

eden project

nofitstate[©]

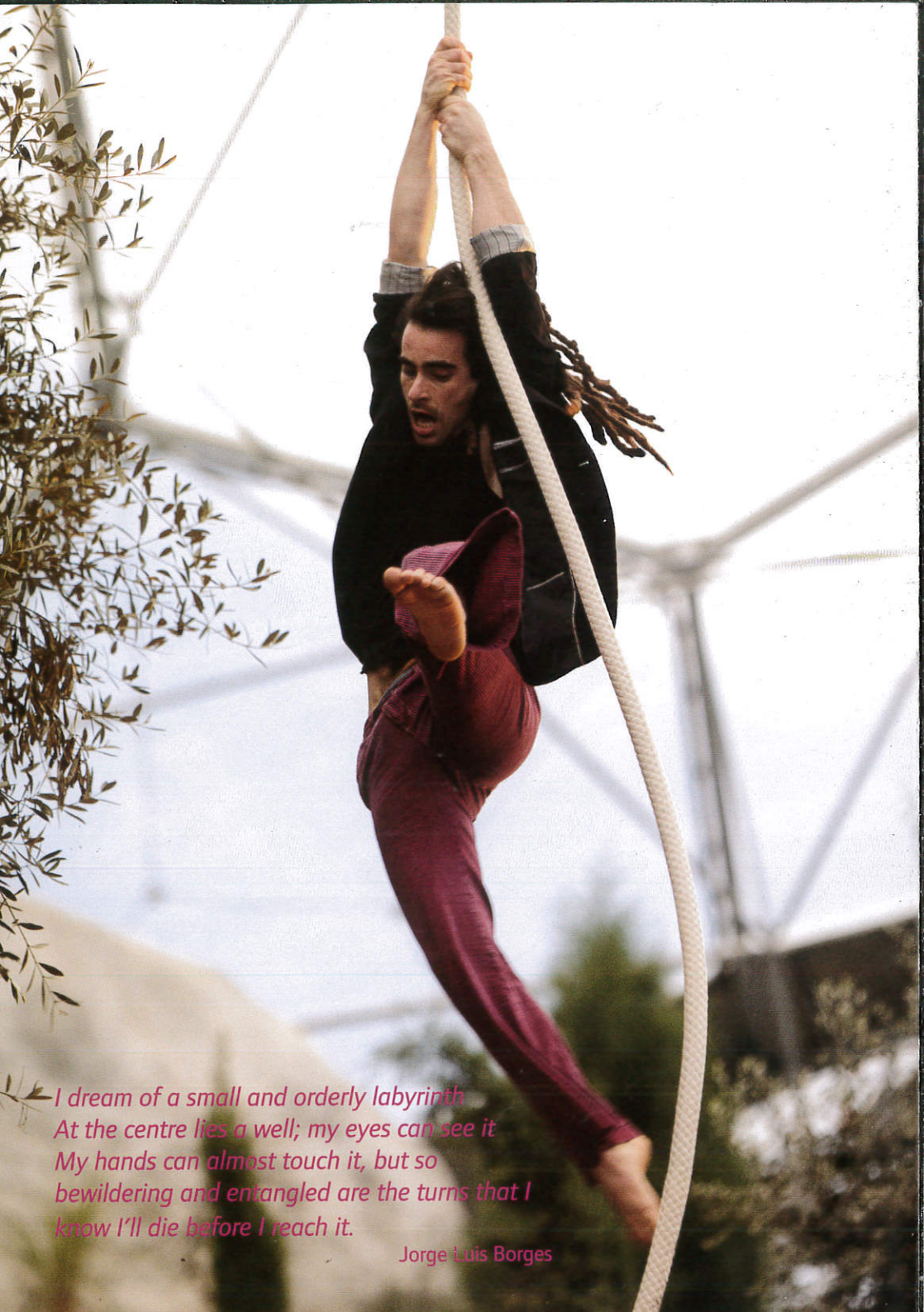
labyrinth

Losing yourself is the key to the game



Written and Directed by Firenza Guidi
Original Music by Gareth Jones
Produced by Tom Rack





*I dream of a small and orderly labyrinth
At the centre lies a well; my eyes can see it
My hands can almost touch it, but so
bewildering and entangled are the turns that I
know I'll die before I reach it.*

Jorge Luis Borges

Labyrinth – director's notes

Physical, visual, sensual, Labyrinth is an exploration of our demons and all that makes us what we are

A man returns to a place of memory. Here he builds a labyrinth on a hill so that the end, when it comes for him, will lose its way. A circle of fire and a lion stand guard over the entrance and in the centre of the maze he makes camp in a big chamber.

