

# NOFIT

# STAIR

# CIRCUS

present  
Totally Wicked  
non-animal  
comedy circus  
theatre!



Bella 74

# Comedy Circus Theatre

Comedy, circus and theatre make *NoFit State Circus* one of Britain's most exciting and original performing companies today. They are breaking down the barriers between art and popular entertainment, creating their own unique and accessible form of theatre.

Established in 1985 *NoFit State Circus* combines a broad range of circus skills with a strong plot and live music to create a show just as suitable for adults as for children. A non-animal circus-theatre company with a totally original style.

But what is circus-theatre? It is physical theatre taken to its limits. By

**NoFit State Circus "the finest exponents of British circus theatre" The British Alternative Theatre Directory 93-94**

its very nature it incorporates drama, mime, dance, comedy

and circus skills. The result is a unique style that is both humorous and moving, breathtaking and thought provoking.

Each year the company tour a different production. These draw on both popular culture and classical drama to discuss topical issues in an exciting and dramatic fashion. 1994's show "Totally Wicked", based on the Faust legend, is a modern story of the price man must pay for selling his soul to the devil.

Their 1995 spectacular show, another adaptation of a well-known tale, is already being devised. *NoFit State Circus* will once again be attempting to make sense of the madness surrounding us.

Touring from May to September in their own colourful Big Top the Circus performs up to 2 shows a day of their 90 minute circus-theatre spectacular.

Functioning as a non-profit making partnership the company has grown from small beginnings. But sponsorship from ASW Holdings plc and financial assistance from Cardiff City Council, as well as recognition of the company's work by the Welsh Arts Council helped establish *NoFit State Circus* as Britain's leading New Circus.

# NOFIT STATE CIRCUS

*PRESENT*

## *TOTALLY WICKED*

### THE CAST

JOHN FAUSTUS  
BRUCE (ANGEL), GOD  
WILL, NICK (YOUNG DEVIL) JUNIOR  
MEPHISTOPHELES  
DEVIL, CHERRY MAY  
DEVIL, LUST & OTHERS  
KEYBOARDS, CRADLE  
CRADLE, LUST,

TOM RACK  
MARK MORREAU  
PETER GREGORY  
ALI WILLIAMS  
LUCIE RUTSAERT  
TINA CLAY  
CHRIS HILLS  
PETE LAMB

### THE PRODUCTION- BASED ON THE FAUST STORY

WRITTEN AND DEvised BY

DIRECTOR  
SET DESIGN  
TECHNICIAN  
STAGE MANAGER

COSTUMES  
TENT / FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER  
ADMINISTRATION

POSTER & ART WORK

CLAIRE HUDMAN AND  
NOFIT STATE CIRCUS  
JAMIE GARVIN  
ANGELA EVANS, TOM RACK  
CHRIS HILLS  
JOHN REILLY,  
SALLY WOZENCROFT

K.T.

TIM ADAM  
PETE GREGORY, TIM ADAM,  
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REBEKAH TOZER



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Welcome to the NoFit State Circus big top and the world of Britain's premier circus theatre company. If you haven't seen NoFit State before sit back and get ready for a circus with a difference. There are no animals or red nosed clowns in this production but you'll be in for lots of breathtaking skills, excitement and laughs all the same. NoFit State Circus present a theatrical story into which are woven the human circus skills, music and comedy.


This is circus for the future: entertaining, thought provoking and original

## Totally Wicked

based on the story of Faust, adapted from Goethe and Marlowe. A tale of temptation and the struggle between good and bad, about a man who sold his soul to the devil for fame, power and greed.

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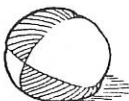
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## COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES *(in their own words)*

**Lucie Rutsaert** : Lucie was once a little Belgian gymnast. After one year at Fooltime and three seasons with Skinning The Cat she is still small and Belgian. Now a happy bouncy acrobat she loves trying the red nose on. Lucie wants everything especially to be loved.

**Tim Adam** : The circus soul boy who is still sitting on the dock of the bay. Your funky front of house manager, four years with the circus and he still hasn't got a sense of humor- So What!

**Peter Gregory** : Peter is a forward thinking person who lives in the past! He winters in a damp office and summers in a caravan, quite why, how or what for he is not sure but in a past life he was involved in founding NoFit State, worked with Circus Moon, has a psychology degree and has been street entertainer of the year with Risky In Pink.

