



OMNIUM

CIRCUS

*I'm Possible*

2023-24 SEASON

NEW VICTORY THEATER

Powered by New 42

We believe access  
to the performing arts  
is a child's right from  
birth—the right for  
even the youngest  
among us to wonder  
*what if?* and to  
challenge *why not?*

*the arts change  
everything*

Be a part of the change at [NewVictory.org/Donate](https://NewVictory.org/Donate)



Powering New Victory  
& New 42<sup>SM</sup> Studios

# Hello!

My name is Joel, and I'm an usher  
with the New 42<sup>SM</sup> Youth Corps.

Whenever you see my picture next to a question  
in this program, learn a little bit about me and  
think about your own answer. Let's try it out!  
I live in Chelsea and bike to work.

***How did you get to the theater today?***

Here are **three things to know**  
about your visit today:

1

#### FREE & FUN

In the lobbies, you'll discover  
arts activities, stroller parking,  
assisted listening devices and  
a live video feed (for when you  
need a break from the big theater  
setting) to help you enjoy  
the show.

2

#### EAT & DRINK

Food and beverages are available  
for purchase at the snack bar  
located in the upstairs lobby.  
Only water is allowed inside the  
theater, so kindly finish your snacks  
before you take your seat.

3

#### REACT & RESPECT

Don't be shy—reactions of all kinds  
are welcome! But please remain  
respectful of your fellow audience  
members and of the artists on stage,  
and refrain from using your phone  
or taking pictures and video.

Enjoy the show!





## Be the audio describer!

**Audio Describers** explain in detail what is happening on stage so people who are blind or visually impaired can enjoy live performances.

**Practice your description skills with the picture below!**  
We've provided an example to get you started.



The stage is decorated with a dark background and small lights all over. In the back, you can make out the word "Omnium" with letters all in different colors.

## Now you try describing the performers!

Then, have whoever you came with do a movement and see if you can describe it!

**NEW  
42**

Fiona Howe Rudin, *Chairman*

Russell Granet, *President & CEO*

**NEW 42 PRESENTS AT THE NEW VICTORY**

# OMNIUM CIRCUS I'mPossible

April 12 - 28, 2024

### PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Friday, April 12, 7pm  
Saturday, April 13, 12pm & 5pm  
Sunday, April 14, 12pm & 5pm

Saturday, April 20, 12pm & 5pm  
Sunday, April 21, 12pm & 5pm

Wednesday, April 24, 2pm  
Thursday, April 25, 2pm  
Friday, April 26, 2pm & 7pm  
Saturday, April 27, 12pm & 5pm  
Sunday, April 28, 12pm & 5pm

### COMPANY

Dominik Bauer  
Jen Bricker-Bauer  
Rik Daniels  
Tersit Asefa Dersu  
Ottavio & Naomi Gesmundo  
King Charles Troupe  
Elayne Kramer  
Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley  
Malik Paris  
Owen Sanchez  
Danette Sheppard-Vaughn  
Evgeny Vasilenko

Pre-show:

Juggler: Kevin Kujawa  
Touch Table Guide: Bryan Velasquez  
Touch Table Associate: John Lepiarz

### CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Noe España, Artistic Director  
Lisa B. Lewis, Founder/Executive Director  
Ottavio and Naomi Gesmundo,  
On-site Directors/Choreographers  
Peter Bufano, Musical Director/Composer  
Jacob Avinar, Composer  
John Lepiarz, Character Director  
Monique Holt, Director of ASL  
Evan Hawkins, Lighting Designer/  
Technical Director  
Miriam Rochford, Stage Manager  
Madysen Barnsfield, Company Manager  
Lisa B. Lewis, Access Coordinator  
William Meade, Co-Producer/Composer/Lyricist  
Barbara Pflughaupt, Marketing Consultant  
Alan Miller, Publicist  
Steve Mendelsohn, CFO/Financial Consultant  
Marie Deganaïs-Lewis, Social Media Director  
Bryan Velazquez, Community Outreach  
Jody LaFosse, Executive Assistant  
Rebecca Padykula, Intern

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Entertaining audiences is in my genes. I am a fifth-generation heir to a family of street performers, singers and circus acrobats with roots in Europe and North America. I've always been dedicated to inspiring audiences to realize their potential through the circus arts. Omnium is dedicated to inclusivity and accessibility for all, and I am very proud to be working with this company.

