



# MISSION TO THE MOON

**VISUAL STORY**





Photo by Brig Bee.

# HELLO!

Highwire Entertainment and Mission to the Moon would like to acknowledge that the show was created on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and to all elders on the lands through which we tour our show.

We also acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the world's first and oldest continuous astronomers, dating far back before the Babylonians, the Ancient Greeks, and the astronomers of the Enlightenment. They identified planets and variable stars, mapped constellations and used stars to navigate, and even developed observatories, like the Wurdi Youang site in Victoria that is at least 6,000 years older than Stonehenge. We have so much to learn, and we are grateful to be exploring our interest in space in a country where astronomy has existed for over 65,000 years.

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# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

## **Visual Story**

Visual Stories are designed to help prospective audience members prepare for a show - and decide if this is a show you would like to see. We include information on how to get to the venue, who you'll see on stage, and what the show will be about. This guide may include spoilers - but don't worry, we'll warn you before you get there.

## **For More Information**

If there is anything this guide leaves out that you would like to know, please contact Highwire Entertainment by email at [touring@highwire.com.au](mailto:touring@highwire.com.au), or by phone during business hours at +61 434 238 084.

## **About *Mission to the Moon***

*Mission to the Moon* takes you on a captivating journey with three quirky, acrobatic astronauts, blending circus artistry, clowning, and real space science. Inspired by NASA's upcoming Artemis program – which will see humans once again step foot on the Moon – this show imagines jugglers defying gravity and tumbling among the stars! With a mix of classic circus skills, laughter, and exciting space facts, *Mission to the Moon* offers a fresh, imaginative take on our fascination with space. Get ready for a performance that's as entertaining as it is enlightening.

### **Venue**

*Mission to the Moon* will be performed at The Cube at Frankston Arts Centre. More details on the venue are included later in this info pack.

### **Run Time**

*Mission to the Moon* runs for 58-minutes. There is no intermission.

### **Age Range**

*Mission to the Moon* was created for ages 5-10 / Foundation - Year 3/4. Space fans of all ages are welcome!

## **A day at the Theatre for young audiences!**

For some young audience members, this may be their first time at the circus or attending a theatre. We want to share some tips and tricks for an enjoyable day out!

**You're going to a live performance!** That means the performers are saying their lines and doing their acts right in front of you on stage, at that exact moment! How is live theatre different from watching a movie or something on Netflix (*You can't press pause or turn it off, and the performers can hear you!*)

If someone is performing live on stage, **how should their audience behave?** (*Watch the show, enjoy yourself, but don't distract others - or the performers! You are welcome to bring in and use stimulating devices, make noise and move around if you need - just not on the stage. And if you need to leave the performance at any time for a quiet space, our theatre staff can show you where to go.*)

At the start of the show, one of the performers may tell you that if you need to get up, walk around, use the bathroom, see your teacher, that's all fine, but please don't walk across the stage, and try not to move when a circus act is happening. **Why might this be an important instruction to follow?** (*Circus can be risky! Performers could fall if they get distracted. Some of the acts have flying props, like juggling clubs or hula hoops. If you're moving around and the performers don't expect you there, it could be dangerous.*)

**If you're loving the show, how do you let the performers know?** (*Clapping, cheering, waving, smiling, and telling us your favourite space fact after the show are all great ways!*)

## Sensory Warnings

Here are some warnings that you may want to be aware of before you attend *Mission to the Moon*:

### **There's a rocket on stage!**

The show has a large rocket prop, that is a to-scale model of NASA's Artemis II rocket. It about the height of your average seven-year-old. It may look big and loud, but the rocket itself doesn't make any noise. It's actually made of large PVC pipes and 3-D printed pieces - all plastic!

**There are rocket sound effects in the show.** This is played over the theatre's sound system, as part of our show music. It is a bit loud for about 10 seconds, and then we turn it down. The artists will let you know in the show when this is coming up.

**There is audience participation.** A few times in the show, we ask the audience to shout out and sing along with us. Only participate in this if you are comfortable.

