

# THE INSECT CIRCUS

## Visual Story



Sydney  
Festival  
2023

# What is a Visual Story?

A Visual Story is a visual & written accessible guide to assist you with your visit.

Visual stories are used to prepare a person for and increase the predictability of a new environment or situation. This helps bring familiarity to a process and to reduce anxiety and stress.

This guide provides information on how to access the Afrique en Cirque performance, and what to expect when you arrive and who to ask for assistance.

# About Sydney Festival

The Insect Circus is part of Sydney Festival 2023 program. Sydney Festival is a city-wide celebration of culture and creativity. From the streets to the beach, in stately theatres and in secret basements, it animates locations across Greater Sydney with a free and ticketed program of theatre, music, dance, visual art and live performance.

We welcome all visitors to Sydney Festival events and are committed to making the festival a safe and accessible space for everyone.

I can find out more accessibility information about Sydney Festival on the website:  
[www.sydneyfestival.org.au/accessibility](http://www.sydneyfestival.org.au/accessibility)



# About Afrique en Cirque

Based in London, company founders Stan Middleton and Soledad Zárata specialise in live performance using traditional long-string, hand-carved marionettes on a custom-built stage. Humans pull the strings but insects rule the ring in their family-friendly delight, *Insect Circus*.

With the puppeteers working from a bridge above the stage out of view of the audience and no human presence in the show, the small space is transformed into one with its own sense of scale and depth. The effect is perfect for a playful immersion into the strange and beautiful world of beetles and grasshoppers, wasps and dragonflies, who demonstrate their dexterity with great skill and humour.





# About the Venue

The performance of The Insect Circus will be held at Seymour Centre - Reginald Theatre.

Located at Cnr Cleveland Street and City Road Chippendale 2008.

The Seymour Centre is the University of Sydney's multi-venue performing arts centre, engaging diverse audiences through programming that celebrates great ideas and great performance. It is home to the York Theatre, Everest Theatre and Reginald Theatre.

I can find out more about the venue's accessibility [here](#).



# When is the performance on?

**the Insect Circus runs from the 17th to the 22nd January 2023.**

**Below are the show date and times I can book into:**

- Fri 20th Jan, 11:30am
- Fri 20th Jan, 04:00pm
- Sat 21st Jan, 10:00am – Relaxed Performance
- Sat 21st Jan, 01:30pm
- Sat 21st Jan, 03:30pm
- Sun 22nd Jan, 10:45am
- Sun 22nd Jan, 02:30pm



# Relaxed Sessions

Designed for patrons with disability and their families or anyone who may benefit from a more relaxed environment. Relaxed performances usually have slight modifications to sound and lighting, support aids and an open-door policy with a dedicated quiet area.

**Relaxed sessions is available on:**

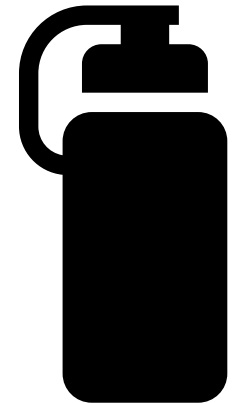
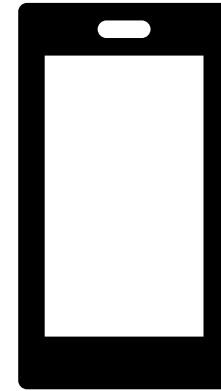
Saturday 21st Jan, 10:00am

# Things that I can bring

I can bring some things that help me feel calm and safe.

These might include:

- Noise cancelling headphones
- Sensory items
- Water bottle
- Mobile Phone





# How to book my ticket?

I can book my ticket on the Sydney festival website here:

<https://tickets.sydneyfestival.org.au>

When I book into a session, I can select from an adult, child or family ticket. For this performance, seating is general admission. I will have to get to the venue early for the best seating choice.

Colour chart for show date availability:

