

COMPETITOR INFORMATION

EVENT DETAILS

DATES	THURSDAY, JULY 2 - SUNDAY, JULY 5
LOCATION	National Institute of Circus Arts 39-59 Green St, Prahran VIC 3181
PARKING	Stonnington Council operates a number of outdoor car parks as well as public parking at Safeway, off Cato Street. Others include off Chapel Street and opposite Windsor Station. Roads surrounding NICA have limited metered street parking. Check Melways and Google Maps for locations.
FOOD/DRINK	There are a number of food and drink options within walking distance of the venue.

EVENT PROCEDURE

- All aerial competitors should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their Rig Check Briefing allocated time. There is no set briefing time for acro/circus performers. You do not need to be at the venue for the show start if you choose, you are welcome to arrive anytime, but it is your responsibility to ensure you arrive in time for your performance.
- Upon arrival at the venue, please check in with BTA staff at the competitor check in desk. Please note, only coaches and competitors will be permitted in the competitor dressing room area (Coach passes are available for collection from the check in desk - 2 per studio).
- All apparatuses will be checked in during the Rig Check, if you are using a BYO apparatus, please collect a apparatus tag from the competitor check in desk to label your gear.
- After your Rig Check has finished, you are welcome to leave the venue.
- All competitors will receive an 'All Session' audience ticket as part of your registration fee. You are welcome to watch from the audience during the competition, where seats are available.
- It is your responsibility to be side stage in time for your act. You must be side stage at least 3 acts prior to your own as per the competition schedule.
- Your music file has been downloaded from the online system. Please have your music on a USB with you on the day as a backup, should there be any technical issues.

EVENT TIMES

THURSDAY, JULY 2

SESSION 1		SESSION 2	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	8:00AM	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:00PM
Competition Start	10:15AM	Competition Start	5:15PM
Awards	1:45PM	Awards	9:00PM,

FRIDAY, JULY 3

SESSION 3		SESSION 4	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	8:00AM	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	4:00PM
Competition Start	10:45AM	Competition Start	6:00PM
Awards	2:45PM	Awards	9:15PM

SATURDAY, JULY 4

SESSION 5		SESSION 6	
Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	8:00AM	Competitor Briefing / Rig Check	3:00PM
Competition Start	10:15AM	Competition Start	5:45PM
Awards	1:45PM	Awards	10:00PM

SUNDAY, JULY 5

SESSION 5	
Competition Start	9:00AM
Awards	11:00AM

AWARDS

- Awards presentations will be held at the end of each session.
- All competitors will be brought back on stage for the awards presentations.
- Please ensure you are back in the competitor dressing room during the judges break to be ready to go back on stage.
- Places that are awarded are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies - all of which will also receive a 'Gold Pass' to qualify for the National Finals.
- Other awards include;
 - Wild Card: Additional competitors who the judge would like to see at the National Finals, This is an automatic qualification.
 - Emerging Talent: Competitors who the judge would like to acknowledge for outstanding performance and potential (non-qualifying award).

RIG CHECK

The rig check will run in the same order as the show. The purpose of our rig checks is to ensure that we have the correct set height/rigging requirements for your apparatus, and to allow you an opportunity to test the rigging set up.

- **There will be no full routine run throughs. In house apparatus' (Silks, Lyra, Hammock) will be used for rigging checks - BYO Apparatus' will not be rigged (with the exception of specialty open apparatus')**
- Competitors who are using their own apparatus' will have them inspected by the head rigger and then they will be stored for the show.
- Technical staff will check your music file, your start position, costume colour, your start position for music cues and any prop or rigging requirements.
- **Height/Rig Checks:**
 - **SILKS:** Using the **in house silk** you will have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
 - **LYRA:** Using the **in house lyra** you will check/set your height with the rigger and then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig.
 - **OPEN APPARATUS:** If you are performing on a silk, lyra or hammock - the in house apparatus will be used to check your height with the rigger. You will then have approximately 1 minute to test the rig. Other specialty apparatus' will be rigged for your height check.

We suggest performing your major skills/drops during your rig check to best utilise your time to check your rigging requirements.

STAGE & RIGGING

STAGE

- The entry/exit for all solo and duo categories will be from stage Right.
- Acrobatics sections will use the full (hard floor) stage - approximately 12m wide x 8.4m deep.
- Aerial Sections: There will be a 6x6m area which will be covered with the carpeted grey mat flooring, with the round crashmat in the centre (approx 2.5m diameter). All aerial competitors are required to use the safety mat, and it cannot be moved during your performance. Although there are no deductions for going outside of this 6 x 6 m area, the lighting is best set in this space, so we recommend keeping to this area where possible.

RIGGING

- Rigging will be via a pulley system rigged to the venue grid. The vertical working space will be approximately 10m from the mat to the top connection point. There is a height limit imposed for all aerial minis, intermediates and amateurs of 6m from the floor.
- Rigging is from a single point in the centre of the stage - no height changes are permitted during the routine.
- A swivel & carabiner will be provided.
- Please see the BTA Riggings standards document attached to your email for further information on rigging.

WARM UP AREA

There are rig points available in the warm up room at NICA. We will have a silk and a lyra available for use in the warm up area. These rigs are used at your own risk, the rigging will be checked by our rigger, but your safety in using the apparatus is your responsibility. Please consider other competitors and share time using this rig, prioritising competitors who are on stage first.

SPECTATOR TICKETS

Tickets are now on sale for all sessions! If there is availability in the theatre, competitors can watch from the audience using their Competitor Pass. This is to only be used by the performing competitor and not shared with anyone else. Paid ticket holders will be always allocated seating first and competitors may be asked to exit the theatre at any time throughout any session to allow seating for paying spectators. A livestream will be available in the dressing room.

Spectator tickets can be purchased using the below link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/bend-the-air-melbourne-2026-4851102>


There will also be an online livestream of the event. Details on how to purchase livestream tickets will be released closer to the event.

JUDGING

You will receive your judge's score and an audio critique for your routine. These will be delivered via DanceComp Genie (The system used for your entries). Please allow up to 48 hours after the completion of the competition for your results to be live.

Please read the competition kits to understand the judging system and ensure your routine meets the criteria for your section to avoid losing technical points.

MELBOURNE JUDGE



Vanessa McGregor

Vanessa is an accomplished circus artist, choreographer, and educator with over 20 years of experience across stage and international performance. A graduate of the National Institute of Circus Arts, they have performed with renowned companies including Circa, Circus Oz, and Opera Australia, with credits such as Barnum the Musical (Green Room Award nomination) and international tours of Beyond and Carnival of the Animals. Their career has seen them appear at major festivals worldwide, from Adelaide Fringe to Singapore Kite Festival and the Edinburgh Christmas Festival.

Currently Head of Academy at Circa, Vanessa is dedicated to shaping the next generation of circus artists through innovative training and leadership. Alongside their extensive performance career, they have taught widely across circus and dance institutions, inspiring countless emerging artists. Passionate about education, they are also furthering their expertise through a Master of Education, reinforcing their commitment to both artistic excellence and the future of performing arts.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

There is to be no filming or photography from the audience or side stage. Links to purchase your video and photos will be emailed closer to the event.

DANIEL RABIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Dan from Daniel Rabin Photography will be taking still action shots of all performers on stage. Previous to his life as a professional photographer, he has a rich background as a circus performer with over 15 years on stage.



Mat from Limelight Multimedia is filming all of your routines. Mat produces amazing high-quality videos from multiple camera angles.