We also have an act in the show that brings an audience volunteer up on stage. A performer will come into the audience to find the right person. If you DO NOT want to participate, that is okay! You can cross your arms, and we'll know you'd just like to watch instead.

**There are circus props in the show that may make a loud noise if dropped.** The performers of *Mission to the Moon* are all jugglers! They juggle balls and clubs, and sometimes if they drop, they can make a loud banging noise. The performers try very hard not to drop though! There is also a *bounce juggling act*. This is a special kind of juggling, that involves bouncing rubber balls on the floor, and of course catching them. It is percussive - like the rhythm of a musician hitting a drum. The act lasts 3 minutes.

## Sensory Warnings

There is one more warning that we give to audiences at the top of the show. The artists may say this in person as well. *Mission to the Moon* has a few juggling acts, and sometimes props like juggling clubs can wind up in the audience. As the performers like to say, if you can see a juggling club getting bigger, that means it is!



Photo by Brig Bee.

## Content Warnings

*Mission to the Moon* is a show made for young audiences, so we only have a few content warnings for you:

- Travel away from home
- Travel to unfamiliar places
- **\*Spoiler\*** becoming lost in space (*but only for a moment!*)

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

*Mission to the Moon* was created by Highwire Entertainment.

Highwire has been creating circus shows for young audiences for almost thirteen years! Most important to us is creating work for children that ignites their curiosity and sense of innovation - and demonstrates that circus is for everybody. We want our young audiences to see that you can find and make circus in everyday life, no matter how sporty or artsy you are. Your circus can be in the exploring innovation, the adventure of going to space, the way you entertain the crowds in unexpected ways. It takes all kinds of skills, experiences, and stories to make a circus run!

For more information on Highwire Entertainment:

- Website: [www.highwire.com.au](http://www.highwire.com.au)
- Instagram: @highwireentertainment  
@moonmissioncircus



# MEET THE PERFORMERS!

There are three performers in *Mission to the Moon*:

## Georgia Wallace

### “Jacqui the Mission Commander”

Georgia has loved circus since she was young, training with Warehouse Circus in Canberra for over a decade and developing her skills in juggling, group acro and performance. She loves being a part of the circus community, through her role as Programs Administrator and trainer at Warehouse, and as a ROOKE and Throw Catch Collective Emerging Artist. She also played the role of Mission Commander for the 2026 Adelaide Fringe season of *Mission to the Moon*!



Georgia in real life.



Georgia in the show.

# MEET THE PERFORMERS!

## James Bartlett

### “Jezz the Mission Pilot”

James (they/he) is a juggler and acrobat from Mullumbimby NSW. Joining Spaghetti Circus at age 14, he has been in love with the Australian circus community ever since. They have a constant dichotomy of loving to learn new things and an obsessive want to perfect the thing they know. Over the past 8 years he has performed in both solo and ensemble works at events such as the National Circus Festival, Woodford Folk Festival and Splendour in the Grass. They graduated from the National Institute of Circus Arts with an award of artistic excellency and are now beginning their career as a professional performer.



James in real life.



James in the show.

# MEET THE PERFORMERS!

## Matthew Anderson

### **“Kosmo the Mission Specialist”**

Matt (he/him) is an accomplished musician and circus performer. He plays the trombone, piano, keytar, electric bass, ukulele, accordion, composes original music, does solo and pass juggling, slack rope, meteor, and is an acrobat - sometimes, all at once! Matt has degrees in both Music Performance (The College of New Jersey) and Circus Arts (National Institute of Circus Arts), and he has worked in many shows and ensembles throughout his career, including Rebel, Papillon, Petit Circus, and plays trombone with The Itchy Feet Pep Band. With all of his skills, Matt will be sure to keep you entertained!



Matt in real life.



Matt in the show.

# ABOUT THE VENUE

*Mission to the Moon* is being performed at **The Cube** at **Frankston Arts Centre**. The following pages contain the venue's Social Stories guide, so you can get to know the space prior to visiting.

FRANKSTON **ARTS** CENTRE

# SOCIAL STORIES

This guide can be used to familiarise anyone visiting the Frankston Arts Centre and can be helpful for people on the autism spectrum.