—Noe España, *Artistic Director*

## ABOUT THE SHOW

Omnium (Latin for “of all and belonging to all”) ensures everyone is in on the action in a spirited spectacular that is both limit-defying and life-affirming. In *I'mPossible*, Omnium Circus reimagines the art form of circus for 21st century audiences, bringing a new kind of excitement, thrill and joy to people of all ages and all abilities. It's a circus adventure where there are no limits, no boundaries and no barriers

*I'mPossible* is the story of young Dani who finds herself at odds with the world. Her journey takes her to a circus. The magic takes hold, and she takes a job as a wardrobe assistant. She soon discovers that to create that magic in herself she must confront a world full of challenges. Through a death-defying, awe-inspiring, madcap circus adventure, Dani discovers the strength, courage and perseverance that changes her life forever.

Omnium completed its first three-week tour in February and March of 2023, followed by a four-week fall tour, covering seven states. The tour reached over 10,000 people (40% of audience members identify as having disabilities) with 17 performers and four crew. We are honored to present the NYC premiere of *I'mPossible* at the New Victory Theater! The entire *I'mPossible* company is excited to share our passion for the art of circus with every single audience member!



If I could make a show for New Victory, I would make a show about the conversations and challenges that ushers have working in theater! **If you could make a show for the New Victory, what would it be?**

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Omnium: A Bold New Circus was born in 2020. 100% of the world needed joyful popular entertainment, including the 25% with disabilities. Everyone needs to see themselves represented in the space where the impossible becomes possible right before your eyes. The first production, *A Celebration of Diversity*, was created and streamed during the pandemic and viewed by over 30,000 people.

Omnium Circus is a visionary not-for-profit organization bringing together extraordinary talent from all over the globe. Omnium's stars transport audiences into a world of jaw-dropping spectacle and wonder, inspiring them with amazing feats of human accomplishment and the astounding potential of the human spirit. Built on a tripod of entertainment, employment and education, we are leading a global movement by example with the first comprehensively inclusive and accessible circus company in the country. Omnium is the only circus in the country to be presented bilingually in English and American Sign Language. Unprecedented audience accessibility, including live audio description, tactile experiences, and relaxed seating for neurodiverse and sensory sensitive audience members make Omnium Circus a live experience specifically created to be enjoyed by all.

The circus community has always embraced a mosaic of cultures and abilities. Omnium Circus modernizes the narrative, celebrating the magnificent talents, skills and accomplishments of an incredibly dedicated team. Forty percent of our total company identify as having a disability, and our company's commitment to racial and ethnic diversity is represented by the ensemble on stage. We are excited to share this vision with children of all ages and abilities—each voice and every story!

Humanity, love and laughter unite us all in celebration of our unique stories. Welcome to the *I'mPossible* world of Omnium Circus!

[OmniumCircus.org](https://OmniumCircus.org)

## MEET THE PERFORMERS

**Jen Bricker-Bauer** (*Aerialist*) became interested in gymnastics from an early age. She was the first person without legs competing in power tumbling, against able-bodied athletes, and became a State Champion in her division as well as placing fourth all around at Jr. Olympics. Always challenging herself, Jen transitioned into an accomplished aerialist, acrobat and professional speaker. In 2015, Jen was honored to be inducted into the Gallery of Legends Hall of Fame by the World Acrobatic Society. Jen's incredible story has been featured on countless shows in over 100 countries, including HBO's *Real Sports*, *20/20*, and *Good Morning America*. Jen has performed and/or spoken in 23 countries around the world. Madison Square Garden, Staples Center, Palazzo Hotel, Budokan Arena in Tokyo are just a few of the stages she's been blessed to perform on. Her first book, *Everything Is Possible*, hit *The New York Times* Best Seller list in 2016 and since has been translated into 11 languages.

**Dominik Bauer** (*Trombonist*) is Jen's husband. Born and raised in Austria, he is an accomplished musician and music teacher. He has performed with classical orchestras and bands in Europe. In 2018, Dominik made his operatic debut in Austria as Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze de Figaro*. The couple have joined their talents, traveling the world speaking and performing together, and recently welcomed their first baby, Malachi into the family in July 2023.

