

This report is adapted from Mimbre's evaluation for Arts Council England on their funded part of *The Exploded Circus* tour and associated audience development work

MIMBRE

EXPANDING CIRCUS AUDIENCES 2017-2018 EVALUATION REPORT



'I just wanted to say that, It was the 1st time I'd seen a contemporary [sic] act live, and it was last week at the Meadowside Leisure center when 'The Exploding Circus' performed for an audience within the Autistic Spectrum. I had the honour of supporting a member of the audience and the pleasure of experiencing an insight of this spectrum through your performing arts. Thank you! All for a Beautiful Night [...] I think I've found a new Joy in this Circus performance and talented acrobats.'

Audience Member, Burton upon Trent

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Performer Farrell Cox, photo © Simon Dack / Vervate Photography

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 18 months Mimbre worked in-depth with six venue partners – Worthing Theatres, Imagine Luton, Merchant City Festival Glasgow, Winchester Theatre Royal, Lancaster Arts and the Brewhouse Burton upon Trent – to build new contemporary circus audiences and expand the touring circuit for mid-scale circus theatre. The project included audience development work relating to Mimbre’s existing outdoor show, *If I could I would*, during summer 2017; the creation of a new high quality indoor show, *The Exploded Circus* in spring and autumn 2018; and further audience development activities including workshops, masterclasses and digital engagement throughout the project reaching live audiences of over 11,000 and digital audiences of over 250,000. Alongside our strategic partners we also toured *The Exploded Circus* to Leicester Curve, The Lowry in Salford, The Ffrwnes Llanelli, ‘Live in The Square’ at Grosvenor Square London and Warwick Arts Centre.

The Exploded Circus was a new, high-quality mid-scale circus performance with an all-female, ethnically diverse cast representative of contemporary UK. We successfully toured the show using three different presentation formats (theatre venue, found spaces, circus tent) to further develop models for mid-scale circus touring especially to places of low provision. Although these venues presented technical challenges, we capitalised on the appeal that found spaces and circus tents have for low engagement audiences and created marketing campaigns in the tradition of ‘the circus is coming to town’.

We delivered a multi-faceted digital campaign sharing the creative process and touring of *The Exploded Circus* through online content, artistic challenges and behind the scenes material. We encouraged and empowered the performers to take an active part in creating and sharing this content. We also live streamed the last *The Exploded Circus* performance in Burton upon Trent on Facebook reaching an online audience of 3,173.

This project drew on Mimbre’s strengths of reaching diverse audiences and participants from the least engaged groups. The creation of a new full-length mid-scale show with adaptable touring formats allowed us to upscale our ambitions, expand our reach and create more formal links between outdoor audiences and local venues.

The Exploded Circus in particular raised Mimbre’s profile significantly, with the digital campaign having a clear impact on our reach and reputation well beyond the audiences who actually saw the show. We also believe this helped to raise the profile of circus in general, working actively with Circus250 to celebrate and promote circus in its anniversary year.

September 2019

AUDIENCES

By making some performances free to attend, and locating them in non-traditional performance spaces we removed two significant barriers to engagement: price, and a perception that the work was for the 'elite' in an 'elite' space.



Hoarding in Burton upon Trent

Walkabout performances in Luton, Glasgow, Winchester and Lancaster drew a 'street-theatre' audience into a 'sit-down-theatre' environment. Relatedly, in Glasgow and Luton we reached street theatre audiences with *If I could I would* in 2017, bringing them 'indoors' with *The Exploded Circus* in 2018 - audiences were signposted with a shared postcard featuring both shows. Audience members in Glasgow said that they had looked up *The Exploded Circus* after seeing *If I could I would*.

The extensive workshop programme allowed us to make deeper connections within local communities, particularly in Luton with Next Generation Youth Theatre and local schools, and in Worthing with Circus Seen and Circus Projects.

Activities like family drop-in circus workshops in Worthing, Luton and Burton attracted and engaged family audiences, encouraging them to engage further with local arts provision. Venues observed significant family audiences and the success of the work as an inter-generational piece.

