



## **Expression of interest: New Artistic Leadership for Circus Oz**

The Board of Circus Oz are seeking expressions of interest from suitable candidates to be part of the recruitment process for new Artistic Leadership.

### **CONTEXT**

Circus Oz is embarking on its next exciting chapter and, while the pandemic has been the most dramatic of interruptions, at Circus Oz we have embraced this moment and invested time to reimagine our future. It has challenged us to explore the point of difference circus will contribute in a very different world post pandemic with a focus on risk-taking, joy, and innovation; identifying the extraordinary in the seemingly ordinary.

In addition to the pandemic there have been other drivers pushing change too.

Prior to COVID-19 the company had been slowing in relevance and results. Major funding partners, the Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Victoria, placed the organisation on Fair Notice in 2017 to keep a watching brief on the company's transformation progress. To assist further, the government has recently undertaken a review of the organisation to develop recommendations and advice for changes in the context of new needs and opportunities.

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS**

The Board is keen to progress the appointment of new Artistic Leadership to help design and deliver artistic and public programming outcomes from mid 2022 onwards.

To provide the best environment for Artistic Leadership requires the results of the governments' review to be finalised. This is due to be completed in the coming months.

The recruitment and appointment of Artistic Leadership will commence shortly after. In the interim, the Expression of Interest is designed to progress connection with potential candidates and streamline the later steps of application, interviews, and appointment.

### **ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

The Board recognises the way artistic programming is being led across the performing arts industry has many different models. Contemporary responses have seen dual artistic roles, different responsibility levels within organisations, singular vision, or a facilitation focus.

For Circus Oz, we have origins in a collective and ensemble-centred creation of productions. However, we haven't had an ongoing ensemble since 2015. In rebuilding touring and production momentum, post pandemic, it is unlikely we will have an ensemble for several years.

More important than the technicalities of structure, the expectations of Artistic Leadership are to ensure the artistic and creative program:

- reinforces the company's trailblazing, surprise and innovation of form that have been consistent; drivers of the artists involved since the organisation's inception;
- offers audience relevant and entertaining experiences;
- amplifies diversity, authenticity, and connection between artist and audience;
- stylistically celebrates humour and the inspiration of the extraordinary; and
- utilises the capacity and requirements of a major performing arts company to present new works of scale and increase access through new models of engagement.

## **SUMBISSIONS**

To be considered for the Artistic Leadership opportunity for Circus Oz's next era, candidates (individuals or combined parties) are to submit a video talking to their interest.

Candidates may like to cover (but are not required or limited to):

- ideas on how you might see the position in structure and focus;
- what you would bring to the position;
- what you understand is the pre-existing and potential role Circus Oz has in the national circus ecology-what is the value-add for the artform;
- the way you would approach the ethos of ensemble; or
- how the company can ensure dynamic, relevant, and diverse experiences through artistic choices.

Candidates will not be discounted for being ambitious in a direction that does not align perfectly with the Board's vision and strategy. This is an opportunity to get to know candidates and set-up a clear understanding for negotiating and clarifying differences at the next step of recruitment.

Videos should be no more than 10 minutes and production values are not an area to be focused on. For example, the video could be created by simply opening a new zoom meeting and hitting record.

Links to videos should be emailed to [jobs@circusoz.com.au](mailto:jobs@circusoz.com.au) by **5pm 27 September 2021**.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact Penny Miles, Executive Director on 0418 253 843 for a confidential conversation.

More detailed information on the company's history, financial and resource base, and strategic plans will form part of the pack available at the next stage of recruitment.