



krannert center

**YOUTH
SERIES**

18-19

SCHOOL DAY PERFORMANCES
FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND HOME
SCHOOLS, GRADES PreK-12

CIRCA

**CARNIVAL
OF THE
ANIMALS**

I ILLINOIS
College of Fine & Applied Arts





ABOUT THE ARTIST

The multi-skilled artists of Australia's Circa have been pushing the frontier of circus arts for nearly 15 years—blurring the lines of creative movement, dance, and theatre to “redraw the limits to which circus can aspire” (*The Age*). Circa has toured the world—performing in 39 countries for over one million people—and its works have been greeted with standing ovations, rave reviews, and sold-out houses across six continents.

Under the direction of circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz, Circa features an ensemble of exceptional, versatile circus artists. It is a regular fixture at leading festivals and venues in New York, London, Berlin, and Montreal with seasons at Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon Theatre as well as major Australian festivals. Circa is also committed to fostering the next generation of circus artists and runs a training center from its studio in Brisbane.

THIS SEASON WE INVITE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES TO EXPLORE

the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the IMPACT of the Arts for Youth.

Introduction to the arts

Meaning and cultural context

Production

Art-making and creativity

Careers

Training



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Camille Saint-Saëns' beloved musical suite *Carnival of the Animals* inspires a theatrical escapade that celebrates creatures of land, sea, and sky with acrobats, singers, musicians, and playful animations that bring to life tumbling kangaroos, juggling zebras, and dinosaurs that rock and roll. Circa's acrobats bring this classical music to life for a whole new generation of circus, music, and animal lovers in “a delightful and unique experience for children (and their grown-ups)” (*Australian Stage*, Australia).

Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* is organized into 14 different sections, each with its own musical character:

Introduction and Royal March of the Lion

Hens and Roosters

Wild Donkeys (Swift Animals)

Tortoises

The Elephant

Kangaroos

Aquarium

Personages with Long Ears

The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods

Aviary

Pianists

Fossils

The Swan

Finale



For Circa's production, composer and sound designer Quincy Grant has added his own special touches to the music that inspires this performance. Explore some connections between music and movement with the following activities.

IMAGINABLE ANIMALS!

Split up into pairs or groups and choose one of the animals from the list on the previous page. Explore how your animal moves—does it jump, stomp, sneak, or wiggle? Without using any sounds, perform your animal movements for your classmates and see if they can guess what you chose!

MUSICAL MATCHUP!

Before the performance: Working with a recording of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, play the music that corresponds to the animal you selected. Does the music give you different ideas about how to move like your animal? What happens if you choose a different section of the music (for example, try to move like an elephant to the music of the swan)? How about if you move to an entirely different style of music?

After the performance: Were any of your movement ideas similar to those of the Circa performers?

IMPACT FOCUS: T IS FOR TRAINING

You can probably guess that it takes many years of training to become a circus artist. But did you know that all around the world there are schools, institutes, and training centers especially for circus arts? Head to the Circa website (circa.org.au) and take a look at the People profiles. How many different circus schools can you find? What other observations can you make about the ways that people begin on the path to becoming a circus artist?

ON THE MAP

CIRCA COMES FROM . . .

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA



Circa: Carnival of the Animals

Circa appears by arrangement with
David Lieberman Artists' Representatives

Monday, November 5, 2018
at 10am and 12:30pm

Tryon Festival Theatre
Approximately 50 minutes
Recommended for grades K-4

Public Marquee performance
Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3pm

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GREENING THE ARTS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to *Carnival of the Animals* on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

www.champaign.org | www.urbanafreelibrary.org

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE, NOVEMBER 5, 2018

Drop in for a self-guided, interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students related to the themes of *Carnival of the Animals*. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois.edu or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUTH CONCERTS

Love *Carnival of the Animals*? Come back to Krannert Center to hear the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra perform this work at the Youth Concerts on April 16 and 17, 2019. To register your class, contact the UI School of Music at www.music.illinois.edu/youth-concerts.