# Frankston Arts Centre

Frankston Arts Centre is a place where I can watch performances like theatre, music, and dance concerts.



# Arriving at Frankston Arts Centre

I can catch a bus and get dropped off on Davey Street, or go by car.

The Car Park is underneath the venue and I can use the stairs or lift.



# Frankston Arts Centre Foyer

The foyer can be quiet or busy depending on the time of day that I visit.



# Frankston Arts Centre Box Office

When I arrive at Frankston Arts Centre, I may need to collect my tickets at the Box Office.

The ticket will have a seat number. When the theatre doors open, the friendly staff and ushers will show me where to sit. I may have a physical ticket or a digital ticket.



# Frankston Arts Centre Theatre

Inside Frankston Arts Centre there is a theatre with 800 seats.

The theatre lights will go out when the show is about to start.

If the show is too noisy I can wear headphones if I need to.

Mobile devices are sometimes allowed during the performance, however, if I need it to help me I can let the ushers know.

Staff want to make me happy and comfortable.



# Frankston Arts Centre Performances

Performances may contain loud music, haze, and flashing lights.

If this makes me uncomfortable, I can leave the theatre quietly and safely.

An usher will help me to exit by opening the doors.

Ushers will have torches to help me see in a dark theatre.

At the end of a performance the performers will come and take a bow - I can clap to thank them.



# Frankston Arts Centre Toilets

If I need to go to the toilet, there are signs on the doors throughout the building.

The toilets might be busy and I may have to wait in line to get in to the bathrooms.

The sink tap will turn on when I put my hands underneath it to wash my hands.

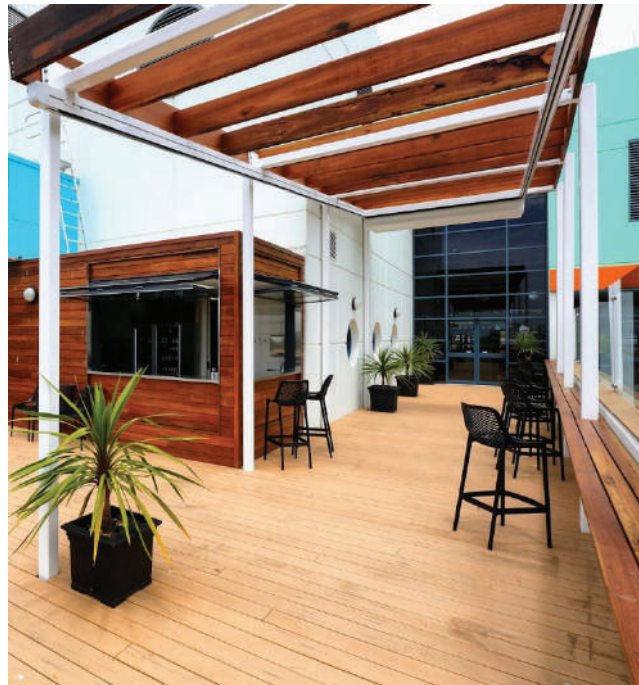
There is both hand dryers and paper towel inside the toilets for me to dry my hands.



# Frankston Arts Centre Quiet Spaces

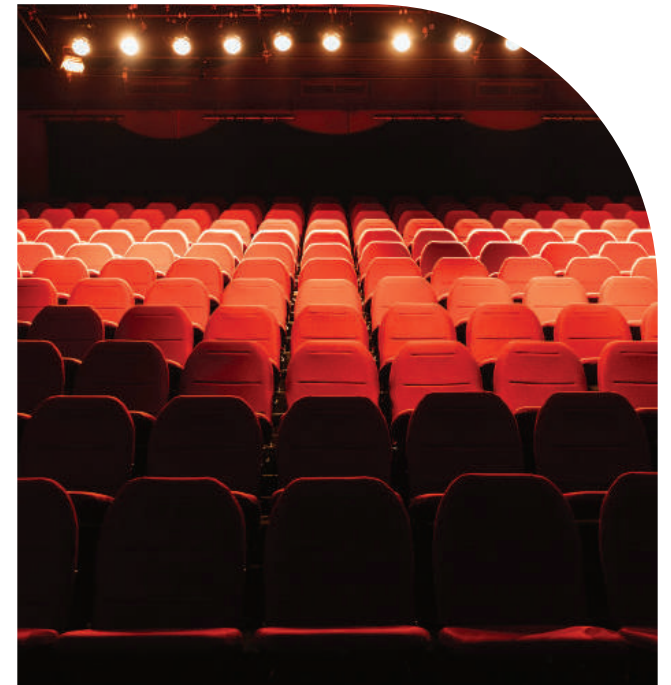
There are calm and quiet spaces around the venue if I need some space.

