NICHOLAS CLARK MANAGEMENT

BY A THREAD

SEVEN ACROBATS AND 30 METRES OF ROPE

Long spools of white rope run through pulley sheaves and wrap around bodies, explicitly connecting the artists' movements above and off the ground. Like the booms and sheets of a sailing ship the performers are hoisted and swung by one another to create striking tableaux and breath-taking dynamics. The actions of one acrobat affect and implicate the movements of others in a mesmerising negotiation of cause and effect.

By A Thread offers rich visuals of inventive aerial acrobatics from some of Australia's best circus artists. The relationships between ensemble members on stage mimic the everyday relationships we have as human beings. The acrobatic ensemble is the vehicle through which ideas of risk and trust are explored, creating an intimate audience experience around the dangers and joys implicit in engaging with others.

More than mere bodies in space, By A Thread is an exploration of tensions physical, emotional and relational.

“AN INTRICATE AND MESMERISING PIECE OF ART”

★★★★☆ ARTSHUB

THE CAST

Directors: Charice Rust & Jonathan Morgan
Dramaturg: Zebastian Hunter
Lighting Design: After Dark Theatre
Costume Design: Emily Barrie & Stephanie Neoh
Sound Design: Lee Stout

Original Creation:

Ela Bartilomo, Sarah Berrell, Emily Chilvers, Ryan Darwin, Amanda Lee, Jonathan Morgan, Hamish Norris, Jordan O'Brien and Charice Rust.

Charice Rust

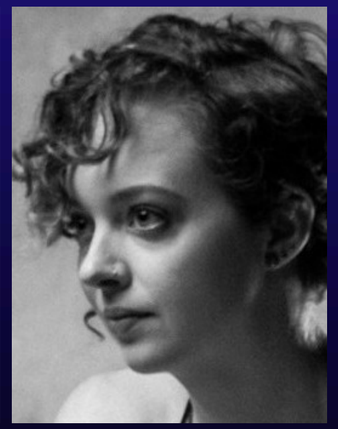
Jonathan Morgan

Nina Robertson

Cassia Jamieson

Latonya Wigginton

Easa Min-Swe



Ellen Grow

★★★★★
The Advertiser
★★★★★
This is Radelaide
★★★★½
The Arts Hub
★★★★½
The West Australian
★★★★★
The Clotheline
★★★★★
HIFI Way
★★★★½
The Music
★★★★½
Australian Arts Review

TOURING HIGHLIGHTS

2025
Gyeonggi Arts Centre, SOUTH KOREA
Nelson Arts Festival, NEW ZEALAND
Sold out season – Edinburgh Fringe Festival, SCOTLAND

2024
International Tour, CANADA
Showcase Presentations at Hong Kong PAX, HONG KONG

2021 – 2023
National Australian Tour Regional Cities, AUSTRALIA – continued

2021
Castlemaine State Festival, AUSTRALIA
Geelong Arts Centre Summer Sessions Festival, AUSTRALIA

2020
National Australian Tour Regional Cities, AUSTRALIA
Adelaide Fringe Festival, AUS

2019
Xintiandi Arts Festival, Shanghai CHINA
Regional Victorian Tour 10 regional cities, AUSTRALIA
IPAY, Philadelphia UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REVIEWS

"A beautifully choreographed exploration of tension — physical, emotional and relational — that weaved and soared through a wide spectrum of contexts and tones."
The West Australian

"The whole event is like a visual symphony, a kinetic piece of art"
The Barefoot Review

"It's a bonnie, wee show, full of spectacle and heart. It reaffirms the idea that any rewarding endeavour between two or more people – whether romantic, in friendship, or acrobatic – begins and ends with true eye contact. Beautiful."
The Australian Arts Review"

"One of the most tender moments you'll see in a circus."
The Scotsman

"Damn brilliant show"
The Music.com

"One Fell Swoop troop push the limits of their craft and deliver a spellbinding and mesmerising show that is a sheer delight to watch"
The Advertiser

"A group of exceptional humans pushing the limits of their art"
The West Australian

ONE FELL SWOOP

One Fell Swoop uncover the intrinsic metaphor within circus to create stark yet beautiful audience experiences. Based in Melbourne, the company combines ambitious concepts with visceral physicality, bringing audiences the invigorating mix of joy and risk inherent to group acrobatics.

One Fell Swoop creates work that combines a high level of circus skill with rich dramatic perspectives, specialising in traditional theatre shows and large-scale outdoor circus installation works. The company brings the dynamics of acrobatic ensemble work and the relationships within it to circus performance structures.

