



BUZZCUTS.

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Controlled Falling Project

Gen Elmes | Saturday Oct 6th, 2007 | 0 comments



Circus troupe This Side Up delivers the whole package and then some with their new show. Controlled Falling Project is a boisterous and

beautiful exploration of the extraordinary heights the human body can reach. Under the direction of Robin Laurie, one of the founding members of Circus Oz, the show is expertly crafted and skilfully balances creative innovation with old-fashioned entertainment, all the while standing upside-down on one hand.

Humour, brilliance and camaraderie shine through core performers James Brown, Casey Douglas and Christian Schooneveldt-Reid as they catapult into each other, crash through the air, and pull off breathtaking acrobatic stunts with a cheeky smile. Every moment is

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exquisitely choreographed and magnificent to watch. Bodies soar, tumble and splash across the floor in sync, always bouncing back with another surprise tucked up their sleeves. The performers use a range of unconventional circus equipment that showcases the breadth of their talents – stacked chairs have never been so captivating.

The only scene that seems to diverge slightly from the show's overall character is an aerial act by guest artist Lisa Bickerton. While her routine on the tissu (two long strips of cloth suspended from the ceiling) is visually compelling and very gracefully performed, it feels as though it is made of a different fabric from the contagious larrikin energy of the show as a whole. Nonetheless, in a pursuit to reach great performative heights it would seem strange to exclude aerials, and the tissu is an excellent choice for its stunning twists and drops; a true exercise in controlled falling.

The simple yet quirky set design, smart costumes and well-selected soundtrack complement the live percussion by David Joseph perfectly. Controlled Falling Project is a rare beast – a circus performance that is equally successful for its theatricality and athleticism. This is a must see show for both seasoned circus folk and anyone willing to witness a highly entertaining embodiment of human endeavour.

link: [Controlled Falling Project details](#)

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