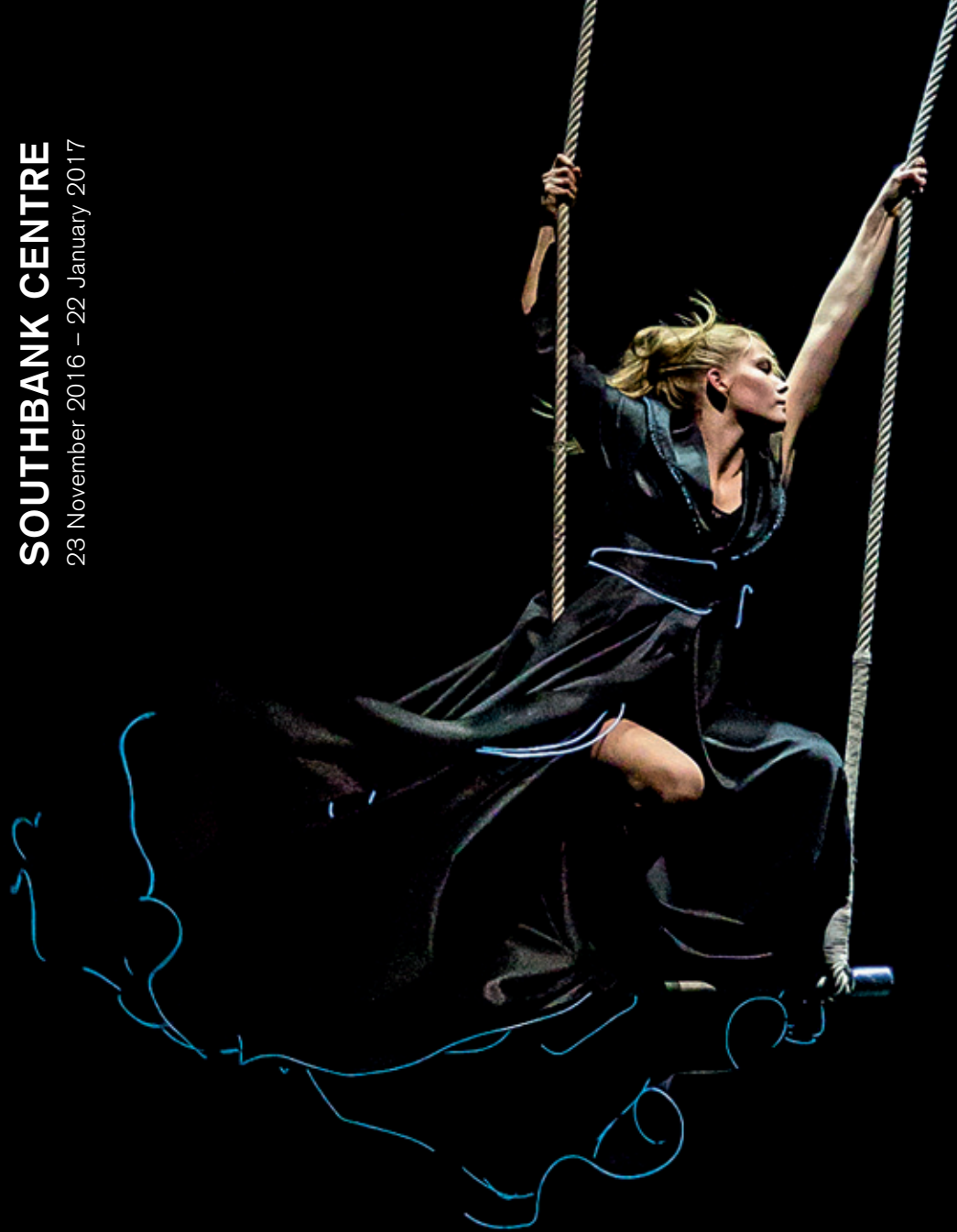


BIANCO

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

23 November 2016 – 22 January 2017



nofitstate

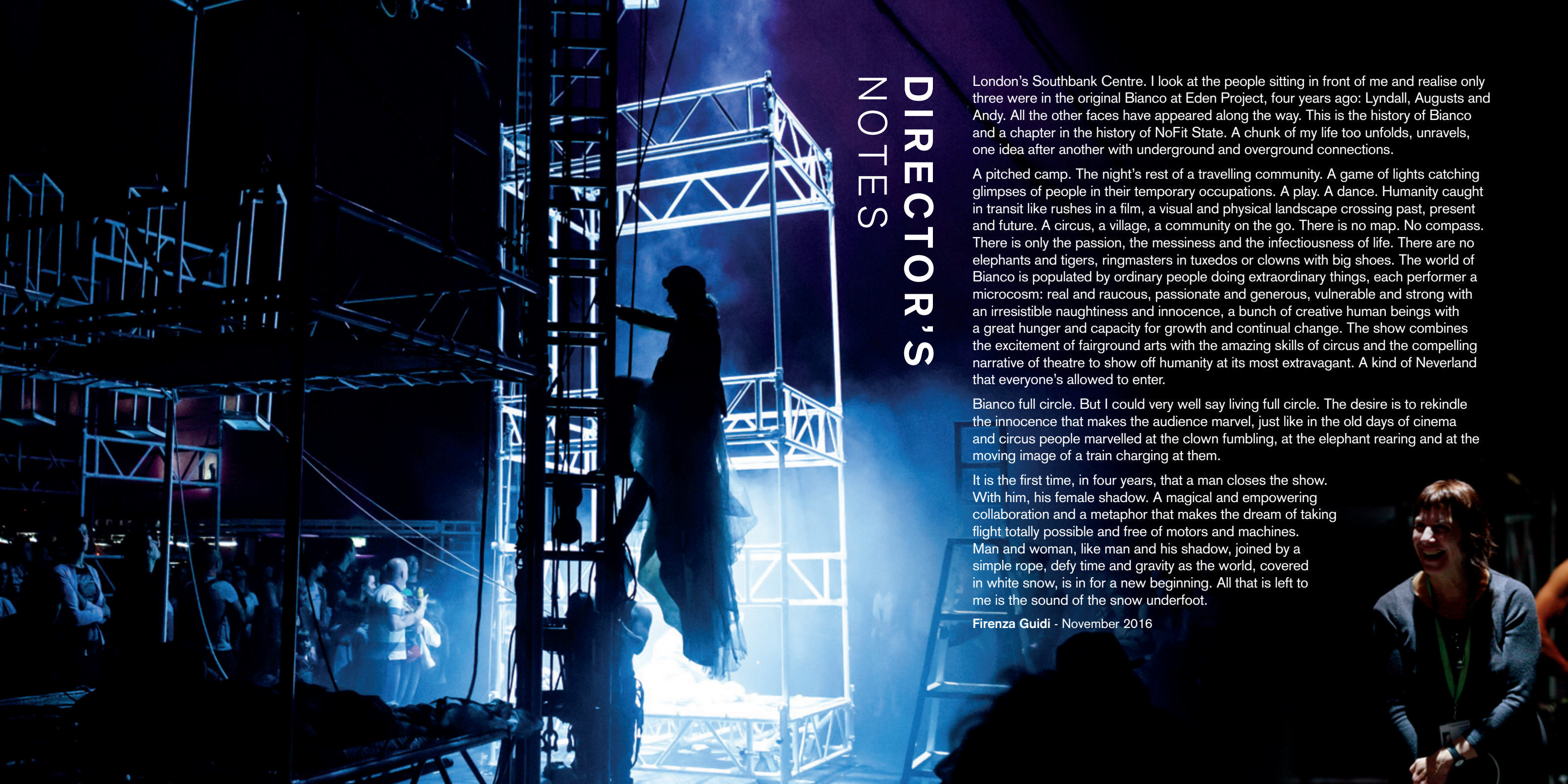
ORGANISED ANARCHY
BEAUTIFUL CARNAGE



BIANCO HERE BE DRAGONS

There are more people in me than just me.
And if it's true that we can live only one of these me's,
what happens to the others?





NOTES DIRECTOR'S

London's Southbank Centre. I look at the people sitting in front of me and realise only three were in the original Bianco at Eden Project, four years ago: Lyndall, Augusts and Andy. All the other faces have appeared along the way. This is the history of Bianco and a chapter in the history of NoFit State. A chunk of my life too unfolds, unravels, one idea after another with underground and overground connections.

A pitched camp. The night's rest of a travelling community. A game of lights catching glimpses of people in their temporary occupations. A play. A dance. Humanity caught in transit like rushes in a film, a visual and physical landscape crossing past, present and future. A circus, a village, a community on the go. There is no map. No compass. There is only the passion, the messiness and the infectiousness of life. There are no elephants and tigers, ringmasters in tuxedos or clowns with big shoes. The world of Bianco is populated by ordinary people doing extraordinary things, each performer a microcosm: real and raucous, passionate and generous, vulnerable and strong with an irresistible naughtiness and innocence, a bunch of creative human beings with a great hunger and capacity for growth and continual change. The show combines the excitement of fairground arts with the amazing skills of circus and the compelling narrative of theatre to show off humanity at its most extravagant. A kind of Neverland that everyone's allowed to enter.

Bianco full circle. But I could very well say living full circle. The desire is to rekindle the innocence that makes the audience marvel, just like in the old days of cinema and circus people marvelled at the clown fumbling, at the elephant rearing and at the moving image of a train charging at them.