Production imagery featuring a woman of colour was an important marketing strategy to reach BAME audiences. It was used as a brochure cover in Worthing, Luton and Lancaster, in the press, and on banners and flags in town centres. Several young women of colour commented that seeing themselves reflected in the image made them think that it was a show for them. Anecdotally every venue partner commented on the diversity of the audience. In Lancaster 7% of the audience was BAME which for a city that is only 2.2% BAME is three times the local average. In Luton one of the festival organisers commented "I looked around the tent and thought how different the sea of faces look to our normal [theatre] audiences."

Burton-On-Trent producer Simon Hollingworth commented "The audiences in Burton were a real cross section - a visibly ethnically diverse audience. One man from the Muslim community came and was very reticent at first but after the show he was raving about it and telling everyone to tell their friends about the remaining shows. People came on a whim, because it was pay what they thought it was worth."

Introductory notes were created for blind and partially sighted audiences, and a touch tour was offered at Worthing, Luton and Winchester. For audiences with learning difficulties or on the autistic spectrum a visual story was created and relaxed performances were offered at Luton and Winchester.

Behind the scenes footage posted online and venue Instagram takeovers encouraged engagement before and after performances. In several venues we had interactive activities such as selfies in front of a trompe l'oeil and a noticeboard where thoughts could be shared.

As the work was positively received and it was a new type of show for some of our venues, we succeeded in fueling an interest in contemporary circus. Lancaster had previously programmed Ockham's Razor, so we fitted into their continued audience strategy. Worthing have done significant audience development work over several years with their Summer of Circus; *The Exploded Circus* allowed them to continue to programme more ambitious work following in the wake of Metta's *Jungle Book* and *Pirates of The Carabina*.



Audience members using the trompe l'oeil board in Luton

VENUES AND PARTNERS

All strategic partners saw *The Exploded Circus* in the first venue, Worthing, allowing us to facilitate conversations. Worthing mentored us in developing a marketing plan - crucial, as Mimbre has historically worked mostly in the outdoor sector where marketing is managed by festivals.



NGYT performing in Luton, photo © Ineptgravity

Ali King from Turtle Key mentored us in the delivery of midscale touring and we collaborated with project-funded Metta around shared PR. Finally we collaborated creatively with NGYT where Mimbre Director Lina directed the young circus makers in a new piece made in response to *The Exploded Circus*.

Despite technical challenges, *The Exploded Circus's* success has given us the confidence to continue touring midscale work and to accept large scale

corporate commissions (for example Dior in January 2019). We are already applying the valuable learning in our planning of future productions.

Successfully straddling both tented outdoor sites and indoor theatres has also cemented our ambitions to make work that is both scalable and translatable across sectors. This increases our organisational resilience, giving us the flexibility to respond to the widest range of future commissioning and co-producing opportunities.

The Exploded Circus was peer reviewed using Upswing's 'Join the Dots' approach in February 2019. This report will be shared online and with other companies.

ACTIVITY

DIVERSITY

As a female led company we are committed to creating work that showcases powerful women, still widely underrepresented in circus. We also ensure at least 14% of our companies are BAME. It was particularly satisfying working with performer Farrell Cox from Luton who, as a young woman of colour, was proud to represent her community there, the venue with the most diverse audience of the tour.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenges were around the technical elements of *The Exploded Circus*: having predominantly made small scale outdoor work the upscaling in technical requirements was a particularly steep learning curve, compounded by making the work for different spaces.

The spread out schedule of the tour meant we also had to re-cast performers which took time and resource that hadn't been budgeted for.



Farrell Cox and Arielle Lauzon, photo © Ineptgravity

Because of the technical challenges we are also conscious that we invested less energies into capturing data around the impact of the extensive audience development work. So while that work was still delivered - and clearly had an impact as our large and diverse audiences show - it has been harder to evidence it after the event.

SUCSESSES

The profile we created for the show was extraordinary - the impact of the digital campaign has significantly raised the profile of the company in our sector and with the wider public. Even if colleagues hadn't seen it live - everyone had heard about *The Exploded Circus* - largely via the hugely successful trailer, and beautiful production photography.