### What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?

Don't be afraid to be yourself on stage—it makes you shine!

### What do you hope people take away from the show?

We want people to see they aren't a mistake, they're here for a reason, and they truly have something valuable to offer the world through their gifts and talents!

### Which act brings you the most joy?

Our act of course! Being able to perform together, combining both of our talents and passions after years of solo performing is truly a gift!

**Rik Daniels** (*Dancer/Acrobat*) was the poster child for the March of Dimes and later appeared on CBS's *Sunday Morning* and *Ripley's Believe it or Not!* for his achievements as a NYC high-school champion gymnast. He went on to become a seven-time NCAA All American on pommel horse, parallel bars and still rings. Rik continues to inspire through modeling, dancing and performance art. He's worked extensively with Jim Self and the New York State DanceForce, was a principal dancer in Michael Franti and Spearhead's "Once a Day" music video; collaborated with Tina Christina-Price in contemporary dance; and continues to partner with Nicole Agaronnik and American Dancewheels Foundation using a fusion of Contemporary and Ballroom/Latin Dance choreography. Rik can be found at [RikDanielsPerformer.com](http://RikDanielsPerformer.com)

### What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?

Find a community of circus folk, near or far, to inspire and coach you! Focus on what you love to do, even if it isn't necessarily what you do "best."

### What do you hope people take away from the show?

Our differences can be our strengths! And every one is a contribution, just as we are!

### Which act brings you the most joy?

Bell ringing with the clowns, because the "kids" of all ages have the opportunity to participate and shine!

**Tersit Asefa Dersu** (*Dani/Juggling/Cube*) grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Trained and certified by Ethio Selam Circus School in Addis Ababa, she has been involved in professional circus sports since early childhood. She has been performing her solo bounce juggling act professionally for over 12 years on different circus stages around the world. Tersit is very excited to be working with Omnium Circus!

### What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?

Always do your best and enjoy it!

### What do you hope people take away from the show?

I hope that everyone is joyful and amazed to share memorable moments with these talented performers.

### Which act brings you the most joy?

I love and appreciate *all* the acts.

**Ottavio Gesmundo & Naomi Brenkman Gesmundo** (*Crossbow Artists*) are two-time Guinness World Record Holders and have extensive performing credits that include *Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida* in The Netherlands, *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien* and *Le Plus Grand Cabaret du Monde*. Ottavio hails from six generations of circus performers and is the co-author of the award-winning memoir *The Grand Gypsy*. He was an original cast member of the musical *Saturday Night Fever* on Broadway. Naomi was born in Utrecht, Holland, where she began her martial arts training at the age of three. She attended the Royal Academy of Ballet in Amsterdam and then graduated from the Academy of Dance in Rotterdam. She was Resident Director/Choreographer, Dance Captain for the musical *Miss Saigon* and an original member of the hit recording group Alice DeeJay.

### What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?

Naomi: Be mindful of the presentation and learn how to dance or move well between your key moments.

Ottavio: Study old circus acts to see what made them great. Perhaps you'll find something that no one else is doing and make it new again.

### What do you hope people take away from the show?

Naomi: I hope they have a blast.

Ottavio: That they want to come back and bring their friends!

### Which act brings you the most joy?

Naomi: The crossbow of course! I love performing this act with my husband, and it gives me immense joy. However, watching Tiffany Riley and Dick Monday perform clowning is so fun.

Ottavio: The opening number when we all get to perform together.

**King Charles Troupe** (*Unicycle Basketball*) The world-renowned King Charles Unicycle Troupe, which made its debut as the first all-Black group to perform with Ringling Bros.

and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1969. Now in its 5th generation continuing their style of high-energy basketball on unicycles!

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

Master the basics of your circus discipline—training is essential and having a diverse skill set can make you a more versatile performer.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

Inspiration and aspiration while leaving a lasting impact on our audience.

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

Our opening and finale acts.

