

WINSTON RUDDLE'S  
***CIRQUE AFRICA***

**THE GREATEST SHOW FROM AFRICA**



**THE WORLD'S  
THE BEST**

**AFRICAN CIRCUS ACTS  
FROM 6 COUNTRIES**

**BACKED BY LIVE ORCHESTRA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**





**CIRQUE AFRICA UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENTS  
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

# EDITOR

**WINSTON  
RUDDLE**



I am delighted that you have chosen to experience our very unique CIRQUE AFRICA, so please come with us on a journey to the exotic destination.. AFRICA!..a continent rich in culture, happiness and full of wonders.

Our new spectacular has been crafted to take you away from your everyday routine, transporting you to a mystical place to witness the magics of West Africa through its spiritual dances before unveiling the most refined acrobats of continent's independence icon-Ethiopia.

We will then awaken to witness the most spectacular sunrise at the snow rocks of Mt.Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with the chants of the Amazing Hakuna Matata acrobats praising the shaman of their clan Lazarus from Kenya, before making way to catch up with the mesmerizing sunset at the Victoria falls in Zimbabwe listening to beautiful voices of our singers echoing the great depths.

I am sure each and everyone of you will take away something different from this performance, either by sharing the Oz joy on stage with our clowns or by relaxing and appreciating the showcase at its best.

Please enjoy the greatest show from Africa and we hope to welcome you back soon at our big top.

**WINSTON RUDDLE**  
Founder, Producer and Director





## THE TROOP



With a cast of 38 of Africa's finest professional acrobats such as aerial artists, jugglers, foot jugglers, stilt dancers, contortionists, clowns and more, the heart of Cirque Africa experience is made up of a core group of Tanzanian artists. Others in the cast represent the rich and diverse circus, musical, and dance cultures of Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia and Zimbabwe. Together, draped in over 200 different colourful African costumes all acts performed with live music played by the 8 piece Cirque Africa band.

**Cirque Africa is a one-of-a-kind Show and the only show of its kind on the whole continent of Africa and known to be THE GREATEST AFRICAN SHOW ON EARTH.**

