

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE and THE FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS

OPERA HOUSE AND THE FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

Mr Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury, last night announced a three-year partnership between Sydney Opera House and the Flying Fruit Fly Circus to deliver performance and training opportunities for both organisations.

Australia's national youth circus, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus is the country's only full-time circus school. It provides students with training, performance opportunities and professional pathways into circus companies around the world. Established in the regional city of Albury in 1979, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus draws students from across the country, and it's widely considered a national treasure.

The three-year partnership will enhance cultural, educational and entertainment experiences for the people of NSW through:

- An emerging circus artist performance program, *Stunt Lounge*, made by young artists for young audiences
- Producing, production and arts management training for circus students via the Opera House
- Using circus skills training to develop creativity and team-building skills in the Opera House staff
- Public workshops using circus skills to encourage creativity, collaboration and risk-taking in children
- Digital classrooms, taking Fruit Flies and Opera House experiences to students across Australia through connected classroom technologies

Member for Albury Mr Greg Aplin said: "This partnership represents the coming together of flagship arts organisations in Sydney and Albury, bringing the best of regional NSW creativity to audiences in Sydney, NSW and across the country. The Flying Fruit Fly Circus has helped grow arts and culture in Albury, training some of the country's best circus performers. This partnership will give talented young performers from regional NSW the opportunity to perform in one of the world's iconic venues and learn from some of Australia's great arts professionals."

Sydney Opera House CEO Louise Herron said: "'The Fruities', as they are affectionately known, are a world-renowned circus company that showcases the next generation of Australian talent. This partnership creates a wonderful platform for these inspiring young artists, supporting both their performances and their career development. Also, it's great that visitors to the Sydney Opera House will have the chance to see the Fruities fly."

Executive Director of The Flying Fruit Fly Circus Richard Hull said: "It is very exciting to be announcing this new partnership, which opens up so many opportunities for our young performers to develop their talent and passion for circus and to grow as independent artists. It is terrific that the Opera House is so strongly supporting our national youth circus, and in that way truly championing regional and youth arts. The Opera House and The Fruit Flies are both committed to creating and presenting high-quality work that inspires young audiences to engage with the performing arts, so this should be a very happy marriage."

The Fruit Flies' smash hit *Circus Under My Bed* is returning to Opera House this month for the school holidays, transforming the Studio into a Big Top from 1 – 12 July. Since its premiere as a critical and box-office success during Summer at the House in 2014, the show has gone on to tour Australia and will this year tour to Turkey.

Circus Under My Bed spreads the joy of circus with a nod to vaudeville, all thanks to performers under the age of 19.

"This is family circus at its very best. Highly recommended." **Sydney Morning Herald**

"Gasp inducing acrobatic feats... the performers captivate and inspire." **Daily Telegraph**

"The country's next generation of circus performers link impressive acts with a warm story... inspired." **The Australian**

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