**Elayne Kramer** (*Contortionist*) is a remarkable 6th generation circus performer hailing from Argentina. Her journey in the circus world began at the tender age of four under the guidance of her father, and by the age of seven, she was mesmerizing audiences as a contortionist. Throughout her career, Elayne has honed her skills as a hand balancing and contortion artist, earning her a reputation as one of the finest of her generation. Her extraordinary talent has been acknowledged with numerous accolades, including a Bronze Clown at the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo in 2008. Elayne was a featured artist in the Big Apple Circus' 35th anniversary production *Legendarium*. In addition to her live performances, Elayne has also showcased her skills on various television shows, including *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *Good Morning America* and *Live with Kelly and Michael*.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

If you are passionate about something, put that same energy and positivity into becoming something amazing and you will.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

*I'mPossible* is such an inspirational show. People from all walks of life are a part of this amazing cast! I hope that anyone that gets a chance to experience this show will feel inspired by the art that we are all passionate about and that no dream is too great to accomplish.

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

I appreciate and love all athletic and acrobatic acts, but I believe the roots of a happy life are laughter and joy, so I would have to say that comedy is my favorite part of any show!

**Dick Monday & Tiffany Riley** (*Clowns*) have partnered for the past thirty years, headlining at circuses and festivals worldwide. Dick was Director of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College and Tiffany wrote a respected book on healthcare clowning *Beyond the Red Nose*. They co-founded the Laughter League, a non-profit organization providing therapeutic clown services to hospitalized children in pediatric hospitals across the country as well as to people living with dementia. They are thrilled to be part of Omnium Circus.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

Never give up on your dreams. You can achieve anything that you put your whole heart and mind into.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

I hope folks will see the magic of circus the way that we do. There is no more inclusive art form than the circus. Circus is family.

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

Rik Daniels, because he has taken all of life's challenges and turned them into opportunities. Every moment he is on stage, his joy at being there is palpable and infectious!

**Malik Paris** (*Poet/Dancer*) is a Deaf performance artist based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has performed a wide range of work, from young audience performances to Fringe Festival creations. He has been a performer and member of the ASL poetry variety performance troupe Dangerous Signs since 2011.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

Experiment and be creative with what you want to express or share.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

To spread the word about this extraordinary show!

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

Singing and signing along with kids in the audience. I love to watch talented artists perform.

**Owen Sanchez** (*Hand Balancing*) is a fourth-generation circus performer. He practiced gymnastics from age 9 until age 14, becoming a medalist in the Mexican nationals. His first appearance in a circus ring was at age 15, performing a trampoline act and comedy acrobatics. At age 18 he started to pursue the high handstand, a discipline which has taken him to various prestigious shows and events around the world, one of them being the 2022 international circus festival Circuba in Cuba.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

Discipline and patience.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

I hope they are inspired to step beyond their comfort zones and explore new passions or challenges.

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

Flying trapeze.

**Danette Sheppard-Vaughn** (*Ringmaster*) was the first featured female vocalist in the 147-year history of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Danette began singing at the Memorial Baptist Church in Harlem at the age of 14. Since making her professional debut, she has amassed an impressive list of musical theater credits including sharing the stage with music legends like Patti LaBelle and Gladys Knight, numerous regional theater productions, a European tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and a leading role in the Off-Broadway production of *Red Hot Broadway*, to name a few.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

I have the same advice for all types of performers. Perfect your craft, be professional and be nice. That will cause you to work steadily as a performer.



**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

I hope they leave the show with renewed motivation, determination and purpose in their lives, knowing that they are POSSIBLE!

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

I don't have a favorite—everyone together is magical and fabulous, which brings unspeakable joy!

**Evgeny Vasilenko** (*Slack Wire/Cyr Wheel*) represents a well-known circus family in Russia. In 1992 he started to rehearse as a circus performer in the National Circus School of Moscow. After graduating with his diploma, he was employed by the Old Moscow Circus where he continued to improve his professional skills in acting and a variety of dance styles.

**What advice do you have for aspiring circus performers?**

Don't give up! It will be difficult at times, but continue.

**What do you hope people take away from the show?**

I hope for a little bit of happiness. During the show I hope they forgot about their problems.

**Which act brings you the most joy?**

I always like clowns, so Tiffany and Dick! I also like the crossbow act with Ottavio and Naomi.