It is the first time, in four years, that a man closes the show. With him, his female shadow. A magical and empowering collaboration and a metaphor that makes the dream of taking flight totally possible and free of motors and machines. Man and woman, like man and his shadow, joined by a simple rope, defy time and gravity as the world, covered in white snow, is in for a new beginning. All that is left to me is the sound of the snow underfoot.

Firenza Guidi - November 2016





UNCHARTERED TERRITORIES

Bianco is the latest collaboration between NoFit State Circus and Firenza Guidi, and the last in the 15-year sequence of work from the team behind the ImMortal series, the tabù trilogy, Labyrinth at Eden Project and finally the three ages of Bianco.

Bianco takes its inspiration from beauty and brutality, life and death, chaos and simplicity. The contradictions between each one of us and the multitude of personas within every human being.


It is a combination of the spectacular skills of the men and women of the company, the electrifying live band that drives the show like a powerful engine, genius rigging where bodies replace motors, and the endless creativity and dedication of our performers, artistic and technical teams.

There is no overt linear narrative, no beginning, middle or end but there are many images, themes, lyrics and threads from which you can weave your own tapestry and draw your own meaning, burning powerful memories onto your mind and feeding your dreams.

Bianco is the reflection of who we are and what we do. We are one of the only contemporary circuses that still tours the traditional way and live the traditional lifestyle. The whole company puts up the Big Top and builds the show together as one well-oiled machine. We travel and live together in our own travelling village, we eat, laugh and cry together. Every day, we put our lives in each other's hands and it is this trust, this bond and this togetherness that gives our work its unique heart and soul.

Run away with us for two hours. Let yourself be immersed in the world of Bianco...

Tom Rack - November 2016



THE PEOPLE

Greater than the sum of our parts



CREATIVE TEAM



Tom Rack
Artistic Director

Tom is one of the co-founders and the Artistic Director of NoFit State. As well as producing large-scale shows (ImMortal, tabù, Labyrinth, Bianco), Tom oversees the overall artistic vision of NoFit State, including the company's community and engagement programmes.



Firenza Guidi
Director

Milan-born Firenza Guidi is a writer-director and performance creator. She is Artistic Director of ELAN Frantoio founded with David Murray in 1989, and has been a regular collaborator with NoFit State since 1995, directing Autogeddon, ImMortal, tabù, Labyrinth and Bianco.

Adam Cobbley - Lighting Designer

Camille Beaumier - Creative Producer

David Murray - Musical Director

Iolo Lavender - Goblin

Lyndall Merry - Rigging Designer

Rhiannon Matthews - Costume Designer

Saz Moir - Production Designer

Tarn Aitken - Wizard



THE CAST



Augusts Dakteris



Blaze Tarsha



Cecilia Zucchetti



Danilo de Campos
Pacheco



Delia Ceruti



Edd Casey



Ella Rose



Enni Lymi



Felipe Nardiello



François Bouvier



Jani Földi



Jess O'Connor



Joachim Aussibal



Junior Barbosa



Lee Tinnion



Lyndall Merry



Topher Dagg



THE MUSICIANS



Andy Moore



Annette Loose



Doug Kemp



Matt Collins



THE MUSIC

As a teenager, I remember trudging through snow on my milk-round in the pitch-black winter mornings, making up songs in my head: partly as insulation against the freezing cold of a Dundee December dawn and partly because it seemed a natural thing to do.

Many years later this impulse to create is still with me. In Bianco the process starts with a series of impulses from which I create a pool of musical genres ranging from complete songs, to instrumentals, a cappella, rhythms, and musical sketches or riffs. These are then matched with the physical sequences and group choreography being created with the circus performers, and then assimilated and honed by the musicians in the band. The starting point of each musical creation varies – a melody pops up and demands words, and vice versa, or a chord sequence or musical phrase surfaces from who knows where.

I'm happy to say that I've given up the milk round, and happier yet to find myself making music for Bianco, a show that has been seen and heard by thousands around the globe, intoxicating people from Scotland to Australia.

David Murray

THE CREW

Emily Klein
Touring Wardrobe

Hazel Bryan
Tent Boss / Steward

Jamie Adams
Sound

John Aston
Security / Driver

John Kirk
Technical Production
Manager

Karlos Fandango
Crew / Steward

Libby Spencer
Company Stage
Manager

Molly Samson
Crew / Retail Assistant /
Steward

Pauline Fremeau
Catering Manager

Rebecca Davies
Assistant Producer

Simon Wall
Lighting / Lead Tech

Sue Wolfe
Security

Tim Adam
Front of House Manager



A man in a dark, moody environment is performing a hula hoop trick. He is shirtless, wearing dark pants and sneakers, and is holding the hoop with both hands while his legs are spread wide in a dynamic pose. The background is dark with some faint light patterns.