As we were simultaneously touring the work to non-strategic partners, it was interesting to observe that simply being part of the programme gave partners greater ownership of the project. Only half of the venues on the tour (across both Strategic Touring and non-Strategic Touring venues) were part of the Audience Agency's Show Stats interface, but in general Strategic Touring venues sold more tickets, earlier and to more people who hadn't visited that venue before.

We were overwhelmed by the positive response from audiences - many of who were first time bookers, and most likely new to circus. Despite our concerns over achieving the same production values in the found/tented spaces we still received hugely positive audience feedback across all venues. The impact of seeing a show of such high production values in an unexpected space blew audiences away.



Lynn Scott, Farrell Cox, Rebecca Rennison, Arielle Lauzon, Alice Allart and Coral Dawson
Photo © John Rowley

EVALUATION

We received qualitative feedback from audience members and workshop participants via vox pops, written forms and through social media channels. This was overwhelmingly positive with several comments expressing gratitude for this work being brought to the local community.



The Exploded Circus cast outside the tent in Glasgow

EVALUATION OF PROCESS

We evaluated the processes and working methods used to deliver the project, as well as artistically evaluated the different presentation models of *The Exploded Circus* - learning we will use as we begin developing our next mid-scale piece.

Theatre spaces: most artistically 'successful' because set/lighting are designed with this context in mind. Engendered a different relationship with the audience who tended to be 'better behaved' than their tented/found space counterparts - but this may simply reflect existing theatre audiences.

Tented spaces: attracted the highest numbers and a far more diverse audience because the tent in itself was a draw; valuable for audience development. Also created a more informal relationship between audience and performers and made families more confident to bring

children. Technically difficult to achieve the same production values especially during daylight hours when the tent was hard to keep dark; also problematic in extreme weather (in Luton several audience members had to leave due to the heat).

Found spaces: from an audience development perspective very successful in transforming a space associated with other types of leisure (exemplified by the impromptu move in Burton) and a sense of ownership from the local community. Very costly to achieve the same production values.

Each type of space has strengths and weaknesses and where we can we will continue to pursue a model of indoor/outdoor scalable midscale work allowing us to reach and develop new audiences. Tents and found spaces draw out those less likely to engage with traditional theatres, meanwhile there is a demand from conventional midscale theatres for imaginative, innovative and diverse work that challenges their existing audiences.

CASE STUDY - BURTON UPON TRENT

The Brewhouse is local authority run and offering something high quality in the Town Hall made huge sense on a local level. Technical challenges led to a last minute move to a Leisure Centre but it was recognised by all partners as a massive success overall. *The Exploded Circus* was bold and big and something that Burton hadn't done before.

Mimbre's presence in Burton was built up through a walkabout performance and circus workshops at their Easter Festival, and open circus workshops at the switch on of the town's Christmas lights in November.

We trialled Pay What You Think It's Worth which allowed audiences to be brave and take a risk. Many audience members were overhead saying 'I've never seen anything like it'. The new location of the Leisure Centre worked well as a place familiar and 'safe' for audiences, but in which they had an entirely new cultural experience. Plus (not insignificantly) there was sufficient parking.



Audience feedback from Burton upon Trent

FEEDBACK ON THE PRODUCTION

LUTON

"Fantastic Impressive and so much fun"

"We just saw The Exploded Circus, which I enjoyed and my kids ADORED"

"The exploded circus was fantastic and reminded me of modern circus eg. At the roundhouse. It really was excellent."

"Circus was incredible. Fab visuals, fab skills, fab story."

"The circus was amazing, I would've paid to watch them perform"

"Really enjoyed it all. Thank you for keeping circus free. My daughters loved it"

GLASGOW

"my 7-month old daughter was mesmerised"

"I thought it was really really, like, amazing. It was like not something that was real...not something that could actually happen"

"I thought it was just insane! But a good type of insane"

"I thought it was really good, it was like a kind of bizarre dream. [...] It was great, it was great, it was really good."

"It was different yeah. I think they were a wee bit scared when they first came in because it's not your usual circus. But it was something new, something different and they enjoyed it"

WINCHESTER

"I loved the energy of the show. I've seen quite a lot of circus both full length contemporary shows and many shorter standalone act. This was the most exciting show I've seen to date."

"Total sensory overload in the best possible way!"

