

nofitstate

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NOFITSTATE CIRCUS WAS ESTABLISHED IN CARDIFF IN 1985 AND IS NOW CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ITS UNIQUE BRAND OF CIRCUS.

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OG' sees the company celebrating in style with a bigger and better show, and for the first time a tour that is predominantly outside the UK. Flying the flag for Wales, nofitstate is the leading contemporary circus in the UK and is looking forward to taking the rest of Europe by storm.

In the last twenty years the company has produced a wide range of national tented tours, some large-scale events, some huge site-specific community productions, and many workshops and community projects in Cardiff, South Wales and across the UK. The company is proud to have developed an international profile whilst remaining deeply rooted within its local community. Last year ImMortal2 won a string of awards from Edinburgh Fringe to Tarrega Festival, it was critically acclaimed and was the company's biggest ever touring production. The tour was hugely successful, raising the company profile, attracting new audiences and a whole heap of new promoters.

Welcome to the rooftops, hold on to your safety lines and enjoy what promises to be an exhilarating journey through the handbags and high heels of humanity.

"Ditching traditional circus trappings of animals and clowns, this intoxicating, tumultuous production for all ages by the Cardiff-based NoFitState Circus climbs towards headier theatrical realms." The Times

"Providing the powerful background to this visual assault of the senses is a fantastic music score, performed by a first-rate band." The Stage

"Cirque du Soleil without the Disney and the disinfectant. Images to turn your bones to silk and dust, this is the future of British Circus." The Guardian



A nother traveller arrives to join the roof people of the gothic quarters. The roofpeople move about like night-raiders through a labyrinth of ladders. TV aerials and orphaned breeze-blocks littering the edge of the roofline. There are millions of these places scattered around the world: caves, ships, abandoned houses, disused churches and ex-slaughterhouses, where people stay a short while after death before moving on to immortality.

Like all the other places, the roof-tops are a half-way station between life and death. A temporary home where people have a last chance to live life to the full: to love, laugh or dare, to be sad or angry to lose or find their innocence, to overcome fear or to straighten up unfinished business while they are gently eased from mortality to immortality.

There are many things human beings need to learn before they can embark on that final journey. Firstly, only when they have accepted everything about themselves and their lives, will they be ready to leave behind what they know and love doing their desires and passions and material things. Then they will need to learn to leave the weight of their body behind gently though, step by step, little by little without rushing. Otherwise the process would be too scary and harsh. But above all, they will have to learn to recognise a moment of happiness. Our lives are made of fragments and they say that if you focus on one single moment of happiness in your life, eternity fails to go by. It might be a movement, a smile a touch, a step in time and in the right direction. a song, a cluster of meaningless words like the drooling of babies in a cot, anything that might give you that unmistakable surge of happiness a sense of weightlessness and rising up; a wholeness and peace where all the little mechanisms of being connect in one single artefact. What if the moment of happiness comes and passes you by? What if you don't recognise it?

One needs training and the rooftops have their rules. William, the angel in charge, has the hard task of helping human beings wade through all the stuff humanity is made of so that they will be free to concentrate on one thing at a time. They will then be able to recognise that one particular moment of happiness, wholeness, weightlessness, and not let it pass by Only then will they be able to journey to another life, leaving William to wait for another batch of new arrivals

Set in the future, but deeply rooted in the past, the rooftop is a flight, a fantasy, a leap into the unknown. Or is it just the way the world is? - A mish-mash, a slagheap, an emporium of stuff without a price and sell-by date where we have the very hard task of recognising our moment of happiness?

the story of **ImMortal** the roof people





I tis the engine. That is what it is. It shoves and pushes whatever is happening out there. Without it then it's only music. A lot of it. The images give the music direction. Circus makes sense because of the music. It is part of a longstanding tradition. The two elements, performer and music, enter into a tent and together fulfil the creation of an instant of eternity. This is what they can do.

themusic

If someone asks me, in the initial stages, how, when, where, which, then I might look at them bemused and reply that if I were to define the search or the shape then I would lose it immediately. These things are flighty creatures, shy of too much light too soon and simply disappear if we are too eager. It is a gentle coaxing, more a listening as if the listening itself were the key to the door – a room of inventions.

