



# tabú

*standing on the edge  
of the wilderness*

no**fit**state<sup>©</sup>

Written and Directed by **Firenza Guidi**  
Music composed by **Peter Swaffer**



**itstate** is the leading large-contemporary circus company in the UK offering professional touring productions of a wide range of community, training, and education projects for people of all ages.

2004-2007 nofitstate toured their critically acclaimed show of Immortal across the UK and Europe. This show has won four awards for excellence, had sold out in nine different countries and played to over 100,000 people.

The Circus is pleased to present its new show, *tabú*, and produced by the same creative team as the previous project. Once again we experiment with promenade theatre, ensuring that each member of the audience has a different experience.

Depending on where you stand and how much you actively engage, you are guaranteed a unique perspective on the show. Don't be afraid to move around the tent to gain a new view, the stewards will guide you and keep you safe.

As we bring some new performers to the company, bringing with them new skills and some surprising new ensemble pieces, Breaking down barriers between the performers and the audience, will ensure that nofitstate remains on the cutting edge of contemporary circus.







## Director's Notes

# tabú

— *standing on the edge  
of the wilderness*

*Fear is the most widespread,  
undetected, un-acknowledged of  
taboos. It is only when a person  
with no fear appears in our life  
that we can go back to living.*

**The story.** It's been raining for 4 years, 11 months and 2 days. The world has come to low-voltage functioning. Not quite stopped, but everything works through a low energy, low pollution, low calories, low lows. Stillness pervades the world inside the tent. An unforgiving calm hiding a storm. The world is asleep. The bodies, perfect relics of a time past, are hanging like cold meat: humanity parked in a kind of manageable storage-space where men and women live sedated floating above the swamp. Without ups or downs without rebellions or revolutions. Without gender and gender separation because being man or woman is no longer relevant. Without love, the world has stopped procreating. It is a sex-less world where men and women grow their nails as the only sign of the passage of time. There is no darkness. No dark side. Only low-voltage brightness which induces a permanent state of torpor. Fear has made humanity close more and more, until individuals have become white, beautiful, sanitised flower-beds floating in air, no longer embroiled in the mud below. Soon everything and everybody will be absorbed by this smooth, gliding, almost mechanised world where people move about in circular rickshaws. But a young girl rips through the air like a whirlwind to look through the shadows of her family lost in the swamps. Her name is Amaranta. Her mother spent her life enclosed, as if it was raining all the time; so the young girl spent hers crossing through to the other side of the rain, looking for a place to sleep among the clouds. With her arrival, the world cracks open like in a gentle earthquake, becoming more jerky, rougher at the edges. Amaranta re-trains people in the art of "being", unearthing their lives and past to exhume whatever sign of humanity might be buried in the bog-site. One by one, the family and the known faces of the remote swamp come back to life with their colours, their dances, their hang-ups, their laughter and their fears. Like archetypal figures they populate a world in which past, present and future co-exist. Amaranta's innocence and fearlessness counteract the dark pull of this scarred humanity, lifting their torments and obsessions. Through her journey we dig and probe: Where does fear reside? Do we choose it or does it choose us? Amaranta becomes a woman and a predator. Finally, the very mechanisms that created the serene order of things where fear is sedated and silenced like the worst secret, become the instruments of the revolution. A revolution of the senses, where taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing become paramount to celebrate life's dirtiness and its embarrassingly fearful and irresistibly sensual side.

**The idea.** *tabú* is a new journey and exploration into the darker side of being. It isn't a freak show, it isn't voyeurism. It is the tissue we are made of and cannot fully grasp, let alone explain. *tabú* digs into human nature and whilst remaining firmly on the ground, probes into and soars around the very things wo/man has done but cannot talk about. These are *tabú*.

**The process.** At the beginning I have a title, an idea, a vision and lots of questions. Then the environment begins to take shape as a design concept. Then the performers and creative team enter the vision with their different skills and personalities and cultures. Then a mentor appears by my side, to accompany and inspire me through my journey. This time it was Gabriel García Márquez's *One hundred years of solitude*. It was brilliant to see the book in at least five different languages dotted around the tent during rehearsals. The mentor, be it a novel or poem or film, is a constant source of inspiration while the montage of the show begins to take form, aiming for a total sensual experience. The audience can enjoy it on many different levels – they can sense an energy, the music, a smell, a touch, or a performer gazing in their eyes as they search for clues. So, come and surrender to the velvet revolution.