"Was excellent. Adults and kids loved it."

"A fabulously dynamic and surprising performance!"

"Very talented group. A superb show. So pleased we came"

"The show was even better than we imagined! The performers were amazing. Three generations of our family were captivated for the entire time (from 6-70 years!)"

"Great to see contemporary circus at the Theatre Royal."

"Great show lots to see and very engaging. Funny and interesting characters and the actors have some truly impressive skills. We were in the kid /special need friendly show and it was great as it meant our 3 year old could enjoy the show and nobody stressed when she was noisy and wandered about."

LANCASTER

"Joshua aged 5 said good, and Daniel. I didn't know where to look cos there was so much happening everywhere. Magical end and full of fun, cleverness and teamwork - Thank you"

"We all loved it. Like a weird French circus dream."

"Set is amazing!!! Wow!!! Just incredible!!!"

"Unusual. Happy and smiling and very skillful"

"Highly talented, awe-inspiring circus chaos! Loved every minute!"

"Thank you for a great performance"

"Brilliant!! Bravo!"

"INSPIRATIONAL! AMAZING! BREATHTAKING THANK YOU!!"

"I thought the start wasn't very good, but once they got to the 'circusy' stuff, it was very good!"

"Wonderful unique incredible athleticism Heath Robinson brought to life. Stunning impossible to describe"

"It was utterly delightful, imaginative, skillful, full of interest, fun and play. Took my breath away!"

"It was great! Story, powerful, mesmerising! It was fab!"

"It was really cool & crazy!! Was looking forward to unicycle tricks but..."

"Very impressive, revising the old circus. Romantic, charming and entertaining"

"Talented performers, imaginative staging, lots of fun."

"It was amazing! :)"

"Fantastic Performance"

"Loved it! Best show ever"

"IT WAS FANTASTIC"

Directly to the venue:

"I've just filled in your feedback thing, but would like to give you some feedback about the performance I saw with my granddaughter on Friday. (I meant to do your feedback card and forgot when we came out.)

Having booked the tickets a while ago I couldn't really remember what we are going to see, which was great as we had no expectations.

It was amazing! Both me and my 8 year old granddaughter thought it was great. She particularly liked the all-female cast and thought they were inspirational."

"We went to see Mimbire perform The Exploded Circus primarily to entertain my 9 year old granddaughter. However we ALL enjoyed the experience tremendously. The performers were very talented and skilled. The show was imaginative and creative. Thank you for a wonderful morning of entertainment!"

"It was utterly delightful, imaginative, skillful, full of interest, fun and play. Took my breath away."

"It was great! Strong, powerful, mesmerising!"

"It was really cool and crazy!!"

BURTON

"Came here not knowing what to expect...awesome!!! Loved it!"

"I really enjoyed it far better than expected"

"It was very good. A bit confusing at the end but fun"

"I think it was exciting because I like it when they went on the ride"

"Wonderful stuff, the best night out in Burton. Bar none! Loved it."

"Amazing & mesmerising. Very talented contributors with daring stunts. Loved the fact all female #metoo"

"I thought that it was mesmerising. I would like to see it happen again one day."

"I loved it =)"

"Absolutely out of this world! The best thing I've ever seen! Wonderfully ACE!"

"Brilliant like a dream"

"Fucking fantastic!"

"Great Awesome I wish I could see it again"

“AWESOME LOVED IT Really really good xx”

“I <3 it. It was sooo goof my mind exploded”

“Very exciting and a great sense of play and silliness. While wowing physical acts are going on.”

“Quite good, I did not enjoy the music though! Everyone worked very hard, thank you.”

“It was fab! Very talented and wonderfully entertaining”

“Absolutely phonomonal!”

“It was amazing”

“Was good”

“Weirdly wonderful <3 x”

“I am tired”

“It was incredible! It really captured our imaginations. So bizzare, surreal and fascinating!!”

“Exceptional talents wonderful show”

“Incredibly quirky super talented”

“It was amazing. I loved the innocence of it and that you didn't know what was coming next

“Truely spectacular. I smiled, grinned, laughed, from start to finish. And had a surprise tear at the end. Beautiful.”