The library forecourt, the outdoor balcony or the gallery spaces in the Arts Centre are places to get away from noise and crowds.



# Cube 37

Cube 37 is a community arts hub including an art gallery, meeting rooms and a performance space next door to the Frankston Arts Centre.



# Cube 37 Reception

When arriving at Cube 37 there is a desk where I can ask staff for help or information.

Cube 37 is a welcoming space where I can look at art, participate in art activities, or see a show.



# Cube 37 Gallery

There is interesting art to look at. Some things I can touch.

Some things I can't touch. If I am unsure I can ask the friendly staff.



# Cube 37 Performance Space

Inside Cube 37 there is a 200 seat performance space. It is much smaller than the big auditorium next door.

When the theatre doors open, the friendly staff and ushers will show me where to sit. I may have a physical ticket or a digital ticket.

I may need to use the stairs to help me get to my seat.

Friendly ushers will be able to help me on the day.



# Cube 37 Toilets

If I need to go to the toilet, there are signs on the doors.

They might be busy and I may have to wait in a line to get to the bathroom.

The sink tap will turn on when I put my hands underneath it to wash my hands.

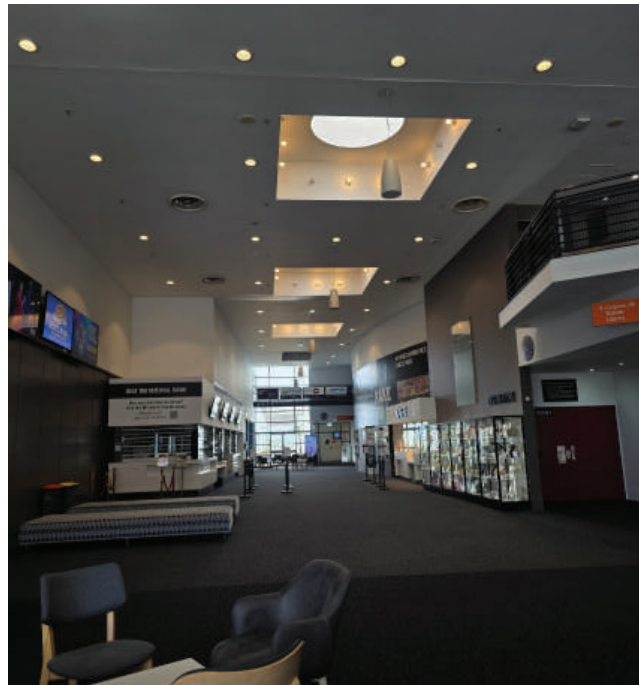
There is both hand dryers and paper towel inside the toilets for me to dry my hands.



# Cube 37 Quiet Spaces

There are usually some calm and quiet areas if I need some space.

The Cube 37 Courtyard or the gallery spaces in the Arts Centre Foyer can be a nice place to get away from noise and crowds.



# Other useful information for your visit

Frankston Arts Centre provides some shows with the following services:



Auslan Signed



Open Captioning



Audio Description



Relaxed Performance

# Other useful information for your visit

A Relaxed Performance is designed to welcome visitors, their families and friends with sensory sensitivities.

Some staging elements are modified to create a low sensory environment.

A more relaxed attitude is taken to movement and noise in the auditorium.

If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to move to the foyer or a quieter space in the auditorium if there are spare seats. Ushers can assist you.