Written and Directed by

Frenza Guidi





***I'm afraid of forgetting  
that everything  
Happens for a reason.***

*If I forget this, I cannot accept the dark  
Yea, I have physical fears  
But I'm not afraid.*

## The Cast

Adie Delany (Swinging, Flying Trapeze, Hula hoops)

Natalia Fandino (Static Trapeze)

Marco Fiera

Howard Morley

Barnz Munn (Counter weighting)

Shaena Brandell (Aerial Hoop)

Kevin McIntosh (Rope)

Simone Riccio (German Wheel)

Vanina Fandino (Tightrope)

Marcella Manzilla (Flying Trapeze)

Petri Ekqvist (Cradle & Flying catcher)

Kadya Karjalainen (Cradle & Flying Trapeze)

Amaranta, the girl that knows no fear

Ursula, the originator and eater of earth

José, the originator, her husband and the man who looks for magic in things

Melquíades, the last of the travelling gypsies

José Arcadio, the son that ran away with the gypsies

Fernanda, the woman that was raised to be a queen

Arcadio, the day dreamer

Pietro Crespi, the Italian music teacher

Petra Cotes, the woman who multiplies animals just by looking at them

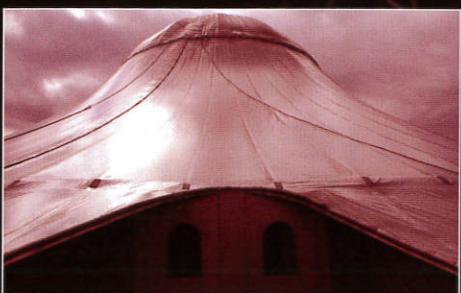
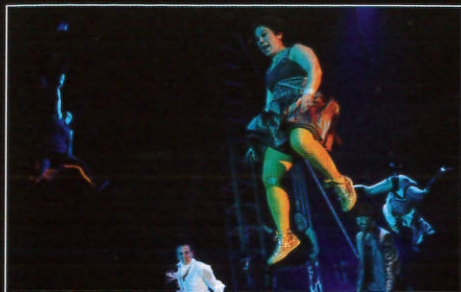
Remedios, the beauty

Aureliano, the great revolutionary

Rebeca, the girl from over the mountains







## The Company

Artistic Director tabú Project	Firenza Guidi
Producer/Tour Manager	Tom Rack
Co-Producer, Press and PR	Ali Williams
Operations & FOH Manager	Tim Adam
Company Manager	Louise Carey
Exec Director	Alison Woods
Administrator	Sam Minas

Creative Team Firenza Guidi, Ali Williams, Tom Rack

Music Director and Composer Peter Swaffer

Design Team Firenza Guidi, Tom Rack, Barnz, Carl Davies

Lighting Design Aðalsteinn Stefánsson

Costume Design The Ugly Sisters – Rhi and Angharod Matthews

Design of wet look dresses Pascal Arndtz

Assist Lighting design Adam Copley

Sound Design/Production Engineer Gwen Thompson

Circus Coordinator Mish Weaver

Video Maker Chris Nurse

Set Builders/Performance Engineers Tarn Aitkin, Tanc, Spike Thomas, Iolo Lavender

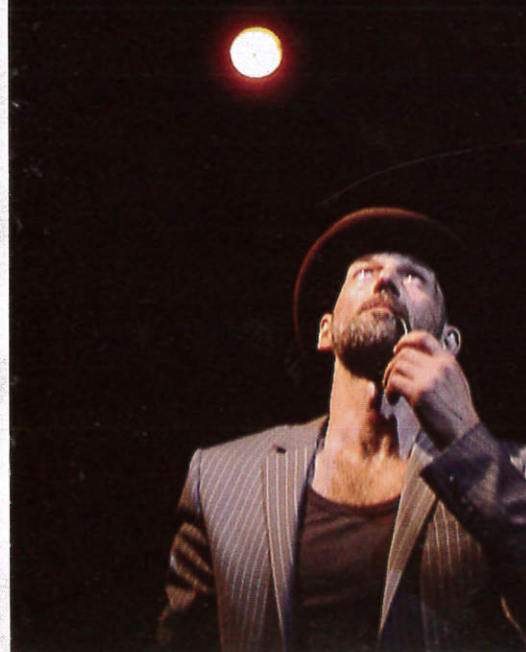
Costume Makers Rhi Matthews, Angus Matthews, Elfrieda Berry, Janina Bacchetta, Kate Bohin, Hannah Kinhead, Jo Nichols, Bryony Black