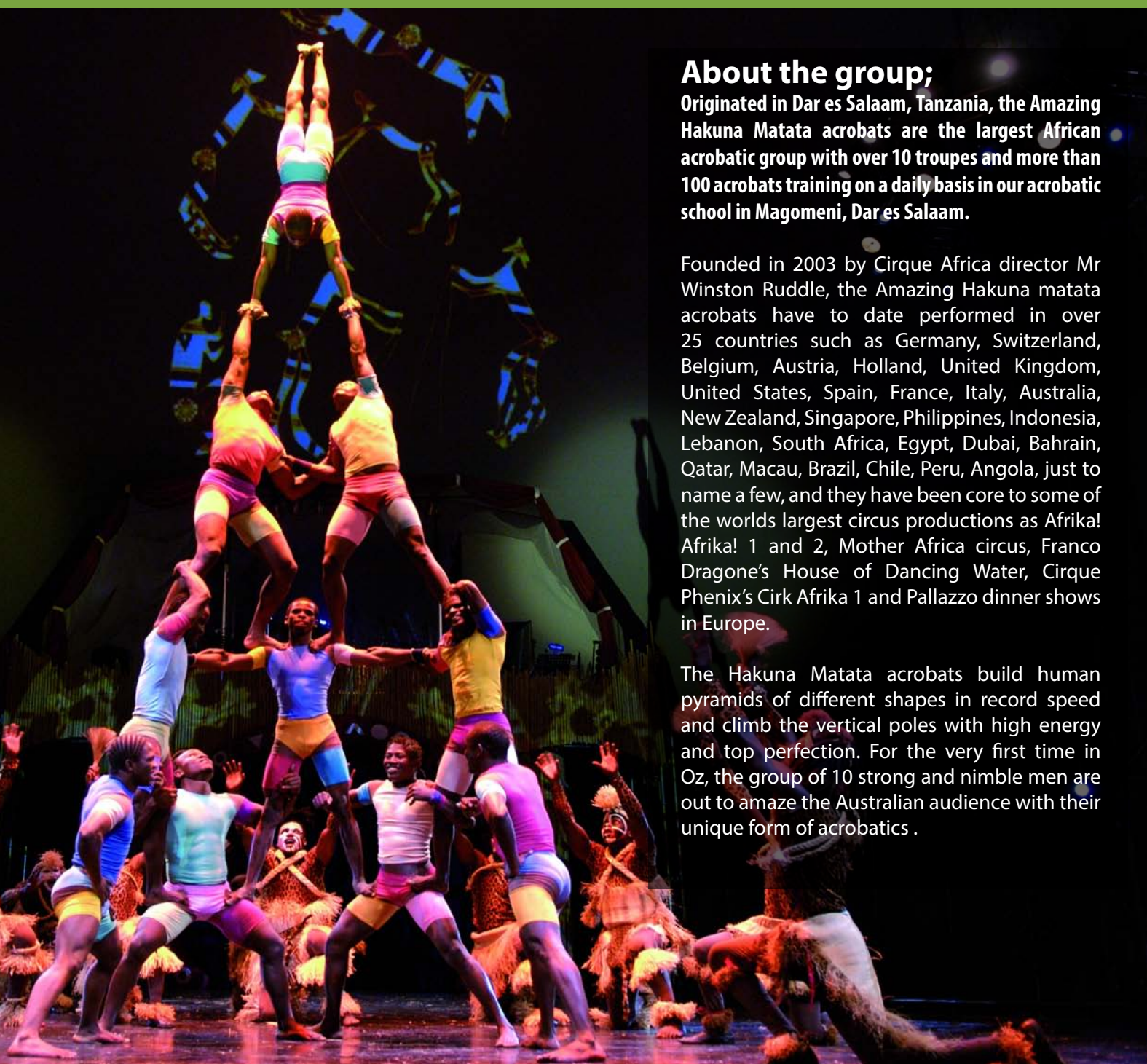




THE SHOW







### About the group;

Originated in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the Amazing Hakuna Matata acrobats are the largest African acrobatic group with over 10 troupes and more than 100 acrobats training on a daily basis in our acrobatic school in Magomeni, Dar es Salaam.

Founded in 2003 by Cirque Africa director Mr Winston Ruddle, the Amazing Hakuna Matata acrobats have to date performed in over 25 countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Holland, United Kingdom, United States, Spain, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Lebanon, South Africa, Egypt, Dubai, Bahrain, Qatar, Macau, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Angola, just to name a few, and they have been core to some of the worlds largest circus productions as Afrika! Afrika! 1 and 2, Mother Africa circus, Franco Dragone's House of Dancing Water, Cirque Phenix's Cirk Afrika 1 and Pallazzo dinner shows in Europe.

The Hakuna Matata acrobats build human pyramids of different shapes in record speed and climb the vertical poles with high energy and top perfection. For the very first time in Oz, the group of 10 strong and nimble men are out to amaze the Australian audience with their unique form of acrobatics.

### About the name;

Hakuna Matata is a Swahili phrase that can literally be translated as "There are no problems." Its use in the society is matched by the likes of American English phrase "No problem" or famous Australian English phrase "No worries" and is akin to "don't worry, be happy".

The phrase is commonly used among native speakers of Swahili language in Tanzania and East African countries. It was made famous world wide by Disney's animation movie 'The Lion King'.



Upon the creation of this group, Winston Ruddle had overseen a plan of making professional acrobats out of famous slums of Dar es Salaam. A bold and risky move considering a fact that the boys were still young and unexposed to greatness.

To make this dream possible the name Hakuna Matata was chosen as a Moto to the young acrobats in what was then a transition period of their lives.

Today alike "No worries" and "No problems, the Amazing Hakuna Matata acrobats are highly praised world wide as the most professional and disciplined African acrobats on and off stage.



# THE AMAZING HAKUNA MATATA ACROBATS





**EMMANUEL LARYEA** from Accra-Ghana is a man who takes advantage of ordinary home appliances and turn them into a joyous act. In most parts of Africa it is still a tradition to wash clothes using big dishes. To creative mind like Emmanuel's these items are more special than that. One of the greatest street performers innovation applied into a modern circus to reflect the African ways of celebration.



**ZAINA SHABANI**  
Foot Juggling



## THE ACTS



**THE CHARMING WUBSHET AMARE**  
Diabolo



**Baraka Juma** started his acrobatic career back in 2005 when he joined Winston's academy as a stilt dancer, but the director had other plans after he saw his unique character and charming personality. Baraka received his first unicycle few months later and with the help of various videos of other professional unicyclist he slowly built up his own style and stage presence unlike any other unicyclist. Baraka also boasts riding the smallest unicycle in the world.



SELEMANI MSUA Chairs Balancing



**Ibrahim Tulwo** The master of balance from Tanzania switched from dance to acrobatics in 2006 at the time Winston had just retired from performing the Rolla bola act. Ruddle then decided to give Ibrahim his props and taught him all the essential techniques of balancing. It took about 17 months for Ibrahim to match the steps of his teacher who was considered Africa's master of balance for a long period