# Other useful information for your visit

You can take cold drinks or a small snack into the theatre.

You can't take hot food, hot drinks, or glass into the theatre.

The venue is open one hour prior to the show time and during the times listed below

## **FAC & Cube 37 Opening Hours:**

Monday ..... Closed

Tuesday-Friday..... 10am-5pm

Saturday ..... 10am-2pm

You are welcome to visit the exhibitions during these times.

Please ask the friendly staff about current exhibitions or go to [www.thefac.com.au](http://www.thefac.com.au)  
before your visit

# Other useful information for your visit

There are no ATM or facilities for getting “cash out” at the FAC. The closest ATM’s are on Playne Street.

The closest Train Station is Frankston Station.

The closest car park is tunderneath the centre and is accessed via Young Street:

## **Rates**

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| 0-1 Hours ..... | \$2.50 |
| 1-2 Hours ..... | \$4.50 |
| 2-4 Hours ..... | \$7.00 |
| 4-6 Hours ..... | \$7.50 |
| 6+ Hours .....  | \$8.00 |

Frankston Library is very close to Frankston Arts Centre and is a great place to visit. To see what’s on at the library, visit: **[library.frankston.vic.gov.au/Home](http://library.frankston.vic.gov.au/Home)**

## **During the Show**

*Mission to the Moon* runs for 55-minutes.

The performance will begin with an Acknowledgement of Country, and then an announcement reminding audience that no flash photography is allowed during the show. That means you can take photos - but you must have your flash turned off, because the sudden brightness can startle or sometimes injure our circus performers. Let our Front of House staff know if you need some help to turn this flash setting off.

If you are late for the show, the Front of House staff will let you in *as soon as there is an appropriate moment*. This means waiting until a circus act has finished so that we don't distract a performer.

If you need to take a break during the show, you can exit the theatre back into the park. You are welcome to come and go as often as you need - but please know that our Front of House staff may need you to wait outside between circus acts before you come back in.

## **After the Show**

When *Mission to the Moon* is over, the performers will bow, and they will thank you for watching the show. You are welcome to clap and cheer if you like, but if that's too loud, it's okay to cover your ears too.

*Mission to the Moon's* performers will come outside the venue to meet any audience member who would like to say hi. They'll still be in their spacesuit costumes - but they'll be sweaty, so if you're a hugger, please ask first.

If you would like to take a photo with the performers, this is a great opportunity too!

# ABOUT THE SHOW

This is how we advertise the show:

*Mission to the Moon* takes you on a captivating journey with three quirky, acrobatic astronauts, blending circus artistry, clowning, and real space science. Inspired by NASA's upcoming Artemis program – which will see humans once again step foot on the Moon – this show imagines jugglers defying gravity and tumbling among the stars! With a mix of classic circus skills, laughter, and exciting space facts, *Mission to the Moon* offers a fresh, imaginative take on our fascination with space. Get ready for a performance that's as entertaining as it is enlightening.

An educational circus show for kids aged 4-9.

*Mission to the Moon* is a scripted circus show. This means you'll see performers both doing circus tricks (juggling, hula hoops, and acrobatics), clowning, and acting with memorised lines.

Over the next few pages, we'll tell you what happens in each scene. **If you don't like spoilers, now's the time to skip to the final page of this document!**

## **Scene One**

As the show begins, three astronauts will enter the stage, walking in slow motion to dramatic music. When they reach the front of the stage, they will stop, introduce themselves as members of CASA: the Circus Astronauts Space Association of Australia.

The astronauts will tell the audience about what is going to happen in the show this afternoon: we're going to the Moon!

They will finish the scene by asking the audience if we're ready to start the show. You can cheer or applaud - or get ready for the show to begin however you like!

## Scene Two

There will be a song to open the show, a training montage with dancing, juggling, tumbling, and acrobatics.

There may be some colourful and slowly flashing lights.



### **Scene Three**

The performers will introduce the characters they're playing - Commander Jacqui, Pilot Jezz, and Mission Specialist Kosmo. They will also tell the audience why they want to go to the Moon.