## MEET THE CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

**NOE ESPAÑA** (*Artistic Director*) For 20 years, Noe has been a collaborator and guiding light in the programming, direction and production of circus-themed entertainment. A fifth-generation heir to an impressive range of circus talent and history, Noe has roots in Europe and North America. He knows the business from the performer side as well as from behind the scenes, having worked in production, direction and logistics. Challenged and inspired by the most incredible acts in the circus repertoire, he has pushed the envelope with his interpretations of the Flying Trapeze, Wheel of Destiny and Globe of Death, among other aerial and thrill acts, winning a Silver Clown at the International Circus Festival in Monte Carlo. In 2007, he won the prestigious Action Maverick Award presented by MacArthur Genius Award choreographer and dance maverick Elizabeth Streb. He has appeared on FOX's *KISS in Concert* and performed at The Sydney Opera House, with Ringling Brothers Circus USA at Madison Square Garden and in Japan, in USA Championship Auto Shows at Six Flags Parks, and at the Walmart's Annual Shareholders' Meeting with Queen Latifah.

**LISA B. LEWIS** (*Founder & Executive Director/Access Coordinator*) A graduate of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, Lisa also has a BA from Brandeis University and an MA in clown and circus history from NYU. She co-founded the Super Scientific Circus and worked with the Big Apple Circus in multiple capacities for many years. She then founded Omnium: A Bold New Circus with the mission to include and welcome the beautiful mosaic of humans who make up our world, creating joy and entertainment for *all*—no matter the bodies they inhabit. She is a recognized leader in the area of DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion and Belonging) and a passionate advocate for making the magic of the performing arts available to all.

**WILLIAM MEADE** (*Co-Producer/Composer/Lyricist*) has produced television and Broadway shows, concerts, podcasts, recordings, touring productions and large-scale events around the world for two decades. He has worked with Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan, David Bowie, Aretha Franklin, Twyla Tharp, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rudolf Nureyev, Carol Channing and Stevie Wonder, as well as with global leaders such as Henry Kissinger, George Bush Sr., Jimmy Carter, Roh Moo-hyun and Susilo Bambang. He has produced more than 20 performing arts tours in 24 countries, from South and North America to Asia and Europe.

**OTTAVIO GESMUNDO & NAOMI BRENKMAN GESMUNDO** (*On-Site Directors/Choreographers*) are proud to be Resident Director and Choreographers for Omnium Circus. Their dance and stunt choreography credits include *Spider-Man Live!* at Radio City Music Hall, the National Tour of *Pippin* at Goodspeed Opera House, *The Circus Starring Britney Spears* (tour video), Contemporary West Dance Theatre, Las Vegas Civic Ballet, CIRQUESA, *The Vampire Circus* and *Krystallpalast Variety Theatre* in Leipzig, Germany.

**PETER BUFANO** (*Music Composer/Director*) is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who creates original music for movies and circuses. He is a graduate of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College and The Berklee College of Music. His early scores were largely acoustic instrumentals influenced by jazz and Eastern European folk music. He released six CDs with his group Cirkestra. Later works expanded to incorporate orchestral and electronic elements. He is an Assistant Professor of Screen Scoring at Berklee College of Music and was the 2019 Newbury Comics Fellow for his work in circus music.

**JACOB AVINER** (*Music Composer*) is a guitarist, composer, producer and educator based in Brooklyn, New York. He has toured both on the East Coast and in the Pacific Northwest with different acts, and his group Porterfield has been twice nominated for Jazz Artist of the Year by the Boston Music Awards. For more information please go to [JacobAvinerMusic.com](http://JacobAvinerMusic.com).

**EVAN HAWKINS** (*Lighting Designer/Technical Director*) is a New York City-based lighting professional. He has experience in multiple disciplines of lighting such as events, TV, theater, architecture and now the circus. He has spent time touring the United States as the head electrician/production manager for Aruba Productions on their national tours of *C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert*, *C.S. Lewis: The Screwtape Letters*, *C.S. Lewis: The Great Divorce* and *C.S. Lewis: Further Up and Further In*. He is currently working as a lighting specialist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

**MIRIAM ROCHFORD** (*Stage Manager*) is an AEA stage manager who works in as many different genres of performance as she can, ranging from opera to film to the circus! Also an ASL interpreter, Miriam is happiest when she's working with deaf artists.

**MADYSON BARNFIELD** (*Company Manager*) is a New York-based production and company manager. She is very excited to be working with Omnium Circus for the first time! Thanks to Lisa, Evan, Miriam, and the whole cast and crew for their passion!