Recent performance highlights include Xintiandi Festival in Shanghai, IPAY in Philadelphia, Hong Kong PAX, festivals in New Zealand and France, touring Canada, as well as regional touring throughout Australia.

One Fell Swoop connects a highly skilled ensemble with innovative apparatus, where classic techniques are used in expansive ways and new ideas are made possible.

ONE FELL SWOOP CIRCUS

'THIS IS A WORK OF ART
IF I COULD GIVE
IT SIX STARS
I WOULD'
★★★★★
THE ADVERTISER
2018
ADELAIDE FRINGE
WINNER
WEEKLY AWARD
CIRCUS AWARD
Fringe WORLD
-AWARD 2017-
WESTRALIA
NOMINEE
fringe
Sell-out show
2025

BY A THREAD

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Audience:	General Public – All Ages
Content Rating:	G
Duration:	50 Minutes
Touring Party:	7 Performers + 1 Technician
Formats:	Proscenium Arch, Outside, Studio & Hall
Bump In:	Min 6 hrs based on pre-rig of lighting & rigging
Bump Out:	1.5 hrs
Dressing Room:	Dressing room with mirror.
Rider:	Where tech and/or show times cover a meal please include vegetarian options & tap water

EQUIPMENT

Supplied by the show:
30m X 32mm three-ply pure cotton rope
2 X large diameter pulleys
6 X 1.8m roll-out acrobatic flooring or equivalent

STAGE DIMENTIONS

Minimum 8m wide by 6m deep
Minimum height to rigging points 6m

SOUND

Sound is run through QLab, we can supply a laptop if required.
Mic set side in OP wing for pre-show announcement.
Unless otherwise specified the venue will provide an operator.

LIGHTING

Please see separate plan.
Unless otherwise specified the venue will provide an operator.

FREIGHT

Gross show weight: 140kg
Flys in: 1x 23kg Oversize bag - 1.9m long, 1x 30kg and 4x23kg check-in bags.

BY A THREAD

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

RIGGING

We hang two large diameter pulleys from two rigging points that need:

300kg Safe Working Load each

Static hung at between 6-10m from stage level, visible to audience. If the roof is higher than 10m we require a truss that is guyed to be stationary. If you have large beams in your roof but aren't sure please get in touch and we can usually make something work.

3.5m to 4m separation sharing centre. The space between the pulleys needs to be clear of fixtures for our rope to run through.

The pulleys need to be accessed in the pre-set of each performance to thread the rope. This can be with an EWP, we can rig a rope system so the pulleys can be lowered in and out, or with direct climbing access to the points.

We also use a floor tie-off point in the OP wing level with the rigging points. This can be a point in the theatre structure, we also commonly use an EWP as ballast. Minimum SWL of 200kg.

- Please see sample stage plan and rigging diagram below
- Show tours with their own in-house rigger