**Sally Wozencroft** : Sally Spends much of her time moaning about the fact that Pete spends much of *his* time in the office. This apart she has worked her way up through the rank and file of NFSC to become their *one and only* stunningly attractive Stage Manager. Recently graduated from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School she is open to any better offers! Sorry Folks. XXX

**J.C.(Ginger)Reilly** : The newest and oldest, one time trans-Atlantic sailor, currently dreaming of circumnavigation and other forms of self-abuse, wonders what he's doing with canvas of this type. Got roped in by friends because he's a better stage manager and better looking than Sally. (Really he comes a lot cheaper.)

**Kate E** : I got into costuming as I have been performing for 8 years in circus and children's theatre and someone had to make the costumes. I'd studied a bit of technique at art school the rest I've learnt as I have gone along. It is enjoyable to see a character developing out of two dimensional materials and with the variety to choose from its like making dreams come true.

**Mark Morreau** : Treading the same path as John Major but in the opposite direction- Mark abandoned accountancy for the Circus. Having trained at Fooltime Mark worked at Snapdragon Circus, on several Circus Space productions and with Zippo's Circus. Before joining NoFit State this year Mark's performing heights have been with Juliette Hardy as the aerial duo "Suspended Animation". Mark is the second oldest and third baldest member of NoFit State.

**Pete Lamb** : (Pilo Vulgaris) Indigenous, occasional migrant. Easily recognisable by the lack of cranial plumage. Habitats include trucks, cradle and more recently trapeze. Often to be found inverted but regularly assumes upright position for food. Diet includes stakes, nuts, bolts and crosswords. Courtship rituals includes flamboyant strutting and preening. Can be tamed if caught but does not make good house pet...

**Tina Clay** : Art school was no good and playing sax for a rock band grew dull. Digging bones was fun- but it wasn't a life. I never wanted to be a trapeze artist- didn't give it a second thought "till the circus came to town" - then BANG- I was sky hooked. Nothing will get me down from here now. Just remember- don't look down...!

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## COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES (Continued)

**Clare Hudman** : Ten years ago Clare lent Ali her first set of bean bags. Clare is a Bristol based actor, visual artist and mother-to-be. In addition to her devising skills she is also well known as an inspiring workshop leader and an encyclopedia of games. She never got her bean bags back

**Tom Rack** : Tom Rack's amazing buttock to face size ratio pointed to a performance career from an early age (both are clearly visible from the back row). Readers will be thrilled to learn of his progression from liquids to solids and the near completion of his potty training. He sings nice, too.

**Ali Williams** : I am the creative genius and driving force behind NoFit State. As you will see my performance and circus skills make the others look like beginners. Modesty forbids me from telling you too much about my illustrious past apart from the bits in war zones in Nicaragua, a torrid affair with the star of the Cuban State Circus and my physiotherapy qualification. I even thought up the Dream Boys sequence!

**Chris Hills** : Stupid, reckless, tattered and torn. Aerialist, musician and technician. Left the rigors of circus life after 14 years on the road to start a family but after 14 months has once again come under the wing of NoFit State to exercise his skills and ski the duties of fatherhood.

**Jamie Garvin** : Jamie has never directed a circus before and has only managed to do it by convincing NoFit State that he's done a lot of work in theatres but isn't a luvvy. For a fuller biography check out Jamie's work with Hijinx Theatre, Made in Wales Stage Co., Everyman Theatre or the Sherman, all of whom he is being a luvvy with in 1994.

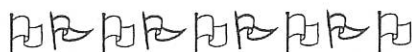
**Angela Evans**: Since leaving the Welsh College of Music and Drama Angela has been surviving as a freelance designer working in many diverse fields. Recent jobs include Set designs for a musician, costumes for a drag queen and exhibition work for Debenhams. In her spare time Angela enjoys Ballroom Dancing and supporting the "Karen Carpenters Appreciation Society" .... Now what time did you say come dancing started?



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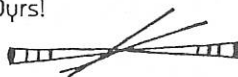
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## A HISTORY OF THE STATE (part 1)

Many years ago I read a poster advertising juggling workshops at the local students' union and decided to give it a try (anything was better than studying). I found a like-minded bunch of people and was soon smitten. For the next couple of years you couldn't even have a cup of tea without a bean bag dropping in.