THE THREE AGES OF BIANCO

Time for Beauty
Turning Savage
Here be Dragons

A journey
through time
and the story of the
fragility of lost selves,
lost wishes and desires

AN EPIC JOURNEY

Bianco was born in 2012 and followed Labyrinth as our second co-production with and at The Eden Project. Since then it has been seen by over a quarter of a million people in 11 different countries across the globe.

Our work grows and evolves with time. This is what keeps it fluid, alive and always fresh. Each performer brings with them a skill, a technique, a craft mastered over the years and their individuality and humanity; their fears, their doubts, their hopes and their dreams. It is the weaving of all of this that gives our work its authenticity making it real; raw, raucous and infectious.

We work with the fabric of each individual, evolve and adjust through each incarnation, adapting to the coming and going of the collective, reshaping and reinventing the work to suit the people that make it - while at our core maintaining our humanity, our heart and our soul.

Bianco here at Southbank Centre marks the end of a chapter in our 30-year history. After 15 years of creating, developing and touring this style of work it is now time for a radical change and to bring new elements into our productions. 2017 will be a year of research, development and creation for a new work to celebrate the 250th anniversary of circus in 2018. We will look at the heritage and history of circus for inspiration, and broaden the range of disciplines and theatrical and technical techniques available to us. We will present this work to a more traditional seated audience in the round, yet stay true to our spirit and identity and keep the tented tradition and the magic of circus alive.

We would like to thank the Southbank Centre for making this final run an amazing finale to this 5-year journey, the Eden Project as the original co-producers of Bianco Time For Beauty, and all the partners who made this journey possible.

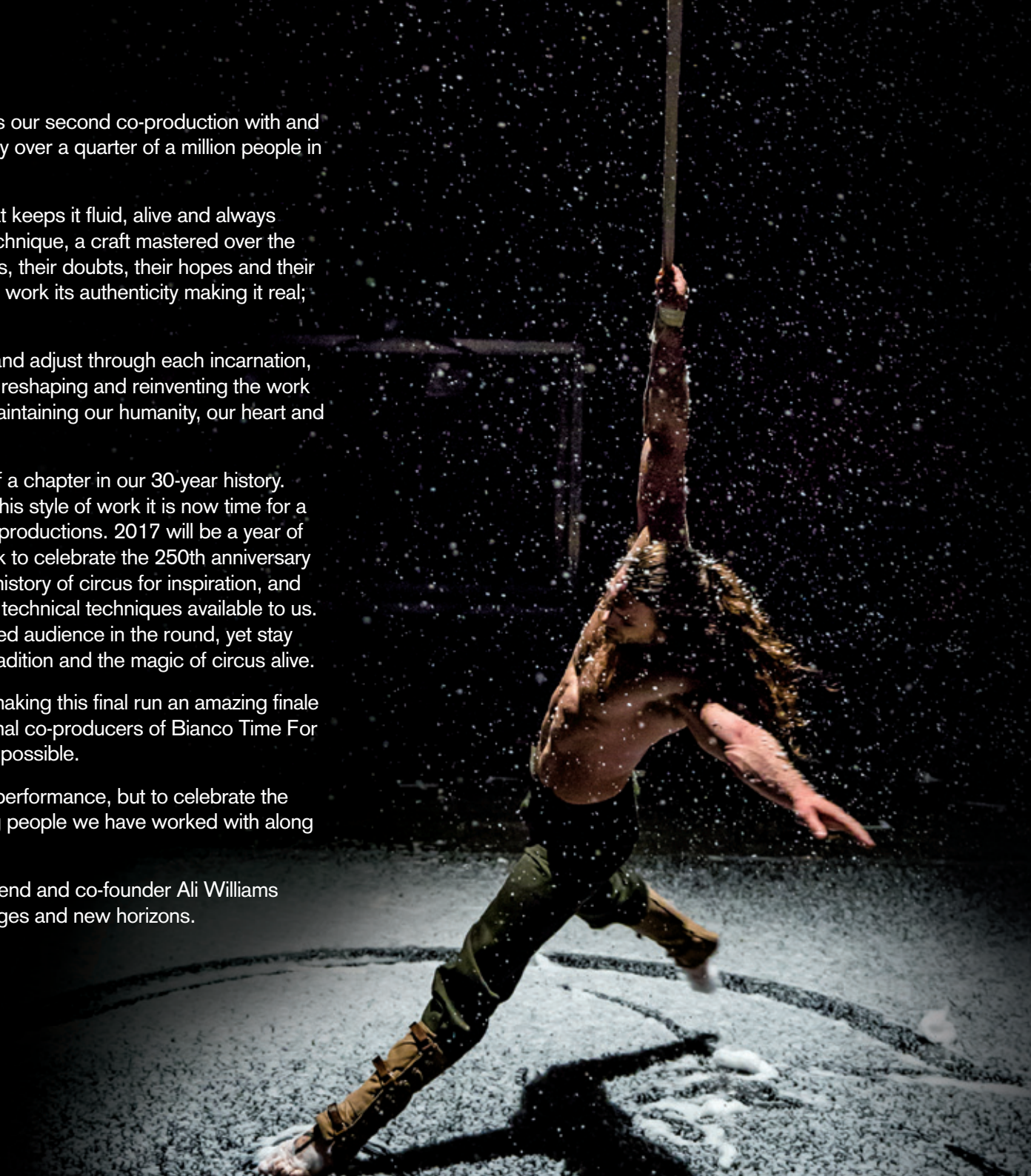
This programme tries to not only capture tonight's performance, but to celebrate the years of monumental adventure and all the amazing people we have worked with along the way.