In his life, he had desired many things, with a passion that lacked all scruples and all fear. Now he desires nothing except for things to last. To live on. Never end. Here, in his vast underground refuge, he descends into memory and desire amongst figures of dream and nightmare, ghosts from a real or imaginary past, through tenderness and violence, crossing light and darkness, until he can say goodbye to old demons and welcome new ones. Labyrinth is a play, an installation, a promenade performance where singing and live music will take you through roads suspended in mid-air, crossing indoor and outdoor corridors, into fields of flying creatures looking down, along lanes and courtyards where extraordinary men and women will make their raucous voices heard. You will not simply watch from afar: you will enter their world. You will feel their breath, touch their faces, witness their courage in a whirligig of moving images and sound.

The performance is a process of searching through by fragmenting the labyrinth, in a joyful, liberating celebration of openness, of opening-up, of being-opened, multiplying the links between spaces. Such is life: a tremendous, terrifying, passionate exploration of unfathomable possibilities and a mad upheaval of bodies slowly unfolding through space.. Labyrinth represents the pleasure or cruelty we may find in life, the race of time and timelessness, the harshness, the violent loss of identity. The game of losing ourselves in the labyrinth has been worth playing, as we come back to this world energized, invigorated, seduced, eager to live. A whole new being.

Life is the labyrinth. Fear is the monster hidden within. Ariadne's thread is the story. Or, if you like, your story.

Firenza Guidi, June 2011

Nofitstate is the UK's leading large-scale contemporary circus company. Described by the Guardian as 'the future of British circus', Nofitstate fuses circus, music, dance and drama into spine tingling spectacle.

The company was founded in Cardiff in 1986 by five friends as a creative reaction to the world around them. Twenty-five years on, Nofitstate still believe that the total outweighs the sum of the parts.



From 2004-10 Nofitstate toured their critically acclaimed productions *Immortal* and *Tabu* across the UK and Europe. Both productions gained cult status, had sell-out runs in nine countries, and played to over 250,000 people.

Since 2009 the company has been collaborating with a wide range of partners to develop both circus for theatre and circus in open air performance: Nofitstate has worked in partnership with both Without Walls and ZEPA (Zone Européenne de Projets Artistiques) to develop and tour two large scale open air productions, *Parklife* and *Barricade*, in the UK and France. From pleasure gardens, to parks, to city centre squares, Nofitstate has brought large scale open air aerial spectacular to more than 50,000 people since last spring.

In early 2011 a new production, *Mundo Paralelo*, was developed as a co-production with National Theatre Wales and Theatre Tattoo. *Mundo Paralelo* premiered at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven in March this year and will continue to be performed in Wales and France for the next 12 months.

The company's training space in the centre of Cardiff is a thriving community circus centre and hotbed of circus creativity with an extensive and vibrant programme of classes and workshops, masterclasses and training opportunities, as well as a rehearsal space for theatre and circus companies.

Firenza Guidi – Artistic Director



Milan-born Firenza Guidi is an independent theatre/circus/film director, writer and visual artist who has developed Nofitstate's style of performance as a touring company through all incarnations of ImMortal and Tabú. Firenza trained as a performer with international masters such as Dario Fo, Philippe Gaulier, Enrique Pardo and Ida Krelarova; and as an actress/singer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. In 1989 she founded Elan (European Live Arts Network), and since 2004 has been running her Creative Centre housed in an old olive press in Tuscany, Italy. She has a PhD in Renaissance Tragedy and an MA in Film. For the last 20 years she has been developing her unique style of training and performance creating scores of small- and large-scale performances throughout Europe and beyond. Her all-encompassing methodological approach and ongoing research are based on two fundamental beliefs: 1. that the performer is an all-round, time-based being with body, speech, singing, performative persona and a fundamental self-ironic approach to delivering one's own skill in performance; 2. that the space and the spectator are co-players in the artistic process. The vision for each show creates a world which the spectators enter and not simply watch from afar.

