

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Kaleidoscope

Company 2, Australia



Photo: Dylan Evans

"Ethan doesn't just tell the audience how he feels, he shows them. He challenges you to see the world through his eyes and the beauty that can be found in it"

The Creative Issue

"Sometimes the heart breaks and cracks open because so much love is bursting through"

Ethan Hugh

Company 2 returns to Sydney Festival with *Kaleidoscope*, an extraordinary interpretation of a child's unique vision of the world. Audiences are invited to view life through Ethan's eyes in a joyous circus experience that explores the great beauty found in the smallest things.

Ethan Hugh was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at four years of age. Now twelve, he understands the world through touch and takes in his surroundings with the pads of his fingers and the tips of his toes. The show was conceived when after years of trying – and failing – to find an activity that Ethan could engage with and enjoy, Mum Joanna (J.M. Wharton) found Flipside Circus, where Ethan excelled. Joanna published a book (also entitled *Kaleidoscope*) detailing their experiences together. In it she describes stepping into his world as *"the joy of walking through shafts of colour and light; a dazzling kaleidoscope"*. Director, **Chelsea McGuffin** was inspired work with Ethan to create a physical expression of Ethan's world.

Ethan, who is a co-creator of *Kaleidoscope*, uses the physical art form of circus to express himself. Joined on stage by five circus performers, Ethan invites audiences to explore the colour, chaos and incredible beauty of his world through acrobatics, slapstick, music and movement, and vibrant video projections.

Company 2 draw inspiration from movement and have a strong sense of musicality in all their work. The Brisbane-based contemporary circus company develop works that are inclusive, highly collaborative and full of heart. Driven by leading circus artists **David Carberry** and Chelsea McGuffin, who have previously created award winning performances such as *Cantina*, *Scotch and Soda*, *Sediment* and *Perched* – which just won Best Circus Performance at Melbourne Fringe - the Australian based company aims to bring together circus acts, live music and dance in front of an audience. McGuffin and Carberry have a long history of working with young individuals involved in circus acts and have a passion for bringing the artists stories to life.

Kaleidoscope is the collaboration of a unique boy, an inspiring story and the lyrical world of circus arts. A sensory celebration of young people's stories and acceptance.

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Where Lennox Theatre, Riverside Theatres

When Preview: 13 January at 4.30pm
14 January at 4.30pm
15 January at 12pm and 4.30pm
17 January at 3.30pm
18 January at 6.30pm

Duration 60 mins no interval

Tickets \$36 + booking fee

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/kaleidoscope

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