

women*scircus

Winter Creative Development Workshops

Join award-winning performance makers for an energising weekend of creative exploration!

This two-day immersive experience **across 12 and 13 July** kicks off our 2025 creative development series with a deep dive into ensemble-based performance. This will be the first in a series of creative development blocks working with renowned performance makers, performers and directors Christy Flaws, Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews.

In these workshops throughout the year, members will be guided in experimenting with new group devising techniques and tools for self expression using rhythm and voice in a safe and supportive environment. Over immersive blocks, participants develop trust, push exciting boundaries, discover new joys and create magic together.

The aim of this creative development series across the year is to explore themes which will eventually inform a 2026 performance work, celebrating 35 years of Women's Circus.

So, what exactly is involved? Let's break it down.

You need to be able to attend all four workshops over the Saturday and Sunday, with session four bringing together ideas from the full weekend.

Creating Collaboratively - with Christy Flaws

Discover the power of group devising through playful, collaborative exercises designed to spark creativity and build connection. A dynamic group class exploring co-devising and ensemble techniques through improvisation, movement, and collaborative creation. Participants will learn co-devising activities, build trust, and generate original material as a group. Ideal for those interested in collective performance-making.

Sunday 12th and 13th July: 10:00 – 12:00

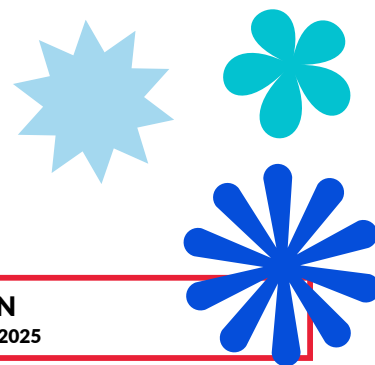
Rhythm and Voice - with Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews

Explore the expressive potential and connection between voice, rhythm and movement in this energetic class combining vocal exploration and percussion. Experiment with blending voice and sound with physical practice. No experience necessary.

Saturday 12th July: 13:00 – 15:00 and Sunday 13th July: 13:00 – 15:30



Whether you've performed before or are completely new to ensemble work, this weekend will leave you inspired - equipped with fresh tools for devising and a deeper understanding of how movement, voice, and sound can intersect in performance.



SAT 12/07/2025	SUN 13/07/2025
Creative Development Workshop 1/4 Creating Collaboratively <i>Christy Flaws</i> 10:00 - 12:00pm	Creative Development Workshop 3/4 Creating Collaboratively <i>Christy Flaws</i> 10:00 - 12:00pm
Creative Development Workshop 2/4 Rhythm and Voice <i>Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews</i> 13:00 - 15:00pm	Creative Development Workshop 4/4 Rhythm and Voice <i>Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews</i> 13:00 - 15:30pm

Commitment: You need to be able to attend all four workshops. Bring your lunch each day and between workshops we will share a meal and connect as a community.

Cost: \$140 full | \$112 concession for all four sessions (8.5 hours of creative development). Payment plans welcome, please contact us by email to info@womenscircus.org.au or by phone (03) 9687 3665.

Meet your facilitators



Christy Flaws

Over the last 17 years Christy has performed, facilitated workshops and directed community performances and arts projects both independently and for a variety of organisations including Circus Oz, Westside Circus, The Arts Centre, Polyglot Theatre, The Womens Circus, Kids Own Publishing, Fairfax Youth Initiative (Artistic Director 2016/17) and Footscray Community Arts Centre.

In 2008 Christy and Luke O'Connor formed Asking for Trouble - an multi-award winning and well loved theatre company using circus, physical theatre and clown to make charming and ridiculous, award winning works including Bubblewrap & Boxes, KAPOW! FoRT and The Bottle Collector, these shows have and continue to be toured extensively Regionally, Nationally and Internationally.





Bec Matthews

Bec is a Percussionist, Drummer, Performer, Teacher, Musical Director, Composer, Sound Designer and Noisemaker. They are one half of Independent art company Fat Fruit and are a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts where she studied orchestral percussion.

Bec has over 20 years experience as a music educator and creative arts facilitator. They were the Head of Percussion at the Peninsula School where she taught for 10 years. Bec also taught at Loreto Mandeville Hall for 10 years and is currently the percussion teacher at Footscray City Primary School.

Bec has extensive experience running workshops within a theatre making context with Melbourne Theatre Company, VCA, University of Melbourne, The Women's Circus and Footscray Community Arts Centre. Bec has had the privilege to run workshops in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and Queensland. Bec's teaching practice is holistic with equal emphasis on wellbeing and musical development.



Sarah Ward

Sarah is a cabaret artist, actor, writer and one half of independent arts company Fat Fruit. Creator of cabaret character Yana Alana and Queen Kong, Sarah was awarded a Helpmann and along with her creative team have 11 Green Room Awards, the Adelaide Fringe Award and the Melbourne Fringe Award for cabaret.

Sarah's passion is in the creation of subversive, political work that challenges gender stereotypes and the status quo through her larger than life stage creations.

Sarah is a singing teacher and songwriting facilitator, having worked with Artplay, The Fruit Fly Circus, Polyglot Theatre, The Women's Circus, VCA Music Theater School, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Footscray City Primary School, Clunes Primary School, ECHO collective, The Hackett's and workshops in many remote communities while touring with Circus Oz. She is passionate about the power of song writing for healing, education and self-confidence.

We hope you love this series and join us in July!

women'scircus