**Black Line – Allocation Exhausted**

**Purple – Selling Fast**

**Teal – Available**

## 1. SELECT A DATE

< JAN 2023 >						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

● Available

● Selling Fast

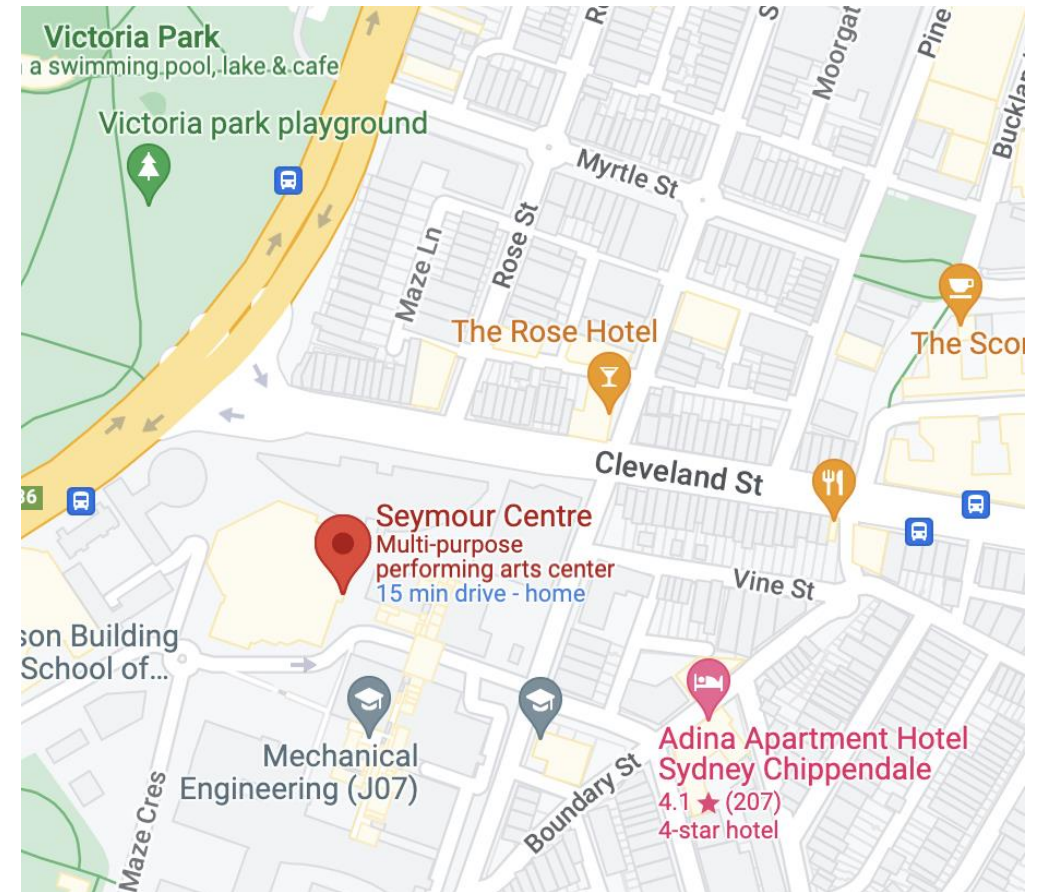
Allocation Exhausted

# Getting there

The performance is located at:  
Cnr Cleveland Street and City Road  
Chippendale 2008

I can get to Seymour Centre  
by, train, bus, walking,  
taxi or by car.

I can find out more about public  
transport to the venue [here](#).



# Public transport/ Walking/ Taxi or Rideshare/Car

## **BIKE**

There are bike racks in the courtyard in front of the Seymour.

## **CAR**

The closest secure car park is the Shepherd Street multi-storey car park located on the corner of Cleveland Street and Shepherd Street in Chippendale. Parking costs \$4 per hour, up to a maximum charge of \$24 for 24 hours, seven days a week. Limited free parking is available at the University of Sydney or in the surrounding streets.

## **BUS**

There is a bus stop outside the Seymour on City Road, with frequent services throughout the day.

## **TRAIN**

The Seymour is a 10-minute walk from Redfern Station via Ivy Street. From Central Station, it's a 25-minute walk via Cleveland Street.

# Check In/Ticking

I will need a ticket to see the show. My ticket will be scanned at the entrance to the theater. I can have the ticket on my phone or printed out.

Before the show starts, I might need to wait in the foyer. This is where I can relax with my family or friends until the performance starts.

I can enter the theater doors approximately 10-15 minutes prior to the show starting.





# Finding my seat

The Insect Circus will be performed in the Reginald Theatre.

Inside the theatre there are two seating banks with rows of black seats. There is a staircase in the middle of the seating banks.

The performance is general admission, I can choose to sit anywhere that is free.

I can ask a staff member for help finding a seat, I can also ask about accessible seating options.



# Before the performance starts

When the show starts the lights will turn down to make the theatre darker, but it will not go completely dark.

This is now the time I can sit quietly to listen and watch the performance. If I need to talk to my friends or family during the show I can whisper.

If I need to leave the theatre to go to the toilet or to have a break I can.



# What to expect during the performance

The performance takes about 35mins.