Being impoverished students we soon hit upon the idea of busking; so with no real idea of what it entailed, we painted our faces, went down the town centre and juggled. Three hours later we were only 17p the richer and went home despondent

Undeterred, about 25 of us formed Balls Up Jugglers (no relation to the group with that name now) and got some routines together. We touted our show for free to local day centers, youth clubs, Live Aid, Children in Need, Rag Week etc. Oh the joy of fire blowing off the back of a lorry.... only to find the wind is blowing your way! None of us had had any proper performance training and in some ways this helped as we had no preconceptions or worries about being on stage. There is nothing like actually performing to find out what does and doesn't work. Over the next couple of years Balls Up grew, building its own dome tent, putting on large pantomimes with casts of twenty plus and even starting to get paid work.

In 1985 college was finished and it was time to decide what to do in life. Some people got proper jobs, but five of us decided we liked this performing lark and would try it full time. Thus NoFit State Circus was born and off to the enterprise allowance we went. A winter school and village hall tour followed by a summer of street and festival work saw us through our first year. We were lucky to get involved with Arts Play Umbrella early on and they passed a lot of bookings our way. This relationship developed into a Big Fun marquee tour that saw NoFit State and other companies touring the UK providing summer fun day packages to festivals and local authorities.

1991- time for us to grow, buying our own big top and providing large scale circus theatre productions. That winter we begged, borrowed, hassled and pleaded eventually securing a sponsorship deal with ASW ( A Cardiff steel manufacturer). This combined with a large overdraft and other debts gave us enough money to buy a second hand marquee, seating, lights and HGV. Many frantic months were spent on the phone to bookers pleading for work and come summer 1991 we had a four and a half month tour. We came out of this broke but with our debts paid off.

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wrote to the Arts Council (even if they didn't change their minds-keep sending those letters),

## A HISTORY OF THE STATE (CONTINUED)

Since then we have operated on similar lines gradually improving equipment, building new seats, trucks, members and most importantly a better show.

Touring a marquee and show is a difficult business, new circus does not get proper funding or recognition, despite being accessible and popular with a wide spectrum of the population. Much of our year is spent administrating, fund raising, building and fixing, often leaving little time to train and rehearse. The cost of putting the tour on the road is astronomical and hard to get back.

There is something special about working and living with a good bunch of people, working on your own ideas and the audience response to a good show. We have a formula that works for young or old wherever we perform- and hopefully you'll see us around for a few years yet.

*(The above article first appeared in The Catch magazine)*

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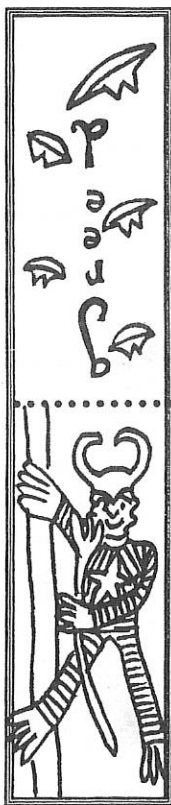
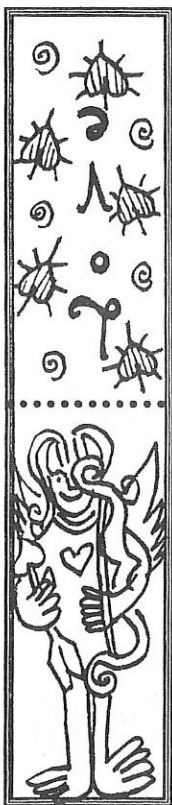
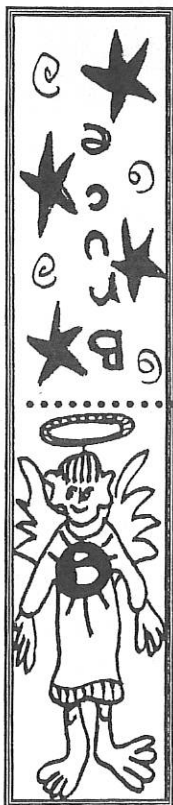
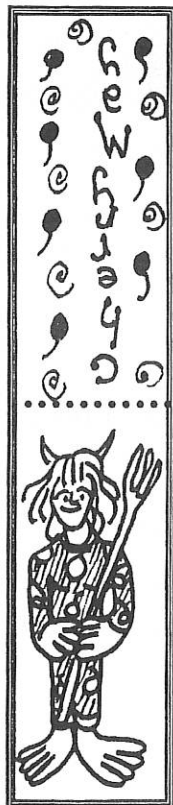
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# Totally Wicked