“A beautiful artistic masterpiece that inspires creativity into the audience. Awe inspiring technique and flair among all the artists involved! <3”

“Its #great”

“It's #marvolous”

“Thanks brilliant”

“Great x”



Coral Dawson, Alice Allart, Lynn Scott, Farrell Cox, photo © Ineptgravity

SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSES

<u>User</u>	<u>Platform</u>	<u>Message</u>
@GraniaPickard	Twitter	Highly recommend everyone go see #ExplodedCircus by @Mimbre_Acrobats, which is on @WorthingTheatre this weekend. It's a visual feast!
@bilbobaggins2k	Twitter	Saw you on Friday and LOVED it. Such a positive role model for the young girls in the audience.
@enright2007	Twitter	Fantastic show today. The whole family loved it, thanks. My 5 year old was awestruck.
@fitton_eleanor	Twitter	What a brilliant evening! Watching @Mimbre_Acrobats in The Exploded Circus! Such a creative show.
@CallumRhysWill1	Twitter	Fair play, #ExplodedCircus by @Mimbre_Acrobats was excellent! Really enjoyed 😊
@JamieSaunders01	Twitter	#ExplodedCircus is absolutely brilliant – from start to finish, it was amazing!!!
@PamelaKentWTWMA	Twitter	Make sure you catch @Mimbre_Acrobats #explodedcircus today and tomorrow @WorthingTheatre. Watching last night made me want to run away and #jointhecircus, room for a tiddler on the tour girls? 😊
@OfficialSaundra	Twitter	Loved it! 🍷 Some very nimble ladies
@Twinklepoppop	Twitter	@Mimbre_Acrobats my daughter was mesmerised by your performance at #imagineLuton so much so she wants to be a 'clever girl who walks on a tightrope and has frilly knickers' (ps I enjoyed the show too!)
@BrigidLarmour	Twitter	Utterly magical
@RiRisDanceAcad	Twitter	You know it's an amazing #Theatre #Production when you get goosebumps at the end of the Show! #TheExplodedCircus @The_Lowry was F A B U L O U S ! ❤️🍷 Well done @Mimbre_Acrobats
@PamelaKentWTWMA	Twitter	The show @Mimbre_Acrobats was stunning , do not miss the opportunity to see this beautiful piece of work ❤️
@mattbeighton	Twitter	@Mimbre_Acrobats my 6 year old daughter was blown away by Exploded.
@Stopgapdance	Twitter	Congratulations on a gorgeous production of #ExplodedCircus. A mesmerising show!
@TheMarySwan	Twitter	Amazing show, Amazing venue – @Mimbre_Acrobats #ExplodedCircus premiere @WorthingTheatre
@raeleaver	Twitter	It was absolutely magical!
@DuchessLicorne	Twitter	With a geniusly designed set, lights, sound and costumes; a touching story told by the brilliant and talented cast, we were all in for a treat!
@nikki_grange	Twitter	@Mimbre_Acrobats #TheExplodedCircus @CurveLeicester was brilliant
@mrholly68	Twitter	Spectacular array of circus skills with a brilliant musical score and a wonderfully uplifting message - an absolute visual feast
@AnnieBannister	Twitter	#TheExplodedCircus was absolutely beautiful - totally mesmerising.