And finally, huge thanks and respect goes to our friend and co-founder Ali Williams who, after 30 years, has moved on to fresh challenges and new horizons.

Tom Rack, Artistic Director

Thank you for making this journey with us...

Ace McCarron, Adam Blackburne, Andy Fox, Angharad Matthews, Anna O'Loughlin, Anne-fay Johnston, Ariele Ebacher, Ashley John Long, Ashling Deeks, Callum McIntyre, Cyril Marques, Dave Rook, Elena Burani, Eleanor Tipler, Elle Edwards, Emily Morgan, Emily Redsell, Florian Kuehn, François Néel, Fred Rendell, Freya Watson, Geoffrey Berhault, Gareth Jones, Howie Morley, Hugo Oliveira, Joni Anderson, Julie Weirich, Kate-Inez Kieran, Kelley Griffiths, Kirsty Henderson, Leif Le Cocotier, Lily Stephenson, Louis Blair, Mandy Armstrong, Marco Fiera, Marion Denier, Nat Whittingham, Oskar Howells, Pete Storer, Rhiannon Sinclair, Rike Zöellner, Rupert de Renzy-Martin, Ruth Butler, Sage Bachtler Cushman, Shaun Luker, Simon Wall, Stefan Hinchies, Tanwen Watson, Tony Jones, Wim Penhaul, Zoe Munn.



IN THEIR WORDS

Some moments live long, fondly remembered, perhaps even with a wistful melancholy at the passage of time. Others burn themselves into the memory and brand you as belonging to that moment. A loud, deafening, in the moment,... NOW...in capital letters.

When Eden worked with NoFit State and commissioned Bianco, we had expectations of a physical piece of circus theatre, with good music and a beguiling storyline. What we got was a bravura performance that all who saw it will remember until the day they die. You were not at liberty to like it. You had to feel something far stronger, more committed than that and such passion repaid in spades.

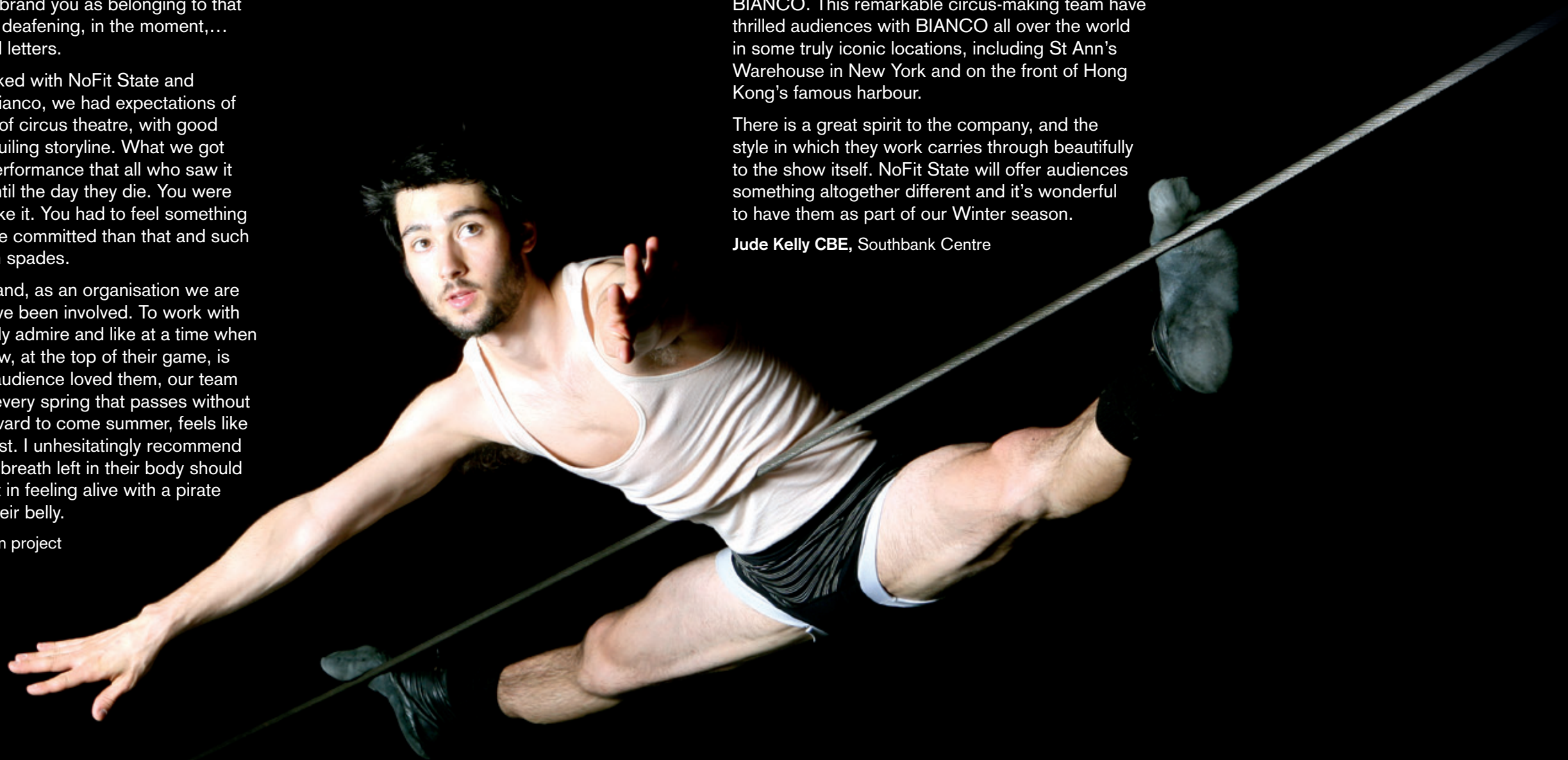
Both personally and, as an organisation we are very proud to have been involved. To work with people you hugely admire and like at a time when they were, as now, at the top of their game, is a privilege. The audience loved them, our team loved them and every spring that passes without them to look forward to come summer, feels like an opportunity lost. I unhesitatingly recommend that anyone with breath left in their body should roll up and invest in feeling alive with a pirate grin and fire in their belly.