**THE SOUND OF THE DRUMS FROM IVORY COAST**

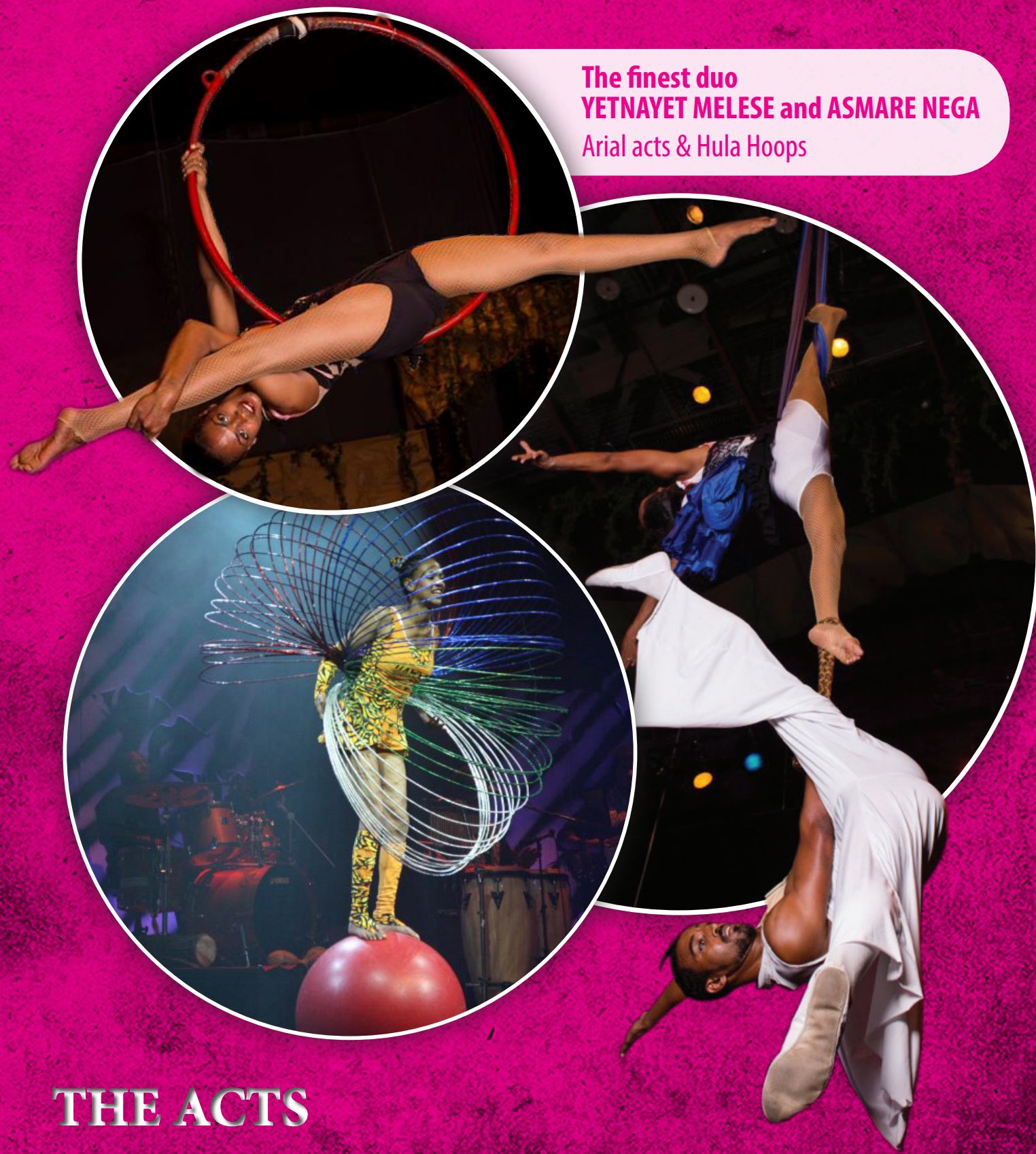
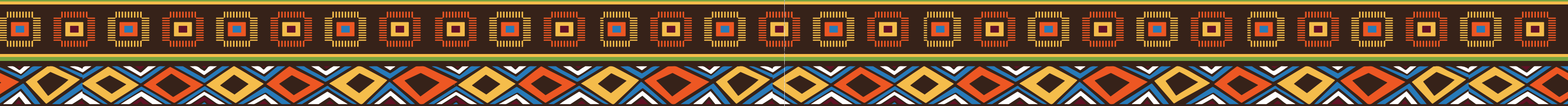


**JEAN-MARC AGBOGBA**  
Zaouli, Stilt and Flute  
**SIPEPHISO MAGONYA**  
Zaouli, African dance

# THE ACTS







The finest duo  
**YETNAYET MELESE and ASMARE NEGA**  
Aerial acts & Hula Hoops

## THE ACTS



The undertaking of Australia with Cirque Africa brings a huge smile on **Lidiya Dawed** and **Tegegn Shewalem's** faces. These true talents are the product of locally acclaimed circus Ethiopia institution. Their high level of concentration is always a key factor in executing their unique ways of juggling bouncing balls mixing complex tricks such as contortion and horizontal hand stands leaving the audience stunned.