Tom Rack – Producer



Tom Rack has never had a proper job in his life. Aged 19 along with 5 friends he founded Nofitstate. In the early years it was all about street performing, travelling the festival circuit and living the alternative lifestyle. By the end of the 80's the original 5 friends still together bought their first big top and began touring all around the country. Tom tried to run away from the circus in the mid 90's and got as far as Art college where he studied Interactive Arts. After he left college the circus lured him back in and with his new interests and some new friends he started to develop the early incarnations of the new Nofitstate style of work. In the late 90's the need to feed two small children had him doing freelance work with both interactive and new media in the theatre and conference worlds. Although he had a brief career as an artist, exhibiting interactive installations that was quite successful, it didn't feed the children. These days out of the founding 5, only Tom Rack and Ali Williams remain. Now, with the pressures of booking and running the international tours, producing the show and managing over 50 people sometimes it feels like a lot more than a proper job.

Labyrinth Company

Produced by Tom Rack for Nofit State Circus

Written and Directed by Firenza Guidi

Original Music Composed by Gareth Jones

Design Team: Tom Rack, Firenza Guidi, Chris Hills, Tarn Aitken, Lyndall Merry, Howard Morley, Marco Fiera, Tom Barnecut

Lighting Design: Adam Coble

Costume Design: Rhiannon Matthews

Performing Company: Adie Delaney, Foucauld Falguerolles, Vanina Fandiño, Shaena Brandel, Alice Roma, Damiano Fumagilli, Enrico Astegiano, Anne-Fay Audet Johnston, Brice Massé, Freya Watson, Lyndall Merry, Marco Fiera, Howard Morley, Anna Sandreuter, Kevin McIntosh, Marcella Manzilli, Tanwen Watson, Petri Ekqvist, Simone Riccio

Emerging Performers: Hannah Darby, Winston Reynolds, Kate-Inez Kieran, Blaze Cummings, Zara Macbeth

Musicians: Gareth Jones, Chris Cundy, Andy Moore, Peter Swaffer Reyonlds, Dylan Leonard

Company Manager: Zoe Munn

Health and Safety/Site: Tim Adam

Tech/Ghost: Chris Hills

Stage Manager: Helen Fagelman



Head Rigger: Lyndall Merry
Rigger: Rupert Sherston
Lighting Operator: Leif Le Page
Sound: Pete Storer
Build Crew: Tarn Aitken, Iolo Lavender
Crew: Dave Rook, Duncan Milligan, Steve Isherwood, Josh Robson,
Kelley Griffiths, Marco Fiera, Howard Morley, Karlos Fandaglios,
Sarah Wilson, Kate Bevan
Physiotherapist: Joni Anderson
Wardrobe: Rhiannon Matthews, Sean Donahue, Catherine Embleton
Catering: Lily Stevenson, Seahem at Food for Fork
Props: Sarah Moir







Circus performers



Enrico Astegiano – *Wong* – Rope

Born in Italy in 1979, Enrico discovered the world of circus after doing a master's degree in molecular biology. He trained aerial in Turin and then Brussels, first at 'Espace Catastrophe' and then at Fill de Block's 'Atelier de Trapeze'. He specialises in rope.



Shaena Brandel – *Etienne* – Aerial hoop

Trained at Circomedia in Bristol, Shaena has been performing for 13 years from Mumbai to Latvia, including five years touring with Nofitstate in ImMortal and Tabú. She has featured in three films and has also appeared as a showgirl with Giffords Circus, a fallen angel at the Tate Modern, a tropical bird at Legoland, and a human mirror ball in Egypt.



Adie Delaney – *Robyn* – Swinging trapeze

Tasmanian Adie began as a gymnast. Since graduating from the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne she has worked in everything from large sporting ceremonies to traditional circus before joining Nofitstate in 2008. Over 20 countries have seen her performing swinging trapeze, flying trapeze, hula hoops, trampolining, bungees, whipcracking and acrobatics.



Petri Ekvist – Aerial Catcher

Petri is from Finland and trained as a contemporary dancer there and at the Alvin Ailey School in New York before starting his circus training at Noctambule in Nanterre. He then went on to specialise in cradle with Rodleigh Stevens in the Gold Coast, Australia. Over 15 years on, he still looks forward to new experiences and challenges.



Foucauld Falguerolles – *Horacio* – Chinese Pole

French-born Foucauld was self-taught until joining Espace Catastrophe in Brussels in 2002. He worked in street festivals with the Dujoli Cirkus then toured in 'Fin de siesta', directed by Louis Spagna. He has performed his Chinese pole act around Europe, joining Nofitstate in Tabú in 2010, and performing in the Helsinki Winter Circus last winter.