I need to project a sense of trust. To the musicians, to the director, to the cast – we are inventing things. But when does it begin, how does it end, how many repeats are there in the piece? I don't know. That all depends. Anything is possible. You are safe. The music is live and for this very reason it can never let you down. We follow the act. It is an equation of time. An equation where time experienced is the bringing together of a musical score, a movement in space, a luminous definition of perspective.

This is the third ImMortal season. Elements of each move like time travellers from one to the other. I build up a nostalgia – a nostalgia towards the future; towards future things. It gives hope. Last year the orchestra was called *"Rudi Darkheart and the Tears of Frustration"*. This year it may end up as *"The Brilliant Again Orchestra"*. BAO. I like that word. BAO.



Creative Team

01 Ali Williams, Producer - Ali Williams is a co-founder of nofitstate and has spent the last 20 years in nofitstate. She performed in many shows with the company and across the globe and has been committed to training the community. Since her post grad in arts management she has hung up her sparkly leotard and now spends too much time in the office. With Tom she has produced many shows including Sci-Circus, and ImMortal. For Ali life is a circus!

02 Tom Rack, Producer - For the last 9 years Tom has been putting together the ImMortal Project, working on the design of the spaceship, it's infrastructure, the development of the "nofitstate style" and booking out the tour. 10 years ago you would have seen him on stage and until last year you would have found him on tour, keeping the show on the road. Now the company keeps him locked up back at base planning and developing the next exciting stage in nofitstate's ongoing success. Tom is missing the touring life but loving being home with his family. He has promised to visit regularly.

03 Firenza Guidi, Writer/Director -

Milan-born Firenza Guidi is writer-director and performance creator. Trained as a performer/singer with international masters including Dario Fo, Philippe Gaulier, Ludwig Flaszen, Enrique Pardo, Ida Kelarova and as an actress at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Cardiff where she regularly directs and teaches. She is Artistic Director of ELAN founded with David Murray in 1989. She has spent the last fifteen years directing and creating performances in Wales, Europe, USA and India. Her MA Film from Newport International Film School. "If There Was Water" won the NAHEMI award for Creative Student Film Maker 2003 and was nominated for Best Direction and Best Sound at Efresh Student Film Festival in Aberystwyth. She was Guest Director for the National Youth Theatre of Wales from 2000 to 2002 and in 1999-2000 she was Senior Judith E. Wilson Fellow at Cambridge University where she created IN MY MOUTH, a project inspired by the silencing of radical women during Cromwell's revolution. This adaptation of ImMortal is the fourth time that Firenza has directed nofitstate.

04 Peter Swaffer Reynolds, Music

Director - Multi-instrumental composer who has worked with circus, silent movies, theatre, dance and site-specific events since the mid eighties. He spent formative years in Europe and Scandinavia learning from some of the most excellent musicians of improvisation and composition. His references are traditional. Everything is familiar. The edge comes in the renegade ability to redefine and mould melodies out of this history of brilliant things.

05 Adam Cobley, Lighting Designer - Adam is back to do the lighting design and to train up our new lighting operator. He is not coming on tour this year and will be sorely missed.

06 Rhi Matthews, Designer - Trained in Theatre Design at the RWCMD she has worked extensively in both design and performance. She has worked with Theatre Gwynedd, Sherman Theatre, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Arts Play Umbrella, designed for the Millennium Dome, Edinburgh Fringe and National Youth Theatre of Wales. Rhi worked with North Wales Stage on Ta Ra Teresa as Costume Designer winning Best Welsh Play 2002 and as Costume Designer for Frida and Diego, which won Best Design award at the 2003 Welsh Theatre awards.

