



## Company Bio's

### **Lachlan Mcaulay**

**Co-Founder, Creative Director, Head Rigger, Company Member**

Lachlan Mcaulay lives, breaths, sleeps and dreams circus and performance. At 13, a time when most young people still have no idea what they want to do with their lives, Lachlan joined The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Australia's leading youth circus, and immersed himself in every aspect of circus training. His dedication and talent for ground, aerial and ensemble work soon caught the eyes of his trainers. He spent his teenage years combining circus training with touring and performing throughout Australia and the world, an education he describes as "unique, exhilarating and very, very inspirational."

After graduation he kept pursuing his passion – first as a freelance performer and circus trainer, and then as a valuable member with Circa, one of Australia's leading contemporary circuses.

Lachlan's passion for circus doesn't stop at performing. Off stage he is a highly skilled rigger, a ropes technician and prop maker. He takes the role caring for the company seriously, and this care extends beyond his rigging role. Lachlan is known for his ongoing support, positivity and empathy – even during long tours, after hard training sessions and when Natano is hungry.

### **Natano Fa'anana**

**Co-Founder, Creative Director, Company Member**

Natano Fa'anana's unique style of performance draws inspiration from his Samoan roots, fused with acrobatics, aerials and dance.

"As Samoans we are encouraged to sing and dance our old music from the islands. At a family function, a wedding or a traditional ceremonies or even funerals we sing or dance to celebrate or acknowledge that particular event. This remains part of you wherever you are and this is a driving force for my performance and creating process."

He has achieved international recognition through his work with with the award winning Polytoxic Theatre Company, as Co-creator and Performer in Briefs: All Male Review, and in his current role as Co-founder, Creative Director and Company Member of Casus.

Natano was in his thirties when he first pursued a career in performance. His choice to learn from individuals rather than through schools or institutions gave him the freedom to blend different styles of performance, movement and culture. This fluidly of style is evident in all his performance, directing and teaching work.

*"I love art, I love circus and I'm a story teller. Creating shows is my outlet. Instead of making our art on a canvas with a paintbrush we do it with our bodies."*

Off stage, Natano is passionate about teaching, and is recognised for the work he has done using circus, dance and movement in outreach arts work for young people in Australia and overseas.

**Jesse Scott**  
**Co-Founder, Creative Director, Company Member**

Jesse can't remember a home that didn't have a trapeze hanging in the backyard, but can remember plenty of bath times in the sinks of circus caravans as a baby.

“Circus has been my whole life. I have never had to look outside of it because it continues to evolve and that excites me so much. I was lucky to have world class performers who trained me. I got to tour the world at a really young age and was exposed to many amazing people and amazing art and culture.”

Jesse spent 11 years training and touring under the watchful eye of some of the world's greatest circus trainers at The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Australia's premier Youth Circus.

He went on to work with companies including Legs on the Wall, A4 Circus Ensemble, Candy Stripe Circus and The Australian Opera, before becoming a full time ensemble member with Circa, one of Australia's leading contemporary Circus Companies. Jesse was an integral part in the creation of several successful Circa shows and spent three years touring internationally with Circa, performing at some of the world's most prestigious venues.

A Casus co-founder, Jesse loves that Casus “gives a human face to circus, we don't hide anything, we make it true – this is our world.”

When he is not performing or training Jesse is involved in teaching and directing, passing on his love of circus to people of all ages.

**Abbey Church**  
**Company Member**

Abbey Church defines the term strong woman of circus.

In an instant of performance she can switch from strong to vulnerable to joyous, from a rock solid base to a graceful fly, from supporting the weight of her fellow cast members to balancing above them all on her specialty apparatus the trapeze. Abbey's personality shines through in all her performance work, and adds a special dynamic to her Casus shows.

Training and performing in Circus since the age of four, Abbey has worked nationally and internationally – first as a member of Flipside Youth Circus, then as a solo artist, and as a company member of the Australian performance companies Twisted Hitch and Crack Up Sisters.

Off stage, Abbey finds time to share her love of circus through teaching and performance support. She is involved with Social Circus projects, supports young performers in their development, and works as Stage Manager and Production Assistant for Australian Boylesque company, Briefs.

**Jesse Huygh**  
**Company Member**

For Jesse, life has always been about movement.

His circus career has seen him performing with world renowned companies such as Cirque Eloize and No Fit State, at venues around the world such as Extreme Convention and Atlas Festival, and working as main trainer and director for “Afrika” and a member of pedagogical team at the Circus University Codarts (Rotterdam)

...and joined the circus ensemble (Belgium) aged just 16, already well equipped for training with a solid background in artistic gymnastics.

He quickly mastered the basics, and moved on to Ell Circo d'ell Fuego (Antwerp) to train in the speciality art of Chinese Pole. He has achieved high recognition for his pole work, as well as for his performance work in aerial straps and floor acrobatics.

In 2011 Jesse graduated the professional circus education ESAC (Ecole Superieure des Arts de Bruxelles) with a grand distinction.

### **Kali Retallack**

#### **Company Member**

With Kali's passion for creating circus that fuses movement and skills in a beautiful and honest way that transcends any barriers between performers and audience she is a perfect fit with the Casus Company.

Highly skilled as an aerialist and an acrobat she has performed in Helpmann award winning Smoke and Mirrors, opened Emporium for Bas Lurmann, formed her own company A4 Circus Ensemble and has toured the world with companies such as Strange fruit and Acrobaitca.

She has trained in circus since she was a teenager, and is a graduate of Australia's premier youth circus school, The Flying Fruit Flies Circus.

### **Jake Silvestro**

#### **Company Member**

“Determined” is the word people most often use to describe Jake. Then, after a pause, “Determined, and so creative!”

From training gymnastics and a variety of sports from a young age, to his first experience in circus as a member of Warehouse Youth Circus, Jake has always given 100% to every aspect of his training and performance work.

He is an acrobat with an impressive repertoire of skills including Rou'e Cyr, Group Acrobatics, Tumbling and Handstand Chair, as well as a great variety of manipulation skills that make him an impressive all round performer and ensemble member.

With a Bachelor's degree in visual arts, Jake's passion for art includes both performance and visual arts, and he strives to combine the two in his works. His creativity and energy know no limits!

### **Vincent Van Berkel**

#### **Company Member**

Vincent is well known as an accomplished hand balancer and acrobat, and as one of Australia's best on the teeterboard.

With a strong background in competitive gymnastics, Vincent had a great base to build off when he made the leap into the circus world to fulfil his artistic and creative side in 2010.

His circus career has seen him touring internationally as a member of ThisSideUp

...erences, performing in the show "Circus Oz" and "Pants Down Circus" in Australia as a member of Circus Oz, Pants Down Circus and Pappillon.

Off stage Vincent's interests lie in Industrial Design and Audio Engineering, and he balances his studies in these fields with his performance work and training.