**Some things I will see and hear during the performance are:**

- Instrumental Music
- Puppets
- Puppet insects
- Coloured lighting

If I arrive late, I will be admitted at an appropriate break in the performance. I should arrive early to avoid missing the start.





# End of the performance

When the show is finished, people will clap their hands. This is to thank the performers. I can clap along if I want to, if it is too loud, I can use my noise cancelling headphones.

When the performance is finished, the lights will turn on and I can exit the theatre at one of the open doors, an usher will be there to help guide the way. During the relaxed session the door will stay open throughout the performance.



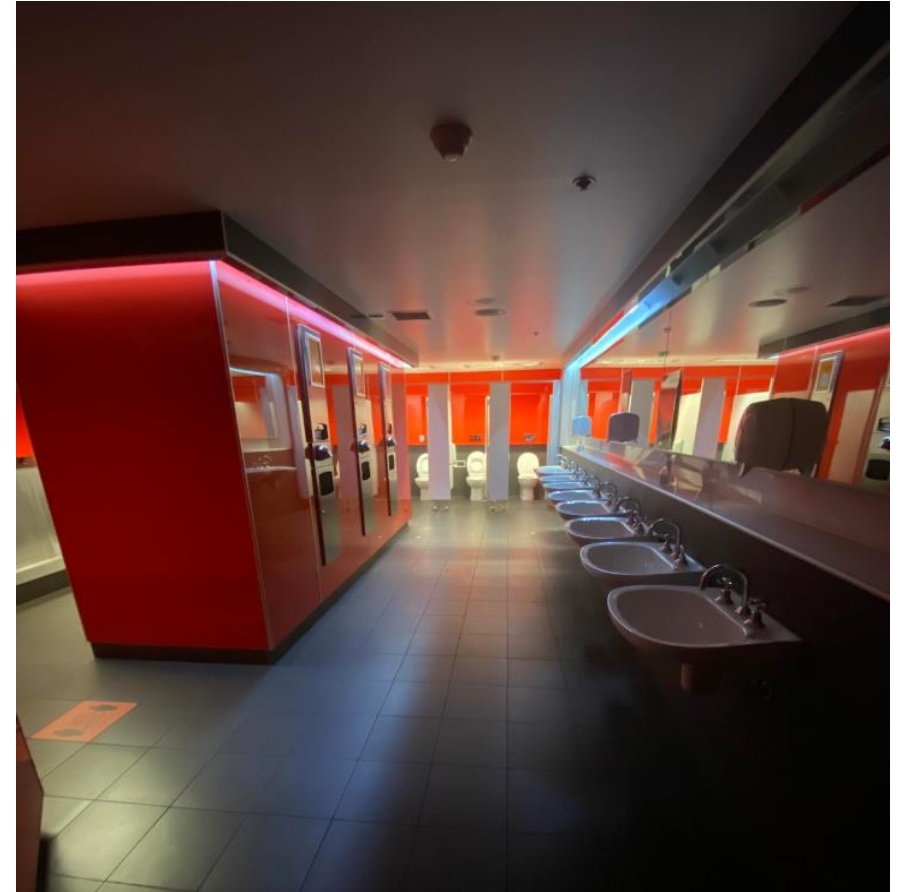


# Toilets

I can find accessible toilets inside the venue; they will be clearly marked with a sign on the outside.

The staff at Seymour Centre can help me find the toilets if I need help.

I should try to use the toilet before or after the performance, so that I don't miss out on anything exciting.



# Food & Drink

## BOX OFFICE CAFE

Located on the ground floor in the main foyer, the cafe serves an array of food and drink including tea, coffee, sandwiches, snacks, ice-creams and a premium selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments.

Opening hours: One hour prior to all events.



# Who will I see, and who can help me?

If I need help, I can ask a Seymour Centre staff members who be working throughout the performance. They will be able to provide me with information and help with first aid.

Sydney Festival volunteers will also be working throughout the festival; I can identify them by their green t-shirts with the Sydney Festival logo.

Sydney Festival volunteers will be helping with audience flow, directions and any questions I have about the festival.



# Quiet Spaces and Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard

I can access a quiet room by asking venue staff and I can exit the performance at any point if I need to.

## **Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard**

- The Sunflower is a globally recognised symbol for Hidden Disabilities.
- The lanyard is a way that people with Hidden Disabilities can indicate to staff that they may need extra support, time and understanding.
- If I have a Sunflower lanyard I can bring it with me, and the Front of House Staff are trained to recognise it.
- It is OK if I don't have a lanyard, I can still get help if I need.





# Thank you for visiting



We hope you enjoy your visit to  
The Insect Circus at Sydney Festival