07 Carl Davies, Costume Designer -

graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2004 and since then he has worked extensively for many different theatre companies throughout England and Wales. Carl enjoys designing, both for small and large scale theatres, he also enjoys the challenges of site-specific theatre and is glad to be working with nofitstate. Carl was recently selected as a finalist for the Linbury Biennial prize for stage design.

Samuel Jornot, Specialist Circus Director -

In the middle there was Samuel Jornot who helped and advised us with some of the skills development in ImMortal2 some of which is clearly evident in this new production. He toured as a circus artist for over 10 years in Europe and USA. He then taught at the French National Circus School where he invented the artistic vocabulary for rope and silks. He then went on to direct Cirque du Soleil. He currently teaches and leads masterclasses throughout Europe.

Performers

08 Barnz (Barnz) Rigger and

Counterweighting - Barnz' innate fear of heights has led him naturally into a life of still walking and rigging. Since the circus ran away with him, he has managed to stop blowing himself up and is now one of the best-dressed counterweights in the business.

09 Gareth Bailey (William) - (Aerial

Choreographer) Solo Rope / Doubles rope -Gareth has been performing for over fifteen years. Career highlights include: spending three hours in an origami box at the ICA, dangling on a rope at the Royal Variety Show and ordering Chinese food in a Mike Leigh Film. He is based in Bristol where he trains and teaches corde lisse (the art of climbing ropes).

10 Shaena Brandel (Meave) Aerial Hoop -

Performing as part of an aerial duo for the last eight years, Shaena has appeared as (amongst other things) a showgirl with Giffords Circus, a tropical bird at legoland, a pickpocket in a film, a clown in Dubai, and a fallen angel at the Tate Modern. She is very happy to be back touring in the flying saucer for a second year. It is the most physically demanding serious fun she's ever had.

11 Lynn Caroll (Annie) - (Coach and Circus Direction) Doubles Trapeze -

Legendary Lynn first joined nofitstate Circus 18 years ago on a journey to Southern Spain in a converted bus that slept 8 people. After becoming legendary while touring street, cabaret and circus shows in Australia and Europe, she rejoined nofitstate on the Treasure Island tour. She has taught at The Circus Space in London and has abandoned real life for another summer of performing and making sure everyone trains hard.

12 Jaakko Tenhunen (Jonatan)

Hand-balancing - I started my journey from the deep green forests of Finland. After having my fair share of sauna and silence I headed to the Ukraine to learn the secrets of hand-balancing. Like the British, the Ukrainians are very fond of. tea, so I dich't come to Wales unprepared. Let by our Italian matriarch and reinforced by me, we will knock your socks off this year (if we're not on tea break!)

Performers cont.

13 Simon Darling (Leon) Tightrope -

This year Simon is no longer a virgin queen in contemporary circus, however he is a virgin in some things. He is very excited to be on tour with nofitstate for the second time. Enjoy the show.

14 Marco Fiera (Marcello) Trampete and

Boxing - After mastering the subtle skill of taxidermy Marco decided to stuff it and become a human cannon ball. At the end of last years tour he landed at the National Theatre only to discover that this was far more of a circus and he was happier in high heels.

15 Howard Morley (Victor) Deputy Tent Man, Boxing and Counterweighting -Seeing both Achaos and nofitstate

Circus at Glastonbury Festival in 1992 Ginted Howie's passion for the circus. Six years later he joined the company and has, so far, refused to leave. He loves driving big vehicles, swinging a sledgehammer, drinking tea and digging holes. He is afraid of nothing (except the dark and heights, oh and deep water).

16 Lynn Routledge (Eilish) Swinging

Trapeze, Doubles Rope - Lyn trained in Bristol with Mike Wright. Her career highlights include: playing the Spirit of the Vixen in "The Cunning Little Vixen" at The Royal Opera House, being commissioned by Harrods to create an aerial installation and playing Daisy the Cow (front part).

17 Bryony Black (Delores) Hula Hoops -

After meandering through a plethora of jobs from nursing to dog walking, Bryony began all this malarkey with the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2000 olympics in Sydney. She then decided to take it seriously and did a BA specialising in hula-hoop, lasso and general jumping . up and down. She did her first tour of duty as the nofitstate hula girl, loved it and is back for more.