The audience plays a special role. In this scene, the performers will ask the audience if they can all be part of the Mission Control team. This means there will be some audience participation, but don't worry, it's easy. Mission Control tells the astronauts when it's safe for them to GO for parts of the launch. So when the performers say something like, "Are we GO for weather?" the audience will yell out "GO!"

If you don't like loud noises, this may be a good scene to cover your ears.

And if you don't want to participate in shouting 'GO', you don't have to! We appreciate quiet or even silent participation just as much!

## Scene Four

The Circus Astronauts do their best attempts at a majestic-looking slow-mo walk to their rocket - the kind you might see in famous movies about astronauts, like *The Right Stuff* or *Armageddon*. But, they're clowns, so it's not going to go entirely according to plan.

At the end of the scene, they have arrived at the rocket, and are ready for liftoff!



## Scene Five

The Circus Astronauts are lifting off in their rocket! On stage will be a tall orange rocketship that is designed to look like a real Artemis rocket - except much smaller. As the astronauts liftoff, they will also lift the rocket and mime with it the various stages of a rocket entering Earth's orbit. They'll also share some space facts!

The sound effects can be a little loud here: we're using the sound of a real rocket launch! It will be loud for about 10 seconds, and then we'll turn it down.

When the scene is over, the Circus Astronauts will be in Earth's orbit, looking down on the audience from space.



Photo by Brig Bee

## **Scene Six**

They're in space! As the Circus Astronauts look down on Earth, they name all the things they can see: Australia, the Great Barrier Reef, even Adelaide!

Mission Specialist Kosmo though is at a loss for words. All he can say is, "Woah."

## Scene Seven

Mission Specialist Kosmo does a solo circus act. He's a juggler and will perform an act with juggling clubs that he created to express the wonderment astronauts reportedly feel when they are finally in space.

In this scene, you will also see giant inflatable beachballs that looks like the Earth and Moon!



Photo by Brig Bee

## **Scene Eight**

This scene includes some audience participation.

Before the Circus Astronauts leave Earth's orbit, they have to make sure their spaceship is in perfect working order. They go through some Systems Checks, which means checking programs like communications, navigation, and life support to make sure they are good to head to the Moon.

Once that is completed, Pilot Jezz realises they have no idea how far it is to the Moon! With the help of a basketball, a tennis ball, a measuring tape, and a helpful audience member (this is where we bring up an audience participant!) they learn roughly how far it is from the Earth to the Moon.

Pro Tip: our Circus Astronauts are pretty good at figuring out who does and does not want to participate in the show. But if you want to make it super clear that you would rather watch from your seat than be a part of the show, a great way to do that is to cross your arms. If you forget and they do pick you to participate, you can also just say NO - either right away, or at any time in the scene. If you do decide to participate though, all you have to do is hold a tennis ball.

## **Scene Nine**

Scene Eight taught us how far it is to the Moon, and now Scene Nine is going to teach us how long it will take to get there. This is a song performed by the Circus Astronauts. It has a chorus that you can sing along to if you like!

And if you're the type who likes to know the chorus before you sing along, here are lyrics:

*Or we could moonwalk, Moonwalk  
Moonwalk to the Moon  
Moonwalk, Moonwalk  
I bet we'll be there soon.*

It's a catchy chorus, so you're free to shout along with us!

## Scene Ten

It's been a long day in space already, and the Circus Astronauts are ready for a nap! Maybe all except for Pilot Jezz. In this scene, Jezz gets ready for bed, and the other performers use puppets to show what life is like in zero gravity.

At the end of the scene, Jezz finally gets to sleep.



## Scene Eleven

It's morning time on the spaceship, and the Circus Astronauts are starving! Good thing they've all brought along some biscuits! Jezz shows everyone how they can use a biscuit to demonstrate all of the lunar phases - a trick you can do at home too!

This gives Mission Specialist Kosmo an idea! He begins a song that teaches the audience all of the phases of the Moon.

This song also has a chorus you can sing along, if you want. Here are the lyrics if you'd like to practice before the show:

*New moon / waxing crescent  
First quarter / waxing gibbous  
Full moon / waning gibbous  
Third quarter / waning crescent*

We'll teach you how it goes in the show, and we'll have cards with the lyrics on them as well that you can read along with.

