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ONLINE - Review: Melynda Von Derksen [[www.artshub.com.au](http://www.artshub.com.au)]

I just love going to contemporary Circus shows, so luckily it was off to Theatre Works again for me to see the second two performances of the Circus Works series - a platform for independent circus companies to flip, fly, twirl, juggle, balance and enthrall the audience with their finely tuned skills and devil may care attitudes.

The first of these performances, which was called Freefall (Gravity & Other Myths), starred 7 young and very talented performers all hailing from the 'Cirkidz Performing Troupe'. The ensemble consisted of Lachlan Binns, Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Martin Schreiber, Jacob Randell, Jascha Boyce, Brie Henwood and Triton Tunis-Mitchell.

I have to say, for a bunch of 'youngsters' who had little outside direction in devising this performance - which explored the theme of phobias - their take on the circus/theatre combination was not only different, but was impressive, clever and very entertaining.

Entering the dark theatre, at first I wasn't sure what to expect as the performers began to write their fears onto a papered wall. But suddenly, with the use of several low hanging light bulbs and some smooth choreography, the performance became illuminated in more ways than one.

Then we were introduced to each performer by the use of a telephone with a microphone in it. Not only did the use of the phone meld into the theme of phobias perfectly - as one performer told us about her fears as though she was talking to a market researcher - but it was also used as a prop for several of the other acts.

Then came the circus tricks! Time and time again throughout the course of this performance we were enthralled with brilliant balancing, tumbling, adagio, hand balancing and hoop tricks. But the piece de résistance for me was the juggling act, with this troupe putting a new twist on juggling by slowing it right down and making it very precise. As I said earlier - very clever!

In conclusion I thought the teamwork in this show was superb, with the varying ages of the performers (15 - 29) having no impact on their ability to create a top notch circus performance consisting of drama, humour, fun, skill and intellect. My only criticism is that I thought the performance went for a tad too long, but I really believe that Freefall has got a real future in the circus touring circuit. There certainly is no to fear of that.