18 Rhi Matthews (Sofia) Cloudswing -

At any given opportunity Rhi gets great pleasure from throwing herself 30ft in the air and adding to a diverse range of skills that she picks up along her varied journeys of running away with the circus. She is very happy to be touring with the pink and silver spaceship as pink is her favourite colour!

19 Kevin McIntosh (Calvin) Doubles

Trapeze / Strop - From fire-dancing to stilts, to the heights of the silks and corde-lisse, my blood still jumps. The need to push it all further grows. Always just wanted to be able to lift my own weight. Now I find myself high in the air dangling by my feet, the expectation has grown. And my Gran makes the best Easter buns in the Caribbean.

20 Zoe Munn (Lilith) Group Rope,

Trampete and Silks - After a life of petty theft, swindling and soliciting, Zoe decided that the circus was more glamorous than pole dancing or the study of bats. Can be spotted potty training "*Elvis*" and cooking the books.

21 Anna Sandreuter (Miriam) Group

Rope, Silks, Trampete and Bungees - On the third year with nofilstate I am starting to wonder whether the acquired immortality will last forever. Even a degree in contemporary circus couldn't have prepared me for the life on tour with the flying saucer, but I haven't had enough yet! Look out Europe we're flying your way.

22 Kate Thomas (Isobel) Singing Hoop -

Kate wants to do everything and be everywhere all at the same time. Fortunately she seems to have been granted more than one lifetime in which to squeeze it all in. Ah, the joys of immortality.

23 Gustav Lundstrom (Lukas) Chinese

Pole - Gustav is a performer with a background in troupe gymnastics, aerobatics, Thai boxing, freestyle fighting and juggling. Haven given up competitive martial arts, he now focuses on entertainment work. Gustav trained as a circus performer in Sweden.

Musicians

24 Annette Loose, Sax - is returning to nofitstate as she couldn't stay away any longer. This year she is a musician leaving behind sound advice for the delight and privilege of joining the band.

25 Dylan Leonard, Drummer - Dylan is another fantastic musician that started life as the touring sound engineer.

26 Serge Ngando Mpongo, Double

Bass - Bass, double bass player and producer, Serge has performed with prominent African artists (e.g. Manu Dibango and Miriam Makeba) and has produced albums e.g. Coco Mbassi's CD nominated for a BBC award in 2002. Holder of a classical teaching diploma he also performs Jazz, Folk and Pop.

Crew

27 Adrian Quinn, Production Manager -Adrian left the Reduced Shakespeare Company to join us, so from little to large, thanks to Adrian's long lists the show does indeed go on. He is paid to make you only see the pretty bits. In fact he has to keep the crew happy if he wants to be paid. In short Adrian's job is to take away the pain.

28 Tim Adam, Box Office / Front Of

House Manager / Tent Man - Tim first joined nofitstate in 1990 as tent man. Since then he's had a few holidays away working at Circus Space and for the Royal College of Organists. Tim's now back on the road as your smiley/grumpy front of house manager. Please let him know how much you enjoyed the show.

29 Pete Donno, Bar and Company

Manager - An international tour / production manager with massive amounts of experience...none of which prepared me for the circus! However, and strangely, camping and caravanning holidays in Eastern Europe did! If anyone on the outside is reading this please tell Mum I'm O.K. and that love is the energy of Immortality, and it conquers all. Thanks.

30 Helen Fagelman, Stage Manager -

Helen is overjoyed to be back for the third season of ImMortal as there is nothing she likes better than stomping around a wet field. After many years touring continental Europe with Skinning The Cat, she is pleased to be returning. It's like coming home.

31 Joe Marshall, Site Electrician -

Learning his electrical skills wiring sound systems into lampposts, Joe spent years falling asleep with his head inside bass bins around Europe. When falling off stilts and trapeze began to hurt his knees he decided to raise a family and play with electricity. He is happiest playing trombone suspended upside down.