Vanina Fandiño – *La Maga (Lucía)* – Tightwire

Vanina was born in Argentina and studied contemporary dance. She worked with Argentinian company Circo Volante before creating the company Circo Fantasma in Belgium in 2002. She developed her tightwire skills, moving on to 'Le Lido' Centre des Arts de Cirque in Toulouse. She toured with Nofitstate's Tabú from 2008–10 and in 2011 performed in Mundo Paralelo.



Marco Fiera – *Oliviera*

From Cardiff, Marco trained in gymnastics as a child and then in mime at Desmond Jones School in London, starting flying trapeze in his 40s. He worked as a stage technician with the Welsh National Opera and the National Theatre, joining Nofitstate 10 years ago and rediscovering his love of heights and bouncing on things.



Damiano Fumagalli – *Traveler* – Acrobatic Bicycle, Hand to Hand
Italian tree climber Damiano rooted himself to the ground as the base of a hand-to-hand act with Alice Roma. He attended the National Circus School Flick in Turin, and the Circus School in Lyon, going on to create and perform with 4quarti in France. Alice and Damiano then discovered the acrobatic bicycle, and currently have a new show entitled 'Linge Sale'.



Anne-fay Audet Johnston – *Pola* – Swinging trapeze, hand balancing
Anne-fay was born in Québec City. She attended the national circus school in Montréal, graduating as a specialised swinging trapeze and handstand artist in 2009. She has worked on many different projects, from Impro-cirque and special events to street shows and cabaret. She is also in Les Confins, a contemporary Québécois company.



Marcella Manzilli – Clown, Cradle
Born in Italy, Marcella graduated from the Circus Space in London, where she specialised in flying trapeze. For 7 years she has performed her comedy trapeze act, 'Miss Glamour', including Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris. She has been touring with Nofitstate for four years, and has a cradle comedy act with Petri Ekqvist and Tanwen Watson.



Brice Massé – *Gregorovious* – Tightwire
Born in Blaye, France, Brice began circus training in nearby Bordeaux when he was eight. Upon finishing school, he studied at the Centre of Circus Arts in Chambéry, France, for one year and then for three years at the Superior School of Circus Arts in Brussels, Belgium. This is Brice's first show with Nofitstate.



Kevin McIntosh – Rope, aerial
Born and bred in Thompson Pen, Jamaica. When studying Fine Art at Cardiff Art College, Kevin began performing circus as a fire swinger and stiltwalker, soon to ascend the trapeze. He now specialises in Aerial Rope, performing freelance and touring with Nofitstate for 6 years. Kevin is also an accomplished dancer and salsa teacher.



Howard Morley – *Morven*
Born in Sheffield in 1967, Howie developed a passion for circus after seeing Norman Barrett and his performing budgies. Inspired by seeing Archaos and NofitState at Glastonbury, he volunteered on a Nofitstate show as a scaffolder and ended up with a large role. His speciality is eccentric characterisation combined with classic circus skills of balance and manipulation.



Lyndall Merry – *Mauriac* – Swinging Trapeze, Rigger
Starting out with traditional circus from Norwich to New Zealand, Lyndall gained inspiration and first experiences of flying from Mike Wright at Circomedia in Bristol. He was trained in swinging trapeze by Viktor Fomine in Montreal and Juliette Hardy-Donaldson in London. His aerial and specialist rigging skills often overlap with his role as performer.

**Simone Riccio** – German Wheel, Juggling

Born in Italy, Simone was a music video director when he discovered a passion for juggling and performing street art. He studied in two contemporary circus schools, Carampa in Madrid and Circus Space in London, specialising in German wheel and acrobalance. Simone joined Nofitstate in 2008 and is currently presenting his solo show across Europe.

**Alice Roma** – *Talita* – Acrobatic Bicycle, Hand to Hand

Alice graduated from the National Circus School Flick in Turin, and the Circus School in Lyon, going on to specialise in porté acrobatico with Damiano Fumagalli. The duo also specialised in acrobatic bicycle with Thomas Senecaille (Company Chérie d'amour). Since 2010 Alice and Damiano have been creating a new show entitled 'Linge Sale' (Compagnia Rasoterra).

**Anna Sandreuter** – Aerial, Hula hoops

After graduating from Circus Space in London in 2001 Anna toured with Nofitstate for three years in ImMortal, and is also an experienced trainer at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne and Nofitstate. Anna is a co-founder of the Mary Bijou Cabaret, and is currently directing an ensemble show with her company Crashmat Collective.