Sir Tim Smit, Eden project

We're absolutely delighted to be welcoming the world-class NoFit State company to Southbank Centre this winter, with an updated version of their hit circus show BIANCO. This remarkable circus-making team have thrilled audiences with BIANCO all over the world in some truly iconic locations, including St Ann's Warehouse in New York and on the front of Hong Kong's famous harbour.

There is a great spirit to the company, and the style in which they work carries through beautifully to the show itself. NoFit State will offer audiences something altogether different and it's wonderful to have them as part of our Winter season.

Jude Kelly CBE, Southbank Centre



THE COMPANY NOFIT STATE CIRCUS

Living together,
travelling together,
always taking on
the world together

PERFECT MISFITS

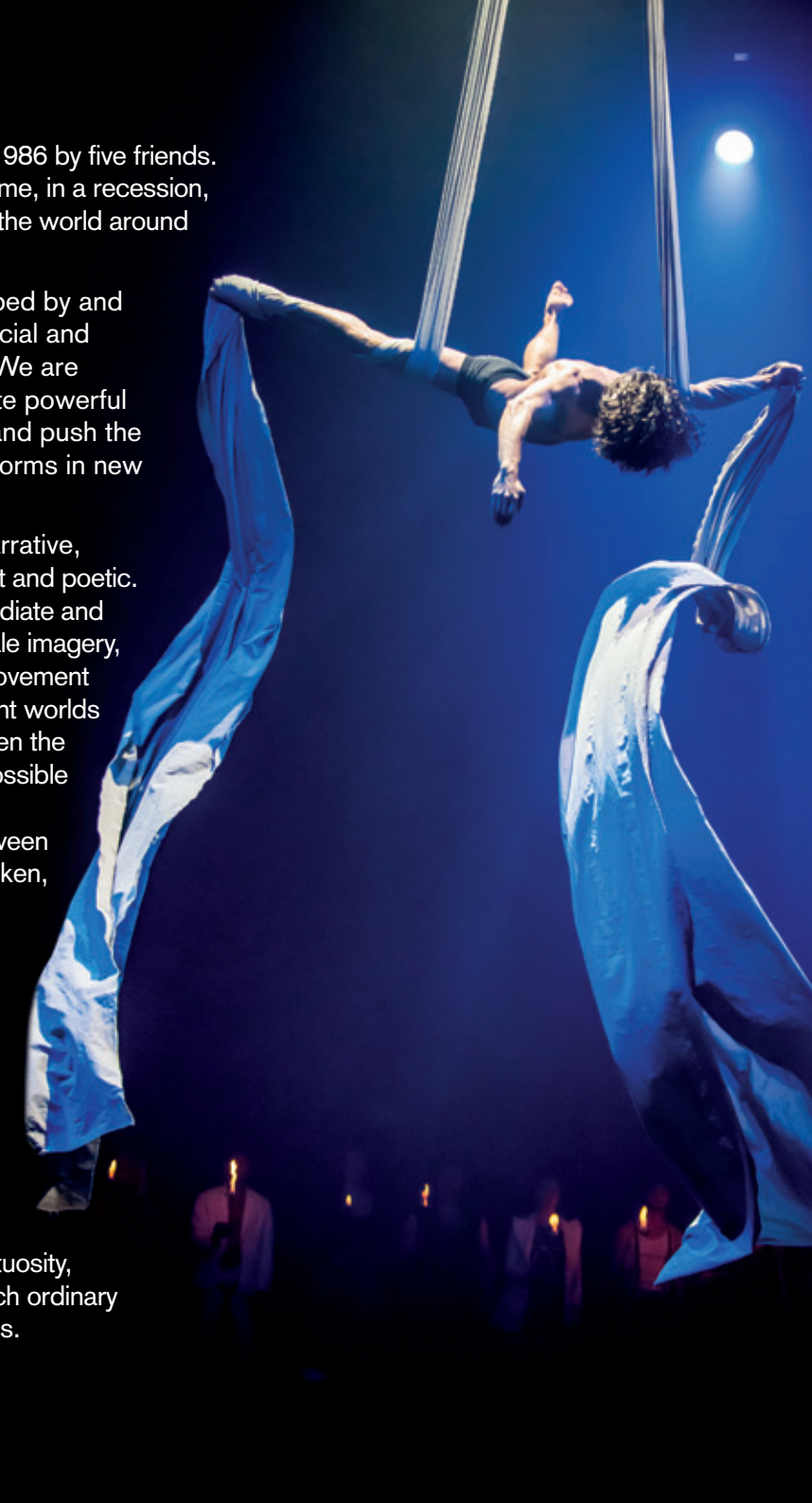
NoFit State was founded in 1986 by five friends. During a politically charged time, in a recession, and as a creative reaction to the world around them, the circus was born.

