



FAMILY / FINLAND

# The Artist

Circo Aereo

Performed by Thom Monckton

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**9-14 March 2020  
MAIN THEATRE, AC ARTS**

**Duration** 1hr, no interval

**The artist tries to begin his creative process but the inspiration is completely lost. The focus strays, the blank canvas terrifies, and the tools have been lost to the bowels of the atelier.**

**Performed by** Thom Monckton

**Direction** Sanna Silvennoinen

**Lighting design** Juhu Rahijärvi

**Sound design** Tuomas Norvio & Atte Kantonen

**Costume design** Kati Mantere

**Consultant** Eveliina Hämäläinen

**Technical Operators** Jonny Dickie & Rachael Head

**Producer** Pieta Farrell

## Q & A with Thom Monckton

### Who is Thom Monckton?

Thom makes physical theatre. He doesn't know what perambulate means even after reading the definition in the dictionary. He now lives in darkness in an ice-age commonly referred to as Finland. He has a penchant for locking himself in stairwells, and in his spare time he writes elusive answers to direct questions. He is at least 30 years old and is probably from New Zealand. He has also become quite confused writing about himself in the third person...

### Who inspires you and why?

Pretty much all my circus artist friends. They work hard and even if some of them are really successful they still keep their feet on the ground (figuratively speaking). I aspire to be a successful artist and a nice human, so I find people who are well-balanced inspiring.

### What would you do to make a difference in the world?

Turn most of the current world leaders into videos of cats. They would inspire much less xenophobia, and be much more aware of the general population.

### What is your biggest fear before going on stage?

It changes every day. The sense of fear pre-show is irrational so it just attaches itself to whatever it can at the time. Sometimes it's to do with the show but other times it latches on to other things like being afraid I've had too much coffee, or that maybe I left the door open or the lights on, or that tomatoes have forever lost their taste. Mainly it's just your average chaotic nonsensical panic.

**THOM  
MONCKTON**

PERFORMER



***"This sack of bones stacked around 179cm high, came into existence around 1985 and for some reason decided that the accompanying DNAcid would be best put to work as a circus artist."***

Thom Monckton grew up in Patea, South Taranaki, New Zealand. He trained in circus arts at CircoArts in Christchurch and then at the physical theatre school of Jacques Lecoq in Paris. He has been based in Europe since 2006 and currently lives in Helsinki, Finland.

His debut full-length solo show *Moving Stationery* has received awards including Best Theatre, the coveted Best of Fringe Award at the New Zealand Fringe Festival 2012 and Best Male Performer at the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards the same year. *The Pianist* has been a ticket-selling hit with sold-out shows in many theatres and festivals across the world, and *The Artist* was nominated for the Total Theatre Award for Physical Theatre in Edinburgh 2018.

**CIRCO AEREO**

COMPANY

Circo Aereo is an international contemporary circus group active since 1996. Currently among the flagships of Finnish cultural exports, the group has performed at several distinguished festivals and theatres in over 30 countries. Circo Aereo's barrier-breaking and open approach to the various forms of the performing arts mesmerises and astonishes audiences the world over.

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