



TESTIMONIALS

Social Circus Program

"I have not experienced any other space as welcoming and embracing of a full range of peoples experiences and identities. The Womens circus has offered me a creative outlet that has expanded my connection with myself and others" **55+ years cisgender woman, Member 20+ years**

"The supportive environment in which so many people of a range of backgrounds and identities can come together, feel welcomed and included and uplifted. Women's Circus to me has always been a safe-space to try new things, to develop skills, to fail and for that to be okay, to laugh and share and celebrate yourself and others. The trainers, members and management don't simply say "this is a safe space" and think that will just magically make it so; everyone is actively involved in creating a community that fosters learning, acceptance and creativity, seeking to dismantle structures that act as barriers to access and equity. The company is committed to ongoing improvement and growth and as such is simultaneously warm and comforting, and brave and passionate". **18 - 25 year old cisgender woman, identifies as LGBTQIA+.**

"WC is a safe and supportive environment. Without WC I would not have survived the last 12 months - that's not hyperbole, but actual truth." **41-55 year old non-binary person, identifies as LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent**

"...The Women's Circus was transformative for me in my early 20s when I was really struggling with mental health problems. Through my involvement with Women's Circus, I became physically strong and really involved in a great community - which was amazing for my physical and mental health". **25 - 40 year old cisgender woman, identifies as LGBTQIA+.**

"As a neurospicy, non-binary individual with an extensive trauma history, I deeply appreciate the supportiveness and safety. Sal Frances (among others) is incredible. Sal has been a game-changer for me in their support of me as I have sought to build a new relationship with my body post trauma." **41-55 year old non-binary person, identifies as LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent**

"Not only do I feel it is a safe space in terms of circus practice, I feel bodily autonomy and consent are emphasised throughout classes" **26 - 40 year old cisgender woman, identifies as LGBTQIA+.**

"The feel good vibes, being part of a supportive community, the ability to face my fears in a supported safe environment...I have previously described my Women Circus classes as 'trauma busting'. This is probably the main reason why I continue..." **40 - 55 year old gender diverse person, identifies as LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent and having a disability and chronic illness.**



"I was reluctant to commence circus classes, but it's been a really healing journey for me because the values are imbued in training and the incredible approach of the trainers and participants" **41 – 55 year old non binary person, identifies as LGBTQIA+.**

"I am able to learn circus skills, develop trust and overcome psychological barriers in a warm community that holds a safe space for me – and all participants – and accepts and encourages all members where they're at. Because of this the door is always open at WC to take part.. and taking part ends up opening doors to many new activities, possibilities and connections." **25 – 40 year old cisgender woman.**

"One thing I noticed from the start was how kind and inclusive the whole group was (is). I felt welcomed and accepted from the beginning. There is mutual respect among the community, while also allowing lots of laughs and good times. I also feel safe and in good hands when I train." **25 – 40 year old cisgender woman.**

"At every interaction with staff from the circus, I have felt these values upheld and embodied. I keenly observed 'supported risk' when I sat in on my kids' first session – with the equipment everyone is encouraged to use, and have heard from the stories, how my kids have progressed on different equipment (and their sense of pride). The circle at the beginning and introduction and informed use of pronouns have greatly contributed to my kids' sense of belonging, he says he feels like "people really see me at circus." **Parent/carer of youth participant**

"My daughter has social anxiety and is unafraid at Women's Circus, all the stories we hear from the kids at circus demonstrate they feel emotionally supported by the trainers who set and hold the tone of the room. I imagine this deep work being done by the adults in the room means that emotionally unsafe behaviour between the kids is less likely." **Parent/carer of youth participant**

"My daughter has been doing classes at Women's Circus for seven years. She is not particularly athletic or talented, but the strength and physical confidence she has gained due to the mutually supportive and non-judgemental environment created by the instructors been invaluable. We are grateful for the focus on helping kids improve, the lack of assessments or levels to achieve, and the term-based program. This is a valuable contrast to the profit focused world of kid's activities in general." **Parent/carer of youth participant**

"My older child is neurodiverse and although he loves moving his body in fun ways, finds structured class environments really challenging. We are yet to get through more than 1 or 2 classes of gymnastics, swimming, taekwondo, footy etc. Circus was a completely different experience. The key difference was the trainers who were responsive, flexible, accommodating and more, and they were very much appreciated." **Parent/carer of youth participant**



Creative Program

"[The Creative Program] is a really unique part of the WC offer, and is such a fantastic tool for building community across disciplines, generations and identities."

- 26 - 40 year old, Member Survey 2023

"It is a great privilege to have this opportunity to perform regardless of age and impairment in such a wonderfully supportive environment."