**MARIE DAGENAIS-LEWIS** (*Social Media Director*) is an anti-ableist thought leader, pridefully-disabled storyteller, and community galvanizer with an extensive background in broadcasting and communications. After ableism and disability

discrimination rocked her world, she blazed a new trail through art activism. As the creator behind @r.a.r.e.advoc8, her work challenges the status quo by exploring and embracing the complexities of a rare, disabled neurodivergent experience in an ableist society. She has spoken about anti-ableism and inclusion at events such as the NCIL 2022 National Conference and the Facebook Communities Global Summit. Some of her proudest projects include the Power in Pride Celebration for Disability Pride Month and her self-published *Chronically Spooky* hand-drawn coloring book series. She was inducted into the Susan B. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame in 2022 and was a finalist in the 2022 Social Health Awards in the Community Cultivator category. She works to diversify the arts behind the scenes through her work as Director of Social Media for the ground-breaking Omnium Circus, America's first fully inclusive and accessible nonprofit circus.

**JODY BETH LAFOSSE** (*Executive Assistant*) assists Founder and Director Lisa B. Lewis with operations, marketing and development. Outside of Omnium, she provides freelance editing and transcription support to authors, journalists, scholars, conference organizers and musicians. She comes to Omnium with a grounding in the arts, culture, writing and social justice, along with a keen interest in accessibility that she began cultivating as a graduate student in urban planning at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. In addition, she has a BA in English from SUNY Binghamton. An avid photographer, she can often be seen on the streets of her hometown of New York City, chasing the most compelling shots of her favorite architecture and signage.

**STEVE MENDELSON** (*CFO/Financial Consultant*) has overseen the financial and business operations of Omnium since 2021. His career has focused on leading a variety of humanitarian, arts, and media nonprofits and NGOs in their work around the world. He also serves as the Director of Finance for the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (spun.earth), which studies and protects the networks of fungi throughout the planet. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Before working with nonprofits, Steve served in senior marketing roles at American Express and Razorfish, a digital consulting firm.

**BARBARA PFLUGHAUPT** (*Marketing Consultant*) has 30 years of experience helping clients navigate the shifting landscape of traditional and new media, building brands and increasing brand loyalty. She assists clients in developing clear, powerful messaging and implementing those messages through media campaigns that deliver superior coverage. Her clients include The Sabolich Prosthetic Research Center, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, Disney On Ice, AEG ThemeSTAR, Warner Bros., Disney/Touchstone, Tri-Star Pictures, United Artists, Paramount, Miramax, New Line Home Entertainment, Sports Museum of America, AT&T, Kajeet, Swivel Media, Running Subway, Arrow Shirts, Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream and Franchises, and MATHCOUNTS. She provides strategic and media relations counsel to executives across a spectrum of businesses, global entertainment companies and creative agencies. She is a graduate of Brooklyn College.

**ALAN MILLER** (*Publicist*) is a versatile public relations veteran who has worked with many well-known entertainment brands during his career, including almost every category of live event there is. Having done PR for everything from numerous theatrical productions, ice shows, monster truck events, immersive art exhibitions, bull-riding events, a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, dinosaur theme parks and more, Alan has a particular specialty in circus. He has done PR for well over a dozen circus brands in the

U.S. after getting his start working with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey for over 20 years. He is proud to be part of the Omnium team that is making the art of circus accessible to all.

**BRYAN VELASQUEZ** (*Community Outreach*) always wanted to be a Braille teacher, but in college, he realized that teaching wasn't the right career path. He discovered therapeutic recreation and stayed with this until graduation. During his practice, he had the honor of serving the geriatric population, which included stroke and dementia patients, and also practiced at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, and Hearthstone Palisades in Palisades, New York. His desire to join the circus began with an activity in his dementia residence using a video that explained the loading and unloading of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The sawdust started to build in his veins. From discovering his voiceover talent to giving back to his very own blind community, he considers it an honor to be a part of this amazing institution.

## SPECIAL THANKS

It certainly takes a village to raise a circus! Omnium Circus is built upon the collaboration of an incredible team of dedicated individuals!

A Huge thank you to our sponsors including: LAZ parking  
At LAZ we believe that the work we do and how we treat people  
can really make a difference.

As a small nonprofit, our board and advisory board are the engine that keeps us going!