## Scene Twelve

When you're in space, it's important to exercise regularly, especially to keep your bones nice and strong. Commander Jacqui takes the Circus Astronauts through their workout routine, which uses acrobatics and juggling.

There's a part of the act where the audience is welcome to dance along with the performers! They'll show you the moves. You can do this seated, standing, or not at all: as you wish!



## Scene Thirteen

Content Warning: in this scene, something goes wrong with the spaceship. It's all okay, everyone is fine in the end, and the ship gets fixed! But for those who like a little excitement in their shows, this scene is what we call conflict.

The scene begins with the sound effect of an alarm - or what they call 'cautions and warnings' on a spaceship. There are three types of alarm sound effects: one that goes *whoop-whoop*, one that goes *beep-beep*, and one that sounds a bit like an alien spaceship. There is also a bit of loud, cacophonous shouting between Jezz and Kosmo, before Jacqui tries to calm everyone down.

The Circus Astronauts work together to try to fix the problem, and they learn that the ship might have been hit by a micro-meteorite. And knowing what the problem is, that's half-way to fixing it.

## Scene Fourteen

The Circus Astronauts attempt to fix the problem, through a song. This time, no audience participation needed - but if you want to clap along, that's more than welcome! The song starts off with the performers looking for serious answers to the problem - but by the end, it gets faster and sillier until... the problem is solved!

Mostly.



## Scene Fifteen

Commander Jacqui has found the problem! But, it's outside of the ship. CASA didn't make her Commander of the mission for nothing: she suits up, puts on her helmet, and a tether, and head outside the ship.

Commander Jacqui fixes the ship in an act that uses bounce juggling. By the end of the scene, the ship is ready again to head to the Moon.



## **Scene Sixteen**

Content Warning: this scene involves Commander Jacqui almost getting lost in space. But don't worry: we all work together to fix it.

In this scene, Commander Jacqui realises she is no longer attached to her tether, and is floating out to space (in the audience). The Circus Astronauts need to fix this, and quick. Thankfully, Mission Control (remember: that's the audience!) is able to send up a specialist to come save the day.

This is audience participation! Pilot Jezz and Mission Specialist Kosmo will choose an audience member to come up and help with this scene. Whoever they pick will get to come up on stage, wear part of a spacesuit, and then will have to go out into the audience, find Commander Jacqui, and bring her home.

And of course: everyone gets home safe!

This is the end of anything potentially scary in the show. From here on, we're moon-bound!

## Scene Seventeen

The Circus Astronauts have made it to the Moon! And it's time for Commander Jezz to show their stuff and do the best lunar landing since Neil Armstrong (the first man on the Moon).

This act uses hula hoops to show what it is like to land a spaceship on the lunar surface.



## **Scene Eighteen**

The Circus Astronauts have landed on the Moon!  
They finally take their first steps on the surface:  
runway style!

## Scene Nineteen

It's time to plant a flag on the Moon! The Circus Astronauts have carried with them a flag that says “👁️❤️🌍” (I Heart Earth). They debate who gets to plant this, and it turns into a battle for control over the flag.

At the same time, they also have to take a nice picture for CASA! So in between the battles, you'll hear the countdown to a photo and a camera snap. It will somehow catch them smiling every single time.



## Scene Twenty

This is the final scene of the show! The Circus Astronauts are so excited to get working on their lunar mission. But first, they want to fulfil all of their Circus Astronaut dreams, and juggle on the Moon.

After this act is finished, the performers will bow and the show will end.





Photo by Brig Bee

# CONTACT US

We're always happy to receive questions from young space fans, budding astronomers, and circus young and old!

If you have questions before the show, you can reach us here:

Email: [touring@highwire.com](mailto:touring@highwire.com)

Phone: +61 434 238 084

After the show, you are welcome to meet the performers (Matt, James, and Georgia) outside of the venue. You can say hello, tell us your favourite space fact, and pose for a photo.

You can also email or phone us after the show as well if you have any questions.