## The Crew

Technical Stage Manager	Helen Fagelman
DSM ( <i>Rehearsals</i> )	Nikki Morgan
Technical Manager/Flying Trapeze Coach	Chris Hills
Tent Master	Howard Morley
Head Rigger	Barnz Munn
Construction Coordinator	Marco Fiera
Lighting Operation	Leif La page
Sound Engineer	Pete Storer
AV Design & Operation	Lissy Moore
AV Camera Technician	Jo Osbourne
Roustabouts/Stewards	Saul Baum ( <i>Rigger</i> ), Cliff Sutherland ( <i>Site Coordinator</i> ), Dave Rook ( <i>Bar Manager</i> ), Gareth Marshall ( <i>Handyman</i> ), Hoffi ( <i>Electrician</i> )
Wardrobe	Elfrieda Berry, Janina Bachetta ( <i>Assistant</i> )
Merchandise/Book keeping	Zoë Munn
Drivers	John Aston & John Manning
Maker	Gareth Ward
Catering Manager	Abby Kettlewell
Child Care	Sarah Wilson
Runner	Sarah Smith







## The Music

Directed and  
composed by

Peter Swaffer

## The Musicians

Annette Loose (Sax and Voice)

Dylan Leonard (Percussion and Voice)

Kevin Tardevet (Double Bass and Voice)

Gareth Jones (Keyboards, Guitar and Voice)



*"Music. Circus. Musci. Musircus. Muzircus.*

*We wait for an unfolding.*

*Music has the ability to make surfaces open.*

*It is a fragile thing. Musci"*

Peter Swaffer 08





## Tour Dates

10-19th April

**Tredegar Park, Newport, Wales**

*With thanks to the Riverfront.*

riverfront  
glan-afon

2nd-17th May

**Earlham Park, Norwich, England**

*A co commission with Norfolk and Norwich Festival.*

NF08

23rd-31st May

**Victoria Park, Royal Gate East,  
Grove Road, London E3**

*Presented as part of Paradise Gardens.  
Festival Produced by Remarkable.  
Productions In association with Tower  
Hamlets, Hackney and Newham Councils.*

REMARKABLE  
PRODUCTIONS  
TOWER HAMLETS

11th-21st June

**Chateau d'O, Montpellier, France**

*Presented by festival le Printemps  
Des Comediens.  
In association with Passa Shok.*