### Omnium Circus Board of Directors

Chair: Jonathan Lee Iverson  
Secretary: Kim Anthony Jones

#### Members

Dion Harrison  
Gina Latcheran  
Jill Seigal  
Noe España  
Barbara Pflughaupt  
Scarlet Watts

#### Advisory Board

Anna Gichan  
Adrea Gibbs  
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### For extra special vital contributions

Laya Lepiarz  
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Kevin Kujawa  
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Streb Lab for Action Mechanics



THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY PUBLIC FUNDS  
FROM THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL  
AFFAIRS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY COUNCIL.



**Council on  
the Arts**

Omnium is made possible by the New York  
State Council on the Arts with the support of the  
Office of the Governor and the New York State  
Legislature.



In the show of my dreams, I would love to play one of the characters or maybe be the director. **If you could be part of the creative team, what would you do?**

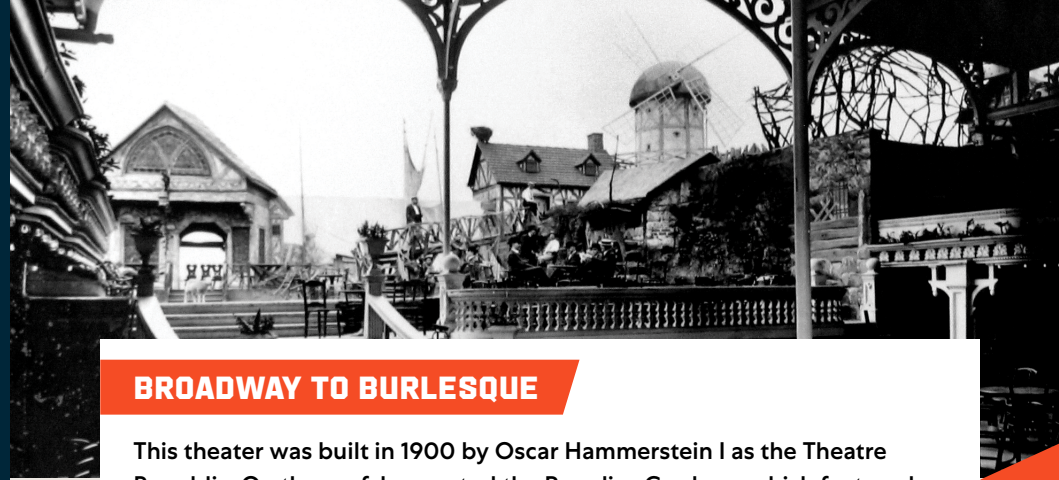


# Land Acknowledgement

We are on the island known as Mannahatta, now called Manhattan, in Lenapehoking, the homeland of the Lenape people. These lands are intertribal trade lands under the stewardship of many Nations, and New Victory acknowledges the systematic erasure of their true history.

The land of the five boroughs that make up New York City was and still is inhabited by the Lenape, Merrick, Canarsie, Rockaway and Matinecock Nations. We celebrate and pay deep respect to the Peoples of these Nations, their cultures, their communities, their elders past and present, those with us today, and all their future generations.

We recognize that seized lands are historically inhabited by people who are racialized, marginalized and displaced by those in power, and we offer this land acknowledgement as a step in reexamining our relationship to that history. We offer our gratitude to the Indigenous peoples of many the Nations who continue to act as stewards of the land, and we encourage you to learn more about these vibrant communities.



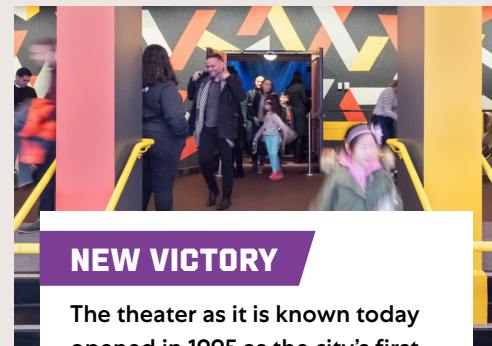
## BROADWAY TO BURLESQUE

This theater was built in 1900 by Oscar Hammerstein I as the Theatre Republic. On the roof, he created the Paradise Gardens, which featured a stage, dance floor and a miniature Dutch village. In 1902, impresario David Belasco bought the venue, gave it his name and installed an orchestra pit. In the 1930s Billy Minsky turned the theater into Broadway's first burlesque club, Minsky's Republic, which boasted showgirls and a flashy façade.