At the core of Cirque Africa is a collection of Tanzania's best musicians, **The Cirque Africa band**. With **Ebrima Mbye** from Gambia who adds the amazing sound of the KORA-a long self categorised instrument with 21 strings-they form the most important link between the artist and the audience, assuring the performers gives their best and the audience receives at their happiest state possible. At the end of the show they unite the audience with the artists to conclude this unforgettable experience.







## THE SNAKE MAN IS REAL!!

The mythical creature with the body of a serpent and a face of a human folds himself into a tight coil for the gasping crowds, before slithering into his next impossible position. Discovered in the streets of Mombasa by Winston Ruddle, Lazarus Mwangi is not an ordinary contortionist as one would think. Even the Cirque Africa director once admitted on his own words..“i had been in a circus business since the early 1980s and i’ve never seen something like him..he is special”..



## TEAME GEBREGZIABHER ERSIE

Foward contortionist



# THE ACTS



Although they share a surname, **Fadhili Ramadhani** and **Omary Ramadhani** are not actual brothers, but their bond is perhaps more stronger than some identical twins. The ‘brothers’ were among the first students Winston Ruddle trained back in 2003 after he saw their potential talent and discipline beneath their great stage appearance. After 10 hours of training during five days of the week for 2 years the boys managed to build the best and first ever professional hand-to-hand act in the continent.



The award winning Amharic boys **Leul** and **Nahom** from Addis Ababa Ethiopia are one of the top acts in the Cirque Africa programme. Performing a Risley act or Icarian games act as known to many, this act involves the older Nahom lying on his back on a small bed and juggling his partner Leul with his feet with speed and extreme flipping techniques . . . .as they say seeing is believing!, this is a act that you have to see to believe it.







**WINSTON RUDDLE**  
Producer and Director

Zimbabwean born and German citizen who is the founder, producer, and Director of Cirque Africa. Winston Ruddle is also the first black African anywhere in the world to own, direct and produce a circus show in a big top circus tent.

The Cirque Africa show is made up of 70 Tons of circus equipment, professional sound, lighting and stage equipments, elevated seats with a capacity of seating 1200 people. A 12m high 35m diameter fully air conditioned circus big top tent with a 11m diameter performance stage, 2 foyer tents and a back stage tent measuring 8m by 35 meters

This is a show that evokes passion and demands a response. Audiences are encouraged, prodded and charmed to actively respond rather than to simply watch a breathtaking-spectacle.



**LINDANI BERMAN**  
Co-Producer and Scenic director

Finally the two former colleagues are re-united with the long awaited dream of all African circus. Lindani, a Zimbabwean born and Australian citizen is on the mission of perfecting a circus that combines the millennial repertoire of the Beijing circus, the technical mastery of the Moscow circus with the dexterity and joie de vivre of the African continent to create a truly wondrous show.

As Cirque Africa is a unique form of entertainment that is geared towards family members of all ages, language and cultural barriers will not pose a problem in terms of audience comfortability.



**TSENDBYAMBA ERDENESHOO**  
Choreographer and Costumes

Africa is known for its robust colours in most of its fashion. Tsende has a perfect eye and experience to bring the best to the centre stage.



**ESIAKA SHAH**  
Tent Master and Masks

The multi talented Esiaka is one of Cirque Africa's key people assuring the structure of the big top is well secured on the ground.



**TUMAINI MRUTU**  
Costumes



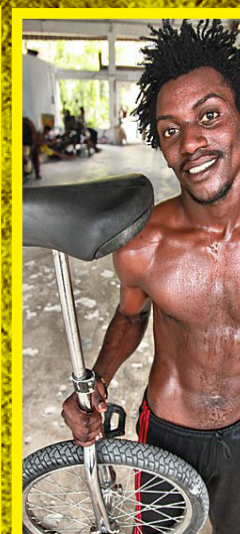
**AUGUST TAIRO**  
Art Director



**TASSAMA KIBWANA**  
Graphics



When Zimbabwean circus performer Winston Ruddle started a quest for circus talent for his world-renowned Mama Africa show, his first stop was the Tanzanian city, Dar es Salaam. It was here that he later founded Mama Africa's acrobat school.



The artists from Winston's school have performed in venues on five continents, including New York's Broadway. There are often several productions running at the same time, but it is not easy to be part of the show and only the most skilful graduates of the school make it onto the international stages. Conditions at the school are very basic. In spite of the acrobatic tradition in Tanzania, circus school programmes are not sponsored either by government or the private sector. Mr Ruddle's school is in the Magomeni neighbourhood of Dar es Salaam, one of the poorest parts of the city. At the end of hard training, the students get a plate of food and water.

**THE TEAM**



**THE SCHOOL**





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