

Of cabbages and kings.

## Repost: The Girlie Show

Posted on ~~September 20, 2017~~**September 20, 2017** by **Elisa Shoenberger**

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of interviewing several incredible circus performers for the 2015 Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival. For the next few days, I'm going to post those interviews starting with The Girlie Show, that was first published on the Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival blog on 5/11/2015. Please enjoy!

Jamieson Lindenburg's *The Girlie Show: Big Top Burlesque* wants to open your mind about burlesque. The show in the form a cabaret seamlessly blends together both circus and burlesque with an all female cast. The show wants to move past the stereotypical view of the art form as just striptease fixed in a certain era of American modern history. Burlesque has deeper roots in modern theater, vaudeville, musical theater, and more. *The Girlie Show* harkens back to the root of burlesque in the Italian root word "burlo" meaning to jest or joke. It is an art form that can be used to both celebrate our differences and who we are while at the same time satirizing our world. The show burlesques how we conceive of gender and gender roles in society today. Jamieson Lindenburg sees the show as "poignant with what's happening today with the queer movement, LGBTQ community." It's a fun, sexy show with a message.

The show started in 2003 as a fusion of musical revue and burlesque in St. Petersburg, Florida with several shows in the summer. Over time, the show added circus to the mix and was revamped into *The Girlie Show: Big Top Burlesque* in 2013. It's a rare show with a strong femme fatale cast. Lindenburg described the show as more than just a revue; it's sexy, audacious with a bit of a feminist platform. It explores what women could be in circus and society. When asked about how it all comes together, Jamieson laughed: it's an "ugly, screaming, sparkly, booby tasseled baby coming to life." We here at the festival are so fortunate that the show is coming to Chicago. This is its first debut outside of Florida.

For the Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival, people should expect a wonderful cabaret filled with circus acts set to live music arranged and conducted by Dylan Glatthorn. Lindenburg explains: "People should laugh and fall in love with these strong independent circus performers doing daring, sexy acts....It will make them think." The show will include trapeze, tight wire, contortion hoop, and more with burlesque. It's going to be an incredible show!

There will be three performances of the Girlie Show, so make sure to pick up your tickets now. We can't wait to see *The Girlie Show: Big Top Burlesque* at the Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival!

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Indeed, it was a great show.

**Tags:** [Burlesque](#), [Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival](#), [Circus](#), [The Girlie Show](#)

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I am a writer, historian, oral historian, and more. [View all posts by Elisa Shoenberger](#)

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# The Incredible Casus Circus

Posted on **September 21, 2017** by **Elisa Shoenberger**

I have the opportunity of interviewing Natano Fa'anana of the amazing circus group Casus Circus from Australia for the 2015 Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival. Below is a selection of the interview. If you have the chance to see Casus Circus, I highly recommend it; they are one of the most exquisite circus groups I've ever seen.

Casus Circus' Knee Deep explores the strength and fragility of the human body. By exploring a variety of circus arts, the show explores "that the human body is capable of almost anything." In an interview with cast member and one of the founding members, Natano Fa'anana explains, "Casus comprises of humans, not super heroes, and we demonstrate that with focus, discipline and risk the human body is pretty awesome." Overall, the aim of Casus is to "bring humanity into circus told through our relationships, culture, and play."

Based in Brisbane, Australia, Casus began in 2011 as a dream of four circus performers, Jesse Scott, Lachlan McAulay, Emma Serjeant, and Natano Fa'anana, who were performing all over the world in separate circuses. They decided to create the show Knee Deep as an opportunity to work together and create their own show. Since 2011, Casus grew tremendously and now they have four touring productions with additional cast members, Jesse Huygh, Jake Silvestro, Kali Retallack, Abbey Church, and Vincent Van Berkel. Casus even had the opportunity to perform Knee Deep on Broadway in New York City.

The show is an incredible combination of acrobatics, hand balancing, hula hooping, and much more. With minimal set and few props, the four performers balance, flip, spin, stand on each other with such elegance and pose. It's pure pleasure to watch. The show also features the use of brown eggs, emphasizing the tension between strength and fragility. The idea for the eggs came from a photograph of cast member and co-founder Jesse Scott's father on his fortieth birthday. He was dared to stand on two cartons of eggs with his wife sitting on his shoulders!

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**Tags:** **Australia**, **Casus Circus**, **Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival**, **Circus**, **Human Body**, **Knee Deep**, **Circus**

**Categories:** **Art**