- 55+ years old, Member Cabaret performer 2023

"Doing the over 50's show has helped me thrive in my body. I feel prepared for the rest of my life. 50 feels like a hill to get over but I'm not feeling that with this show"

- Small Acts of Resistance performer 2025

"Working on Momentum with Women's Circus allowed me the space to be my authentic self while providing the opportunity to perform new things in new spaces. I felt accepted, heard and appreciated from day one. This to me is priceless and tricky to find a good balance while working productively, particularly in a group dynamic - the team really complimented one another."

- roya the destroya, Momentum performer 2022

"I was trusted from the beginning. That's priceless. That feels like it was one of rarest chances to do something big. Very proud that I did that. Very grateful for all the support, friendship and guidance."

- Member Cabaret performer 2024

"I've valued the the creative program very highly as long as I've been a member, enjoying regular participation in performances (annual performances, cabarets), whenever I've been able. It's enabled me to use skills developed in class and to express myself creatively."

- 55+ years old, Member Survey 2024

"It is such a treasure of an opportunity to perform! To have it so open to so many participants and still well facilitated. Even when I'm not doing classes I still go to cabaret each year, which helps me stay connected with the community and support it. For me, it is my goal to perform skills I learn at Women's Circus - where else would someone like me get the chance to do that? It's not just the chance, it's the type of performance you're able to do, to a particular type of audience that is so inclusive and accepting - it is a rare and precious thing!"

- 41 - 55 year old, Member Survey 2024

"I am in awe of what you do at the Women's, often taking the more challenging path to insure others get to learn, up skill and grow. This is entirely what I'm about and it was so energising to see you all do it on such a big scale. Thank you for everything, I feel a new joy for our sector as a result of working for you. It's been so very empowering for me."

- Malia Walsh, Cabaret Director 2024

"The performances by these amazing people - with ages ranging from 20 to over 70 - were sensational. The acts were professional, brilliantly executed, humorous and entertaining, and interspersed with a wonderful array of random, running-joke characters...The entire show was a blast and a joy to watch, and was absolutely loved by the audience. Bravo."

- Bill, audience member Cabaret 2023

Sector Development and Support Program

"It was a fantastic experience to be in the space! The project would not have gotten off the ground without it. There's such a shortage of rehearsal spaces in Melbourne at the moment, not to mention the luxury of having an option for an exclusive space to workshop and develop new shows. It allowed us to dedicate the time to really explore and figure out what we want this new show to be." – **Natalia Frijia, GO/NO GO**

"It was so brilliant to have access to a space where it was easy to focus and delve into a good day's work. It made all the difference that we could store our props and apparatus there to begin again the next day. Women's Circus were always extremely helpful, flexible and up for a chat which was very welcoming. We would absolutely love to train here again, and the fact that it was in-kind support to our company is what made our rehearsals possible in the first place." – **Aleshnee, 13 Eggs**

"Women's Circus provided YUMMY with a well equipped and spacious rehearsal room prior to our large-scale engagement with Midsumma Festival in February 2024. The staff at Women's Circus were helpful, passionate, and extremely supportive. With our cast including women, parents, queer performers, and emerging artists, we felt welcome and included. The engagement allowed us to prepare for our performance with free rehearsal space, which ensured the fee our booking went to artists directly and was not absorbed by production costs. Thank you Women's Circus! Love YUMMY " – **James Welsby, YUMMY**

"The Space Connect program at Women's Circus has been integral to the creation and rehearsing of my show 'Hana Fiesta's Disco Fiasco'. Both of its seasons so far have been self funded and without this incredible resource I would really have struggled to make the work. The Space Connect program has helped me create the work without breaking my budget and also provided a safe, well resourced circus space to play with ideas and also meet other circus artists. In fact, meeting other artists in the space who are working on a show for the same season has been super helpful to create professional and personal connections and to exchange ideas and information as producers too. The team at Women's Circus are supportive, friendly and have been excellent to communicate with through the processes of booking and using the Space Connect program and I am very appreciative of their help and this wonderful resource. Thank you!! – **Hana Fiesta, Disco Fiasco**

"Our cast has just closed their first Adelaide fringe season and I just wanted to reach out and say a huge thank you to Women's Circus. Having such an accessible and inviting training location has made this process so much more enjoyable as an emerging producer and company. We have jumped around a lot in the last 6 months finding training spaces and I can say whole-heartedly that Women's has been my favourite location. Thank you so much for creating the space you have and for your willingness to support our company when we needed a rehearsal venue." – **Krystal Meakins, Darling and Daring Productions**



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