

FRANCE / CIRCUS
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



DARK CIRCUS

“A full-on sensory experience it’s heartfelt, technically bold and visually spectacular.”

Plays To See, London

“Funny, poetic, intelligent” ★★★★★

Time Out Paris

Born from the imagination of French illustrator **Pef**, the fantastical story of **Dark Circus** is animated on stage by **STEREOPTIK** duo, **Romain Bermond** and **Jean-Baptiste Maillet**, who draw and play music live to build a big top universe as their striking creations are projected onto a large screen.

A riotous work for all ages, **Dark Circus** makes its Australian debut for Melbourne Festival audiences. Paper, ink, sand and silhouettes spring into life by the skilled hands of these two talented visual artists – the amazing result is cinema without film. Combining shadow puppetry, live illustration and hand drawn animation they present a scripted piece that is never the same twice.

Jean-Baptiste Maillet and Romain Bermond said:
“We only work with simple things that everyone has in their home; charcoal, pencils, felt-tip pens, paper and

cardboard. Our shows are about creativity, which also belongs to childhood.”

Surrounded by everyday drawing materials and accompanied by a whimsical electro-acoustic soundtrack, the various techniques used onstage create images of extraordinary beauty and inventiveness. Here, the visual magic of the theatre meets the childlike wonder of the circus.

Before our eyes, an urban landscape of buildings and streets transforms into a crowd-filled tent. A few flicks of an eraser and a wild horse is liberated from the ring, spreading poetry in his wake.

“Miraculous! Wonderful! Enchanting! Magic! Fascinating!” Le Figaro

Jean Baptiste Maillet and Romain Bermond, better known as **STEREOPTIK**, have entranced audiences alike since 2009 with their integration of cinematography and musical accompaniments to make pieces that truly stand out. A partnership that proves vital to the end result, Maillet and Bermond go beyond being performers of their pieces, designing every element, from the narrative, to the lighting and the soundtrack.

Suitable for children 8+

The Coopers Malthouse, Beckett Theatre

Thu 5 – Mon 9 Oct

Thu – Mon 6pm

Sat & Sun also 2pm

Fri also 1pm

55 mins, no interval

A Reserve \$49 / \$39

www.festival.melbourne

The Coopers Malthouse

03 9685 5111

#melbfest

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tattia@tspublicity.com.au

MARY THOMPSON M 0415 745 910
mary@tspublicity.com.au