Today, our vision is still shaped by and responds to the political, social and cultural context around us. We are driven by the desire to create powerful performances that explore and push the boundaries of accepted artforms in new and revelatory ways.

We make stories without narrative, creating work that is poignant and poetic. Work that is sensuous, immediate and enthralling. We use large-scale imagery, circus, theatre, live music, movement and innovative design to invent worlds where the boundaries between the real and the imaginary, the possible and the impossible become blurred. Where frontiers between artists and audiences are broken, where nothing is hidden and everything revealed.

We strive to be artistic innovators and develop radical and accessible work that has a sophisticated simplicity that challenges preconceptions and raises questions.

Work that breaks down the barriers created by empty virtuosity, and builds a company in which ordinary people do extraordinary things.



AN ACCIDENTAL ADVENTURE

THE EARLY DAYS

Risky In Pink
The Dangerous Duo
Every Witch Way A Wish Washes
Whiter
Take A Chance
The Defective Detective
Dodo Island
Totally Wicked
Alice In Wonderland
Treasure Island
Sci Circus
Autogeddon
Prophecy
Nowhere
ImMortal Zero



THE IMMORTAL SERIES

ImMortal -
Coming Out Alive
ImMortal2
ImMortal -
Stun, Seduce, Survive



1983-2003

2003-2007

THE TABÙ TRILOGY

standing on the edge
of the wilderness
my fear and yours
I will be bad



PARKLIFE



2008-2010

THE THREE AGES OF BIANCO

Time for Beauty
Turning Savage
Here be Dragons



BARRICADE

MUNDO PARALELO



2011-2012

OPEN HOUSE



NOODLES



2012 - 2017

BLOCK



30
YEARS
ON





JOURNEY WITH US

NoFit State has shown great tenacity and resourcefulness to flourish since its creation 30 years ago.

We have made it work on our own terms through nothing short of blind faith, endless perseverance and sheer determination. We thank those who have supported us along the way, who believed in us and joined us on the road less travelled. As we embark on the next stage of our journey to bring extraordinary, large-scale circus to audiences from all walks of life, all over the world, we call for you to come and join the fray.