le Printemps  
Des Comediens  
Passa shok

28th June-5th July

**Place de Charles de Gaulle,  
Rennes, France**

*Presented by festival Les Tombées de  
la Nuit in association with Passa Shok.*

Les  
tombées de  
la nuit  
Passa shok

12th-26th July

**Somerset College, Taunton, England**

*Presented by The Brewhouse.*

the brewhouse  
theatre & arts centre

8th-31st August

**Centro Cultural de Belem,  
Lisbon, Portugal**

*Presented by Festival Fora De Si.  
In association with Passa Shok.*

CCB  
Passa shok

9th-22nd September

**Brecon**

*Presented by Theatre Brycheiniog.*

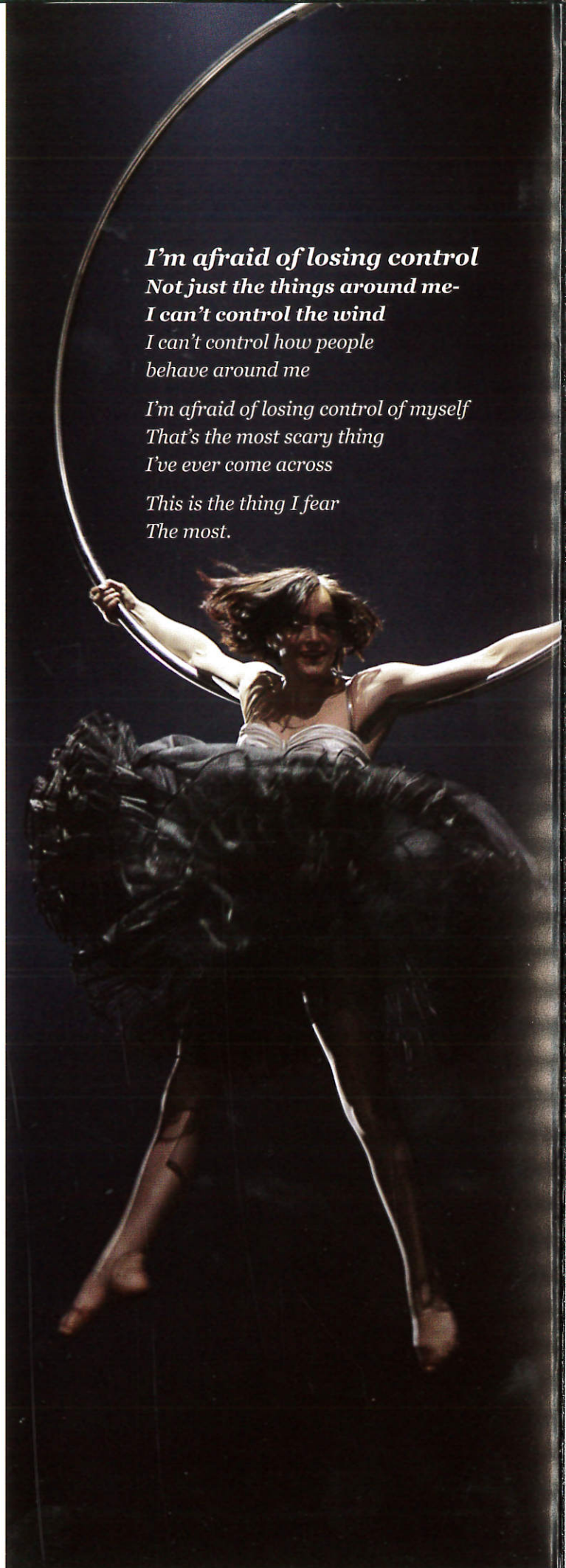
THEATRE  
TB  
Brycheiniog

**More dates TBC**

*I'm afraid of losing control  
Not just the things around me-  
I can't control the wind  
I can't control how people  
behave around me*

*I'm afraid of losing control of myself  
That's the most scary thing  
I've ever come across*

*This is the thing I fear  
The most.*





## Become a friend of NoFit State Circus

NoFit State is a charity and we do far more than the work you see in the tent on tour. As well as our touring productions we run a wide range of community projects, training and education programmes, apprenticeship schemes and youth projects. The work we deliver with the community is at the heart of the organisation.

Only £2.00 (Friend) or £5.00 (Family Friend) a month, can help us to develop our work and ensure that we can continue to offer people of all ages the opportunity to experience the world of circus.

Visit us today at the merchandise stand and you will receive a NoFit State t-shirt, or to find out more email [sam@nofitstate.com](mailto:sam@nofitstate.com)



## With thanks

NoFit State is extremely grateful to all our funders. In particular, an enormous thanks to Jenny Stoves from the Arts Council of Wales, Alison Gagen, from Arts Council England, Ram Morjaria from Business in Focus and the Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks in the Welsh Assembly Government. Without their support and advice none of this would be possible.

The trustees of NoFit State; Paul Ralley, Orit Azaz, Toby Philpott, Tim Hudson, Mark White, Lisa Every, Mark Robson, Claire Sain-Ley-Berry, Tom Bennett and Phil Blight.

The Riverfront and Newport Council, RWCMD, Marigolds and Lynn Hoare, Pro line and Drew Corter, Addhock Designs, PT Winchester, Jacobs Market, Tim Hudson for Floor Plan, The volunteers and work placements for all their hard work, UNA Exchange, Ozone, Hazel, our children and all our friends and family.

### Programme design:

[andrew@andescape.co.uk](mailto:andrew@andescape.co.uk)

### Programme Photography:

Seventh Wave Creations

### Contact Details:

NoFit State Circus

PO Box 238

Cardiff CF24 0XS

**02920 221330/340**



*Fear is the only thing that keeps me safe  
I'm afraid of losing my children*

*I'm afraid of the fear that lives inside me*

*The unknown is my greatest fear  
But why would anyone be afraid  
of something you don't know?*

*I'm afraid of losing faith*