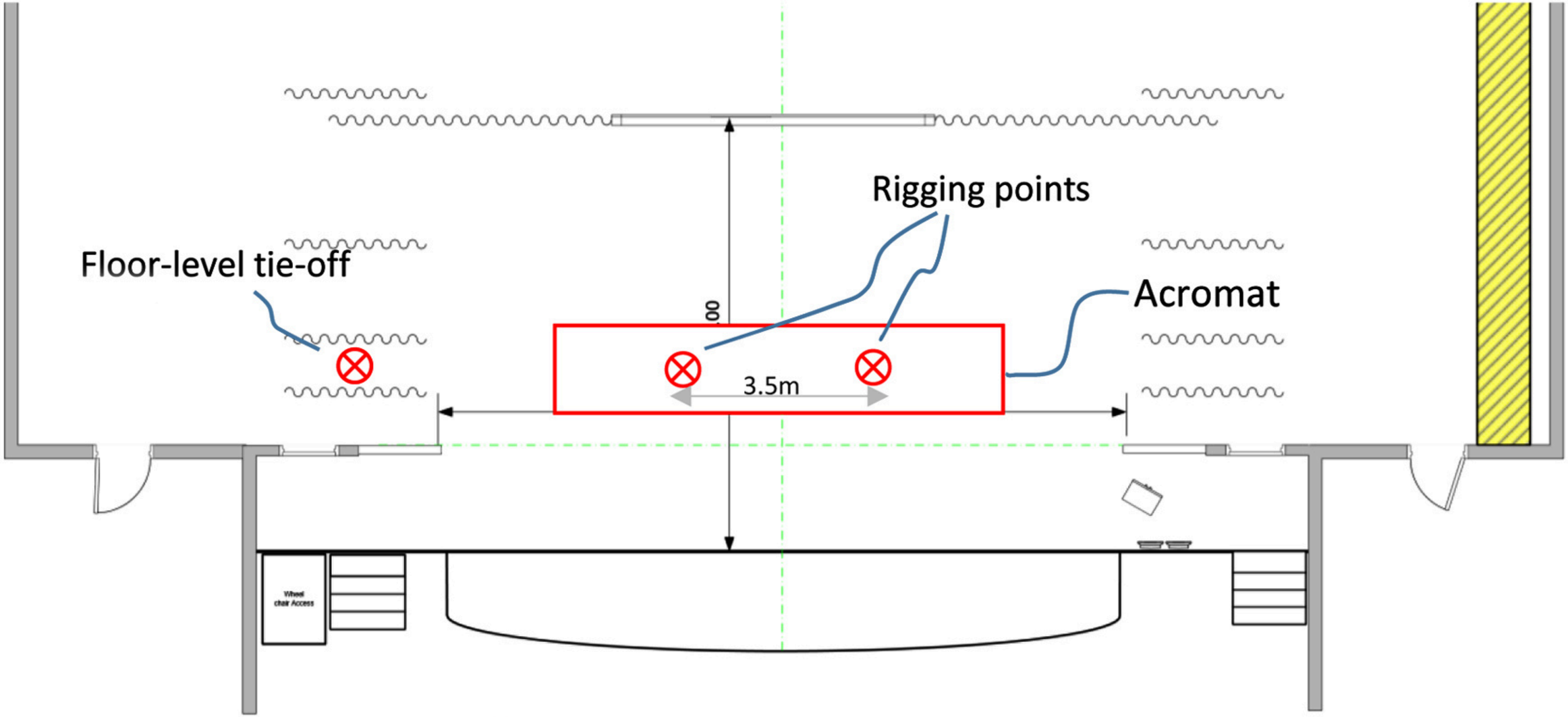
Example Show Schedule:

Day 0 - Pre-Rig
Venue Pre-rig of lighting elements and rigging elements where required

Day 1 - Load In & Preview/Opening
09.00 - 10.00: Bump-in equipment + rig OFSC pulleys
10.00 - 15.00: Lighting Focus & Plot
15.00 - 18.00: Technical Rehearsals
18.00 - 19.00: Break
19.00 - 20.00: Show Call
20.00 - 21.00: Performance 1