@TamsinHarding	Twitter	#theexplodedcircus it was tender, funny, beautiful and you are all super talented! Get tickets while you can!!
@Matt_Aspden	Twitter	Once again, @The_Lowry delivers. The Exploded Circus is hands down one of the best things I've seen there, phenomenal. I'm buzzing from a magical, electric performance. Just wow. Bravo.
@mel_knott	Twitter	Really inspired seeing #TheExplodedCircus @CurveLeicester A real feast of storytelling, tradition and contemporary art. Circus with a difference. Definitely worth seeing
@ohayeceline	Twitter	The #ExplodedCircus world is even more magical than we imagined, a stunning visual spectacle & utterly charming. Huge congrats & much love to the brilliant @Mimbre_Acrobats team!!
Penny Metcalf	Facebook	Saw you today in Winchester and loved it. Wonderful acrobatics, completely inclusive, beautiful story, great characters, accessible to all and good for all generations. We loved it, thank you
Gary Green	Facebook	Amazing show last night in worthing,so imaginative & creative we thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done!!
Hannah Ashwell	Facebook	Absolutely beautiful! Loved it x
Maz Wilberforce	Facebook	Such an amazing show! Captivating, enthralling, daring and funny!
Karen MacFarlane	Facebook	Fantastic show thank you k x
Alison Grant	Facebook	Just saw your wondrous show at the Lowry tonight. I loved it. Everything. The costumes, the set, the music, lighting and your glorious performances. Thank you for a magical evening. I hope to see you all again soon 🍷❤️🍷❤️🍷❤️🍷❤️🍷❤️🍷❤️🍷❤️
Sally-Ann Horridge-Smith	Facebook	Was a lot of fun. We all enjoyed it. Watched tonight. Go and see it everyone. You won't be disappointed. My daughter age 9 chuckled all the way through it. "Crazy good"
Sarah Hughes	Facebook	Took my 6 year old today. She was a bit worried about going as the image in the brochure looked a little scary to her, but I reassured her it wasn't. Well at the show she was blown away. When I asked her what her favourite bit was all she could say was 'It was all amazing'. Such an amazing show. Xx
Kate Wright	Facebook	Such a amazing show xx
@EllaJP	Twitter	Beguiled, bewitched and blown away by @Mimbre_Acrobats #ExplodedCircus at Warwick Uni today.
@bramley_sara	Twitter	@Mimbre_Acrobats #explodedcircus Thoroughly enjoyed the performance today and you all massively inspired my own little 5 year old acrobat 🍷🍷♂️ x
@bella_starling	Twitter	Invention, teamwork and dreams on a Sunday morning with @Mimbre_Acrobats #ExplodedCircus @lancasterarts. The look of rapt amazement and awe on number one son's face said it all. 🍷🍷🍷
@perayson	Twitter	Just back from seeing this and I can confirm that it was truly magical. Thanks @Mimbre_Acrobats!
@dpdavies61	Twitter	The very wonderful Mimbre takes off in a transformed Great Hall, worth checking to see if any tickets left for Sat / Sun @lancasterarts @Mimbre_Acrobats #TheExplodedCircus

@richardev	Twitter	Not been feeling very well today, but came out of #ExplodedCircus with huge smile on my face!
Norma Foulds	Facebook	I saw your show in Lancaster on Friday, it was totally amazing and transported me to another place, I had no idea what time it was at all when we left the theater . The only thing I wanted to do apart from watching the show again was learn to perform on the silks ! Hope to see you again next year then .
@RingwaldBeate	Twitter	What a fantastic circus show, wonderful inspiration and incredible teamwork by @Mimbre_Acrobats We had a great time with #ExplodedCircus on Sunday @lancasterarts @LancasterUni
@JoSpoons1	Twitter	Brilliant show from @Mimbre_Acrobats tonight @MeadowsideLC @BrewhouseCentre! #theexplodedcircus
@Lyn_Cunningham	Twitter	@BrewhouseCentre Absolutely loved @Mimbre_Acrobats all female production in #theexplodedcircus tonight @MeadowsideLC #Burton Circus deconstructed and skillfully constructed again! A real joy! Go see if you can. Tickets: socsi.in/ekutl
@lauramchands	Twitter	Midweek treat of mummy and daughter time. What a show!! Incredibly talented women. Utterly mesmerising. @Mimbre_Acrobats #explodedcircus
@lauramchands	Twitter	Loved it. Seven year old was transfixed! What a super talented bunch you all are.
@MarianneBarraz	Twitter	Absolutely awesome performance of #explodedcircus by the brilliant @Mimbre_Acrobats at @MeadowsideLC with @BrewhouseCentre - kids loved it as much as me! #Burton - don't miss it - shows tomorrow and Friday night ✨🎪🤸🏻‍♀️🤸🏻‍♀️🎪✨
@AquaRhythm	Twitter	We were lucky to see the excellent #explodedcircus show this afternoon. It was absolutely amazing and the kids loved it. Didn't realise it was coming to an end today. Looking forward to see what they come up with next.
Jeanette C Robertson	Facebook	I saw the final performance of The Exploded Circus in Burton. I had no clue really what to expect. It was beautiful from start to finish. I'd love to see another performance and will be following your page!
Neil Keen	Facebook	Hi I just wanted to say that, It was the 1st time I'd seen a contemporary act live, and it was last week at the Meadowside Leisure center when 'The Exploding Circus' performed for an audience within the Autistic Spectrum. I had the honour of supporting a member of the audience and the pleasure of experiencing an insight of this spectrum through your performing arts.Thank you! All for a Beautiful Night [...] I think I've found a new Joy in this Circus performance and talented acrobats. Lovely people for a special cause x