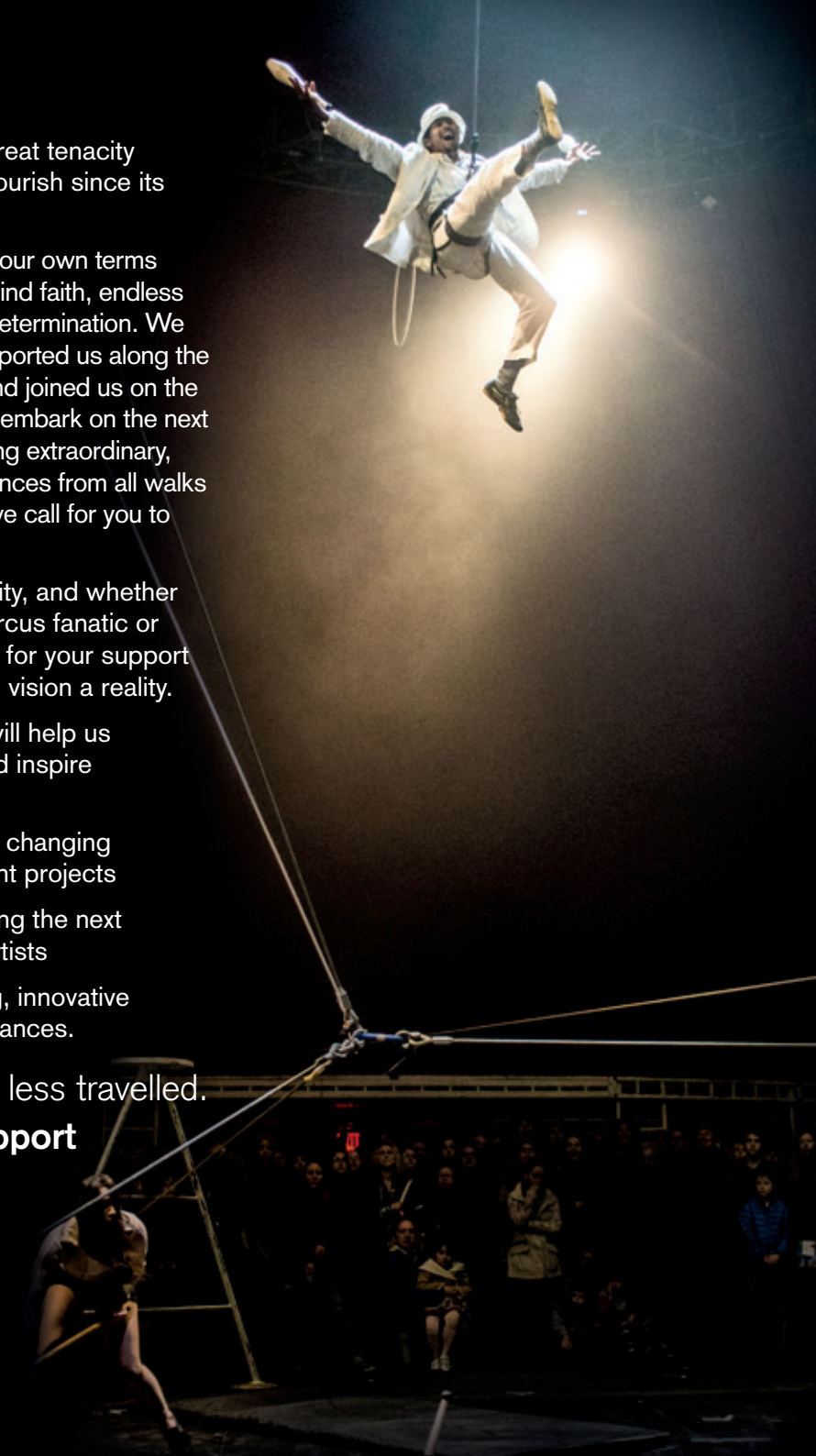
We are a registered charity, and whether you are an established circus fanatic or new to the family, we ask for your support to help make our creative vision a reality.

With your donation you will help us continue change lives and inspire audiences through:

- Delivering exciting, life changing community engagement projects
- Supporting and inspiring the next generation of circus artists
- Creating awe-inspiring, innovative contemporary performances.

Join us on the road less travelled.

nofitstate.org/support



THE
COMPANY

Tom Rack - Artistic Director
Alison Woods - Executive Director
Camille Beaumier - Creative Producer
Bethan Touhig Gamble - Head of Development
Tim Adam - Operations Manager
John Kirk - Technical Production Manager
Wendy Hii - Finance Officer
Lizzy Ferguson - Company Administrator
Luc Morris - Communications and Marketing Officer
Rebecca Davies - Assistant Producer
Damian Kerlin - Development Assistant
Tanwen Watson - Interim Head of School
Olga Kaleta - Head of Youth Circus
John Hosken - Community Programme Administrator
Beth Coffey - Head of Reception
Jen Farnell - Reception
Jo Richmond - Reception
Leaf Brailey - Reception
Rachel Walsh - Reception

WITH
THANKS

This production could not have happened without the collaboration and vision of our partners at Southbank Centre.

The journey of Bianco over the last four years would not have been possible without the generous support and dedication of:

The Eden Project
Roundhouse
The Arts Council of Wales
Wales Arts International
Welsh Government
The City of Cardiff Council

NoFit State is supported by:



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

And what of my dreams?
That shameful flight within myself.
In the end, I always arrive
where I'm expected



no**fit**state

nofitstate.org