**Freya Watson** – *Lilith* – Cloudswing

Freya was born in North Wales and spent much of her childhood living the circus life with her siblings. She studied at the Northern School Of Contemporary Dance and Circomedia before training with cloudswing coach Roman Fedin. She has toured with Nofitstate and many other circuses, as well as performing at the National Theatre and the London Palladium.

**Tanwen Watson** – Little hoops, Cradle

From North Wales, Tanwen trained at Circomedia in Bristol and Circus Space in London, continuing in Nofitstate's Tabú as an apprentice, also with the Winter Circus Helsinki, Invisible Circus and Cirque Valo. Her performance skills are flying trapeze, cradle and aerial rings. She is in a comedy cradle act with Marcella Manzilli and Petri Ekqvist.

Emerging Performers



**Blaze
Cummings**



**Kate-Inez
Kieran**



**Hannah
Darby**



**Winston
Reynolds**



**Zara
Macbeth**

Musicians



Chris Cundy – *Guy Monod*

Starting out as a street busker in his teens, Chris has maintained an enduring presence on the UK's underground music scene ever since. He has worked with Guillemots, and continues to work closely with lead singer Fyfe Dangerfield. He has been performing music with Nofitstate since 2010.



Gareth Jones – *Morelli*

Brought up in Swansea, Gareth graduated in 2008 with an acting degree from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Since then he has worked professionally in theatre and circus across Europe, dividing his time between playing piano, guitar, saxophone, accordion and percussion, and aerial rope and acting.



Dylan Leonard – *Ronald*

Dylan is Irish, grew up in the South of France and moved to London in 2002 to study sound engineering. He soon found himself living in a warehouse full of circus performers, devising music for cabaret and shows. He joined Nofitstate as a sound engineer and has been drumming for them ever since.



Andy Moore – *Thelonious*

Freemoore trumpeted for Orkestra Del Sol for as long as his shirts could stand it and spent 10 years with drum crews in Beltane Fire Festival. Chronically unable to stick to one instrument, he now plays trumpet, guitar, double bass, synths, samples and sings, but cannot play poker due to his face.



Peter Swaffer Reynolds

Peter Swaffer Reynolds is a composer who works internationally for circus, theatre, film and dance. In this project he is working as a musician, playing mainly accordion.



Contemporary Circus

25 years ago when nofitstate started the public perception of circus was very different from today. Red noses, big feet, lions, tigers, sawdust and elephants. You would take your children or your grandchildren to the circus and often endure it. Traditional circuses still enjoy popularity today but 'new circus' or 'contemporary circus' has firmly taken hold in the UK and is recognised now by the public and the arts establishment as a popular and legitimate art form.

On the continent, particularly in France and Belgium, the circus arts have always been held in high regard and the culture of circus and circus-going has always been very different. Circus schools and creation centres catalyse a constant stream of emerging talent creating new and progressive work for the many companies, venues and festivals which fuel the demand.

After many years in the wilderness the UK circus scene is catching up. We now have two major circus schools and a network of regional training centres and creative hubs. New companies are emerging and the sector is growing quickly.

Of the companies who were around 25 years ago when new circus was new very few remain. Nofitstate only managed to endure by dogged determination and an economy of scale. However it was those early shows that inspired the new generation of circus performers. Companies such as Archaos, Circus Burlesque, Skinning the Cat, Snapdragon, Ra-Ra Zoo should be remembered for paving the way.

Love or hate it, the Millennium Dome show and the frequent visits to the UK by Cirque du Soleil have done much to raise the profile of contemporary circus and bring it to new audiences. It's taken 25 long hard years but the tide is turning. Nofitstate is now seen as major player and influence on the world stage, and British circus is seen as a force to be reckoned with.

Tom Rack, July 2011



Thanks to:

Everybody at Eden Project whose hard work, enthusiasm, patience and time have made this extraordinary project possible. A huge thanks to all departments on every level for their commitment and for proving once again that belief in the improbable can make the seemingly impossible reality. Happy Birthday Eden!

Nofitstate Core Company:

Executive Director: Alison Woods

Creative Directors: Tom Rack, Ali Williams

Education Officer: Lynn Carroll

Communications & Marketing Officer: Rhys Fowler

Finance Officer: Wendy Hii

Health & Safety Officer: Tim Adam

Administrator: Leaf Brailey

Receptionist: Beth Cobley

Nofitstate Board of Governors:

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Lisa Every

Tim Hudson

Sara Pepper

Toby Philpot

Helen Protheroe

Paul Ralley

Mark Robson

Claire Sain-ley-Berry

Mark White

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Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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*What if I was already dead,
and my life was just a dream?*