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Reviewer: Katie Leicester

Publication: number9 reviews blog

Date: 16 June 2018

Link: <http://number9reviews.blogspot.com/2018/06/exploded-circus-lowry-theatre-salford.html>

‘Mimbre has created this magnificent display of acrobatics’..

‘You are taken on an 80 minute 'explosion' of breathtaking aerial acrobatics, exciting juggling acts and some fantastic physical movement through balance, dance and tumbles.’

‘The set was magnificent...’

‘[...] breathtaking moments throughout the evening’

‘Hits all your senses with its dazzle and daring display of circus’

‘In awe of their strength and elegance’

Reviewer: Tony Bellamy-Hibbert

Publication: North West End

Date: 16 June 2018

Link: <http://northwestend.co.uk/index.php/professional-reviews/salford/3183-the-exploded-circus-the-lowry-salford>

‘★★★★’

Reviewer: Blaise Tapp

Publication: Worthing Herald

Date: 21 May 2018

Link: <https://www.worthingherald.co.uk/whats-on/theatre-and-comedy/circus-season-is-off-with-a-bang-1-8506042>

‘This wonderfully unique production.’

‘I would wager a 99 ice cream that this grand old theatre on Worthing seafront has never hosted a production as visually exciting as this one.’

‘An edge-of-the-seat affair and culminated in a life affirming conclusion.’

Reviewer: Jemma Gould

Publication: Theatre South East

Date: 20 May 2018

Link: <http://theatresoutheast.com/the-exploded-circus/>

‘I haven’t seen this sort of thing in a long time’

‘Don’t let the opportunity of **The Exploded Circus** pass you by.’

‘There’s a little something for everyone in The Exploded Circus.’

‘A magical evening.’

☆☆☆☆☆

Reviewer: Kieran James

Publication: Eastleigh News

Date: 21 Septemeber 2018

Link: <http://www.eastleighnews.co.uk/2018/09/live-review-mimbres-the-exploded-circus-at-winchester-theatre-royal/>

‘Mimbre’s The Exploded Circus totally ruled the stage for 70 minutes of non stop action.’

Reviewer: David Upton

Publication: British Theatre Guide

Date: 25 November 2018

Link: <https://www.britishtheatreguide.info/reviews/the-exploded-ci-great-hall-lan-16840>

‘For 70 minutes it becomes a totally captivating experience, a reminder of childhood delight and a tribute to why the enduring artform this year celebrates its 250th anniversary in this country.’

‘The laws of both physics and physical strength are re-written before your eyes as ropes, pulleys and counterbalance play their part in a consummate performance.’

‘Imaginations, young and old, will not quickly forget the sight.’

Reviewer: Elaine Pritchard

Publication: Brewhouse

Date: 3 November 2018

Link: <http://www.brewhouse.co.uk/news/exploded-circus-review>

‘a performance of very few words but non-stop action, comedy, circus tricks and gymnastics galore.’

‘These are strong, talented individuals.’

‘There’s never a moment of stillness and always something to amaze and amuse you as they blend physical clowning and comedy with dramatic, beautifully choreographed acrobatic scenes – many performed at a daring height above the stage.’

Reviewer: Isaac

Publication: SCAN (Lancaster Uni Student Paper)

Date: 26 November 2018

Link: <http://scan.lusu.co.uk/index.php/2018/11/26/exploded-circus-review-the-circus-time-to-shine/>

‘A lot of people dream of joining the circus when they’re younger; The Exploding Circus is sure to reignite that passion.’

‘The stage created a striking image that I won’t soon forget.’