret Murray
Marguerite Pepper

Nicholas Marks

Vern Hilditch





OUR PARTNERS

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus gratefully acknowledges our government and corporate partners for their support in 2024.



Partners

Government









Marketing and PR









Academic









Business









Industry











Affiliations







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Projects

The national tour of TEMPO was assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. It was also assisted by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

The development of Big Sky was supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. It was also assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW and by Hume Bank.

Under Construction: Victoria was assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

Mirrored was supported by Wodonga Council, as part of Borderville 2024.

Circus Passport was supported by the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional, remote and very remote / isolated Australia.

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