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- Warrington 19-22 May.** Birchwood Forest Park, Off Moss Gate, Birchwood, Warrington. Shows Thurs 19th 7pm, Fri 20th 7pm, Sat 21st 1pm & 5pm, Sun 22nd 3.30pm.
- Paisley 27-28 May.** Barshaw Park, Glasgow Rd, Paisley. Fri 27th 6pm, Sat 28th 12.30pm & 3.30pm.
- Bath 2-6 June.** Royal Victoria Park, opp Royal Crescent, Bath. Thur 2nd 3 & 7pm, Fri 3rd 3 & 7pm, Sat 4th 3pm, Sun 5th 3pm, Mon 6th 7pm.
- Twickenham 9-12 June.** Twickenham Green, Twickenham. Thurs 9th 7pm, Fri 10th 7pm, Sat 11th 3pm & 7pm, Sun 11am & 3pm.
- Cardiff 16-19 June.** Roath Park Centenary Celebration, Roath Rec. Roath, Cardiff. Thurs 16th 7pm, Fri 17th 7pm, Sat 18th 3pm & 7pm, Sun 19th 3pm.
- Glastonbury 24 - 26 June.** Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts. Fri 24th 6.30pm, Sat 25th 6.30pm, Sun 26th 6.30pm.
- Chepstow 1-3 July.** Chepstow Festival, The Dell, Chepstow Castle, Chepstow, Gwent. Fri 1st 1.30, Sat 2nd 2pm & 6pm, Sun 3rd 3pm.
- Eastbourne 13-17 July.** Performance times to be confirmed.
- Horsham 20-24 July.** Performance times to be confirmed.
- Kingston 28 July-1 August.** The Fairfield, Fairfield Rd, Kingston-upon-Thames. Thurs 28th 3pm & 7pm, Fri 29th 3pm & 7pm, Sat 30th 3pm & 7pm, Sun 31st 3pm, Mon 1st 3pm & 7pm.
- Oxford 6-10 Aug.** South Park(Top End), Headingly Rd, Oxford. Sat 6th 2pm & 6pm, Sun 7th 2pm, Mon 8th 2pm & 6pm, Tue 9th 2pm & 6pm, Wed 10th 3pm.
- Edinburgh 14 Aug - 3 Sept.** Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The Meadows, nr Buccleuch Street. 14-20 Aug daily at 2.30pm, 22 Aug - 3 Sept daily at 5.30pm.
- Manchester 10-11 Sept.** Venue to be confirmed. Sat 10 September 10.30 am & 2.30 pm, Sunday 11 September 10.30 am & 2.30 pm.



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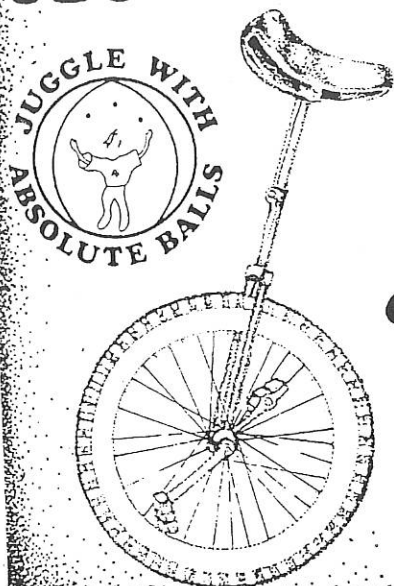
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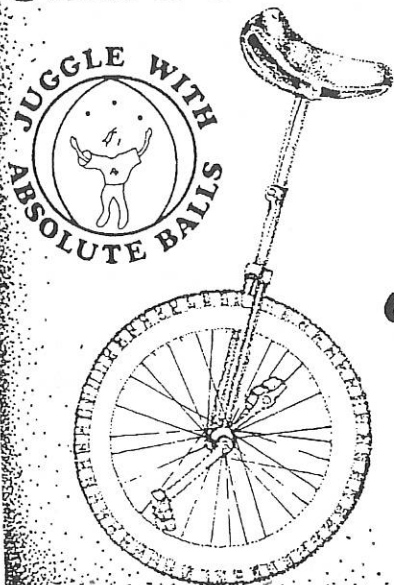
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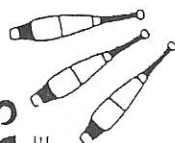
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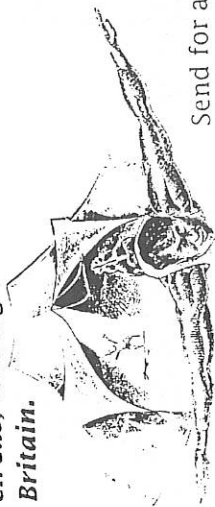
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Williams, Circus Space, Ceci, Louise, Heather, Dr Slime and his amazing cheese, Phill and