32 May Robinson, Lighting Technician -

Not long ago May decided to grow up and get a proper job, instead she became a lampy. Mothlike she was attracted by the promise of sparkling lights and bright colours only to find herself abducted by the circus. Coming from a background of rock and roll she is well equipped for the long hours, late nights and unmistakably glamorous lifestyle.

33 Chris Hills, Sound Designer - is back!!! After an absence of some years, 10 in fact, he has nearly achieved the down to earth approach to circus that is the best i.e. "Don't go in the air". From flying trapeze artist to musician over the past thirty years and now to the most humble position on the tech tower, Chris is now the sound engineer for this year's production of ImMortal.

34 Jax Agnesson, Crew - Left in a drawer by Fairies, in exchange for all the pens and lighters he has since been employed in construction, demolition and outdoor pursuits, where he was required to throw young criminals off cliffs into the sea. He is currently in nofitstate to do anything.

35 Dave Rook, Deputy Bar Manager -

David is known as the monkey of the troupe. He is a valuable member of the crew group as well as a performing steward in the show. David is a frustrated performer who hopes to gain more skills and experience to improve in the future. David has an HND in physical theatre and has been performing his own stilt walking interactive show for about 7 years. He was also part of a touring street theatre show called "The Frame".

36 Tanc (Jonathan Ingram) Mechanic and Metalwork - Enterprising engineer extraordinaire, Tanc, elected bizarrely to join of his own free will. His subversive plan is to change the nofitstate colour scheme to red. Late night grinding, endless welding and clearly bonkers designs are some of the things he wishes to be remembered for.

37 Chevvy (Siobhan Morrison) HGV

Driver and Metalwork - Chevvy has many strings to her bow, although is mainly to be found behind the wheel of some large vehicle or other. This year, along with stewarding she is also assisting in the engineering dept.

38 Fatina Cummings-Hunt, Catering

Manager - If the performers are the hands and legs, with the crew being the backbone, then the kitchen is the heart of the circus and Fatina's heart keeps growing. We couldn't do without our wonderful Caribbean cook. Bring on the rice and peas.

39 Liz Phippard, Catering Assistant -

This is Liz's first tour with nofitstate. Most people leave home to get away from their parents. Liz has just left her son "I said if he didn't leave home by the time he was 19 then I would!"

And back in the office: Alison Woods - General Manager Sam Minas - Administrator

Children And Young People - We tour from April until October and of course our kids come with us. They manage to get out of school to learn some lessons in life as well as doing homework on the road under the supervision of our qualified teachers. Some of them have been touring since they were babies. The kids themselves are highly skilled at circus.

With thanks to ...

Many people have supported nofitstate Circus for many years, without them we just couldn't exist. Our heartfelt thanks go to them especially the community of Cardiff. We want to say a particular thank you to the Arts Councils of Wales and England. The Welsh Assembly Government The Vale of Glamorgan County Council Lissy Moore (video production) Liz Lavender Andy Davies Orit Azaz Tim Hudson, Mark Robson, Lisa Every, Phil Blight, Toby Philpott, Mark White, Paul Ralley, Nasia Sawar, Royal Weish College of Music and Drama Sherman Theatre St. David's Hall, International volunteers and the UNA exchange, Mark White, Ron and Gloria, Splott State Circus Business in Focus, Finance Wales, Wales Trade International, Wales Arts International Chapter Arts Centre Circus Space Martin Fuller Steve Nick and Bev at Avolites, Llwyfan Gogledd Cymru, Paul and Chris at A-Plant, Iolo Lavender and Tess White

We would also like to thanks the children who have given one or sometimes both parents over to this project: Mabel. Isaac, Charlie Wyatt, Winston, Valentine, Bella, Blaze, Leah, Elvis, Felix, Suzana, Seren, Alfie, and Keever.

Also a special thanks to everyone who has been involved in the ImMortal project along the way. If you have helped us and we forgot to mention you in person please forgive us, and thank you for all your help.