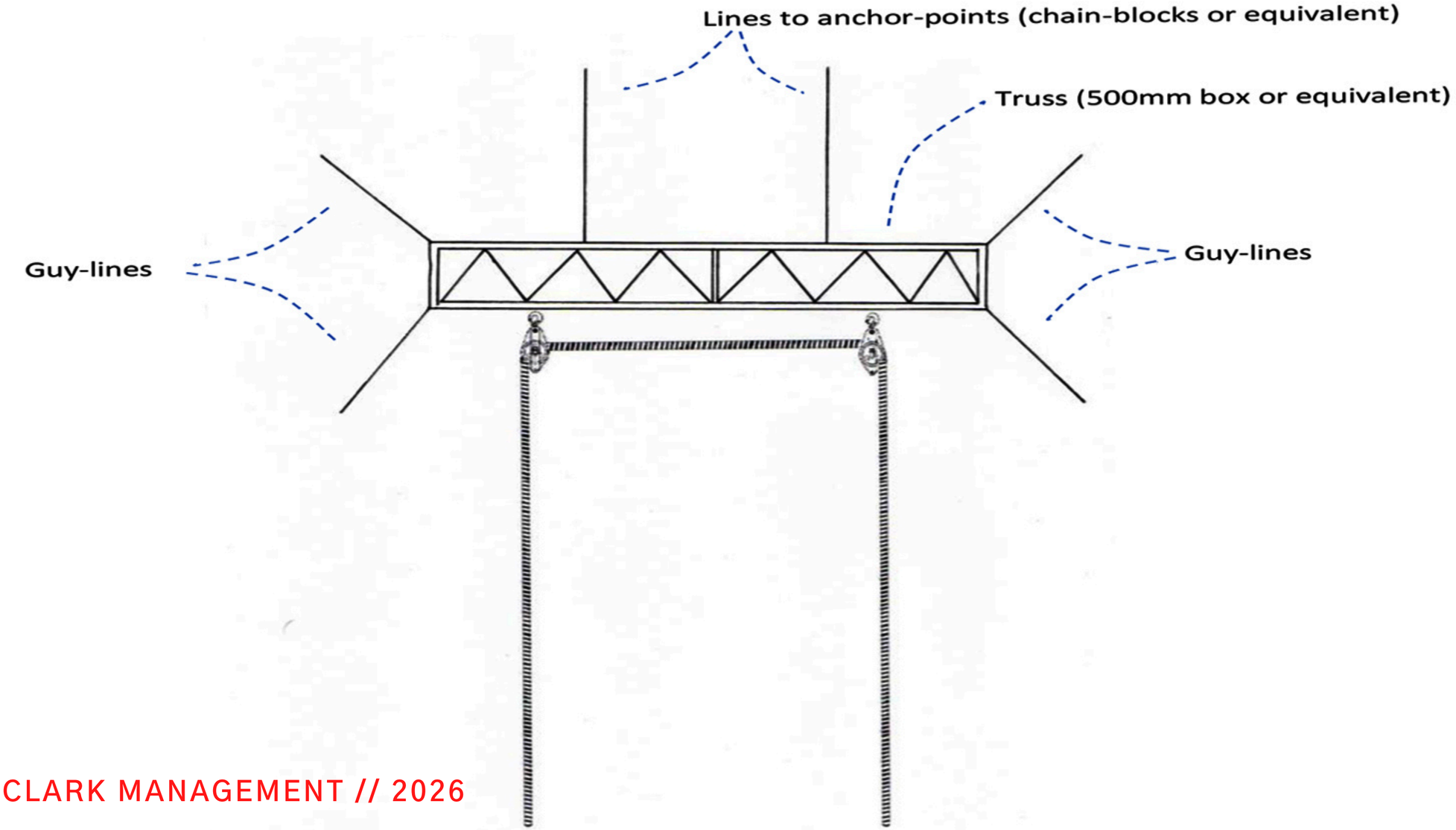
Day 2 - Subsequent show days + Load Out
16.00 - 20.00: Warm up and Pre-set
20.00 - 21.00: Performance 2
21.20 - 22.30: Load Out

BY A THREAD
SAMPLE STAGE PLOT



NICHOLAS CLARK MANAGEMENT // 2026

BY A THREAD
APPARATUS RIGGING SKETCH



NICHOLAS CLARK MANAGEMENT // 2026

“A carefully orchestrated and stunningly nuanced dance that, with absolute fluidity, takes you through the full range of human emotions”

The Advertiser

“A visual feast of amazing aerialist acrobatics performed within a contemporary circus stage and set to some vibrant musical scores”

Perth Walkabout

CREATIVE INSIGHTS

JONATHAN MORGAN & CHARICE RUST

Circus, by the nature of the physicality and risk present in the art-form, necessarily develops high levels of trust and communication within ensembles. By A Thread was created to bring a new dimension to how an audience can understand these 'acrobatic' relationships, and the parallels they draw to our everyday interactions.

The relationships between ensemble members on stage mimic the everyday relationships we have as human beings. The acrobatic ensemble is the vehicle through which ideas of play, risk, and trust are explored, creating an intimate audience experience around the dangers and joys implicit in engaging with others.

The apparatus at the heart of By A Thread - 30 metres of rope that extends from the floor, through two pulleys three metres apart, and back to the floor - is the centrepiece of the exploration, and this stark representation of the relationships between ensemble members offers a distinctly intimate experience.

CREATIVE INSIGHTS CONTINUED

Each time a performer climbs or hangs from the rope the rest of the ensemble must provide a counterbalancing force on the other end. The tension and force that usually disappears into the rigging is thrown into full view in the hands and muscles of the supporting ensemble members. This physical manifestation of complicité offers a unique insight into the workings of an ensemble and the risk intrinsic to acrobatics.

The counterpoint to the danger in circus is the joy that is integral to working as an ensemble, the joy of challenging the risk, and uncovering something else. The performers explore confusion, hilarity, romance, playfulness, fear and friendship, and plunge the audience into these possibilities at the intersection of joy and risk. More than mere bodies in space, By A Thread is an exploration of tensions physical, emotional and relational.

GRAB HOLD OF 'BY A THREAD' TODAY!

NCM

FIND OUT WHEN 'BY A THREAD' IS AVAILABLE
FOR TOURING IN YOUR AREA

CONTACTS

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www.instagram.com/ncmanagement