# ZIPPO'S ACADEMY of Circus Arts

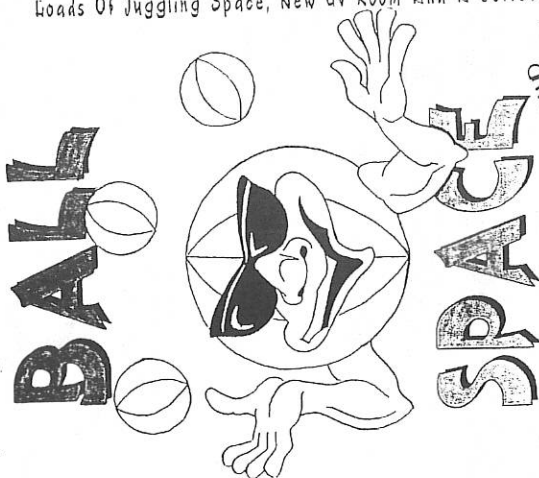
ZACA puts circus training where it should be, on the road with the circus! Offering an intensive six months' tuition based with Zippo's Circus, a real non-animal circus, touring around Britain.



Send for a brochure - write to:  
Verena Cornwall, Manager  
ZACA, 174 Stockbridge Road,  
Winchester, Hants, SO22 6RW, UK  
Tel: 0962 868092

12, The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex  
Phone Fax: 0243 530110

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## **We've been in a NoFit State**

As well as the all action, high drama of circus-theatre *NoFit State Circus* also run many community projects and workshops, sharing their circus and performance skills and passing on their years of experience.

In 1993 national TV coverage and work with the Welsh National Opera firmly established the company as innovative and original performers.

**"You can't help but like them" David Adams  
(The Guardian Drama Critic) The Slate,  
BBC Wales**

Circus, drama and music, together with the magic of a circus big top and the technical resources of a theatre had finally come together.

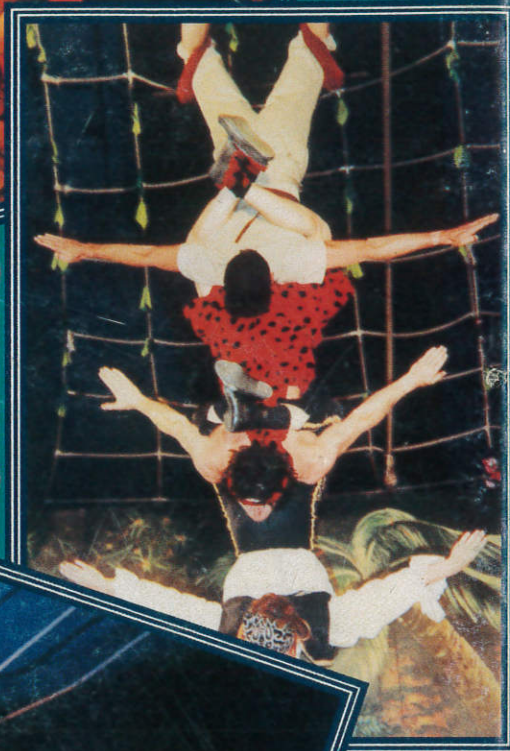
The 350 seater Big Top creates a magical atmosphere, and the Circus is always keen to encourage other performers to use it. It makes an excellent venue, ideal for all types of entertainment. It is a fully equipped performance space with theatre PA and lighting, disabled access and wheelchair space.

For further information of the company's work contact their administrator Tim Adam at the address below.

**NoFit State Circus  
166 Habershon St, Splott, Cardiff CF2 2LE  
Tel: 0222 488734**

**"Astonishing energy and an infectious  
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