Questionnaire

We want to make sure our event is as good as possible for everyone. Your feedback is important. Please take the time to complete this form and either hand it to a member of nofitstate Circus or post it to the address on the bottom of the form. At each venue we will pick a lucky winner who will receive a free ImMortal2 T-shirt.



| ABOUT THE SHOW | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|-------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| 01 | Did you enjoy Im№ ⊖ Yes, a lot | lortal? O Yes | () No | ○ Not at all | | | | |
| 02 Would you recommend ImMortal to your friends or family? | | | | | | | | |
| 03 | 03 How did you hear about ImMortal? O Poster O Leaflet O Letter O Internet O Newspaper O Recommended by friend, etc. Other please state | | | | | | | |
| 04 What part of ImMortal did you enjoy the most? | | | | | | | | |
| 05 What part of ImMortal did you enjoy the least? | | | | | | | | |

| ABOUT YOU | | | | | |
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| O Under 16 | ○ 16-18 | ○ 19-25 | | | |
| 0 26-45 | ○ 46-59 | 0 60+ | | | |
| 03 Do you consider y | ourself to have | e a disability? | | | |
| ◯ Yes | () No | | | | |
| 04 Have you come to | this event: | | | | |
| On your own | ⊖ With | partner | ○ With friends | | |
| ○ With family | ⊖ With | other people | | | |
| What's the total nu | umber in your g | group? | | | |
| 05 Are you: | | | | | |
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| 06 When was the las | t time you atter | nded a circus' | ? | | |
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| 09 Are you happy to | receive informa | ation about fut | ure events? | | |
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With a network of 200 offices in 110 countries, the British Council is the UK's international cultural relations organisation, building mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries.

The British Council in Ireland works in partnership with a range of Irish and UK organisations and individuals, developing projects from initiation through to delivery, in Arts, Science, Governance and Society. Recent highlights of our programme work include:

- the European premiere of DV8's Just For Show at the O'Reilly Theatre, Dublin (co-presented with the International Dance Festival)
- the Tricycle production of Bloody Sunday: Scenes from the Saville Enquiry at the Abbey Theatre (co-presented with the Dublin Theatre Festival)
- FunDaMental and the Mighty Zulu Nation headlining the Festival of World Cultures in Dunlaoghaire
- Science & Society lecture series featuring an inaugural lecture by Nobel Laureate Sir Harry Kroto as well as contributions by Brendan Kennelly, John Banville and cosmologist John Barrow, presented in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy
- Britain & Ireland website launched (www.britainandireland.org) an online magazine featuring contemporary conversations, news and articles on British-Irish relations

The British Council is delighted to be working in partnership with **Cork Midsummer Festival**, the **Junction Festival** in Clonmel, **Earagail Festival** in Donegal and **Draiocht** in Blanchardstown to present the Irish premiere of Welsh based Circus company **NoFitState**. As an example of cutting edge contemporary high quality new work from the UK, you cannot get much better than this and we hope, like us, the show will leave you breathless, astonished and with an overwhelming desire to run away and join the circus!

For more information on the work of the British Council, check out our website at www.britishcouncil.org/ireland or if you would like to receive a copy of our regular newsletter, contact madeline.boughton@ie.britishcouncil.org to join our mailing list.



Barry, Wales, UK www.nofitstate.com 19 April - 22 April

The 60 Jahre Ruhrfestspiele, Recklinghausen, Germany www.ruhrfestspiele.de 7 May - 21 May

Cork Midsummer Festival 2006, Cork, Ireland www.corkfestival.com 20 June - 25 June

The Clonmel Junction Festival, Clonmel, Ireland www.junctionfestival.com 4 July - 8 July

Earagail Arts Festival, Co. Donegal, Ireland www.earagailartsfestival.ie 13 July - 16 July

Draíocht Anniversary Celebrations, Dublin, Ireland www.draiocht.ie 24 July - 29 July

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK www.edfringe.com 7 August - 27 August

Arhus Festival, Arhus, Denmark www.aarhusfestuge.dk 6 September - 9 September