## SILVER SCREEN

In 1942, Mayor LaGuardia banned burlesque, and Minsky's was no more. In a burst of WWII patriotism, the theater was renamed The Victory and showed first-run films. Over the next 30 years, Times Square declined into abject decay. In 1972, the theater became the block's only XXX-rated movie house.



## NEW VICTORY

The theater as it is known today opened in 1995 as the city's first theater for children and families. As one of seven restored theaters under New 42's stewardship, the New Victory is just one way in which the New 42 makes the arts a part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward!



**LOOK UP!** The dome and all of the putti—the cherubs smiling down on you—are original to the theater.

New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages.

## NEW VICTORY ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

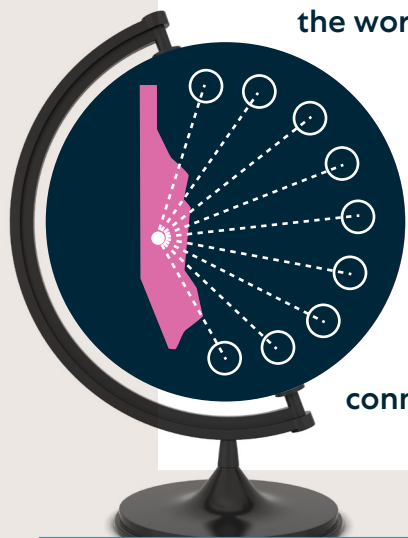
Every season at the New Victory showcases artistic disciplines and traditions from around the world. This year, we present...

**11** productions

of musical theater, circus, theater and puppetry from

**9** different countries,

connecting families to new cultures, ideas and ways of thinking.

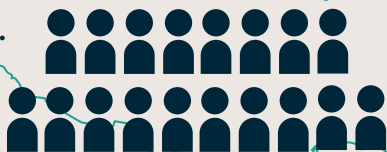


## NEW VICTORY LABWORKS

New Victory has supported over...

**100**

NYC artists



in the creation of new work for young audiences, expanding the canon of family performing arts made in the U.S.

This year...

**5**

artists are on their journey to grow as creators of Theater for Young Audiences.

## NEW 42 YOUTH CORPS

More than...

**50**

high school and college students

will annually earn

**20,000**

paid hours



to work as ushers, attend career seminars and participate in life-skills workshops, serving New York City with a diverse, creative pool of young talent.

## NEW VICTORY EDUCATION

This year we hope to reach...

**25,000** students

and **1,600** teachers

so they can experience live performing arts—often for the first time—at little to no cost.



### New Victory is powered by New 42.

Led by President & CEO Russell Granet, the nonprofit's signature projects—New Victory and New 42 Studios—make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward.





# GIVE A KID A SEAT

Did you know New Victory  
has partnerships with  
140 NYC schools, across  
all 5 boroughs?

Partner schools bring their students to NEW VICTORY shows throughout the year for just \$2.00 a ticket (a price that hasn't changed in over 30 years), experience in-classroom arts education workshops led by NEW VICTORY Teaching Artists, receive professional development for educators and more!

Did you know our amazing friends, like you, help make these programs possible through meaningful donations of any amount?

Your family's gift, one-time or monthly, can make an enormous impact.

\$35 gives a seat to one kid.

\$105 gives seats to three kids.

\$350 gives seats to ten kids.

\$1,050 gives seats to one class.

Monthly donors provide vital sustaining support for our arts education initiatives. **Give today and help us name our monthly giving program!**

For more information, visit [NewVictory.org/GAKAS](https://NewVictory.org/GAKAS) or contact Freddie Davis Jr. at [FDavis@New42.org](mailto:FDavis@New42.org) or 646.223.3095.

Ask about joining the Give a Kid a Seat Committee!



## DONATE TODAY!

Scan the QR code



New 42, the nonprofit that powers New Victory, is committed to making extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward.

We do this because we know how important early exposure to the arts is for all of us.

We know this because, well... we've done the research! We studied the impact of live performances and arts programming on students and found out that access and engagement with the performing arts...



Cultivates an enduring love of the performing arts

## 20%

greater interest in performing arts among SPARK participants versus control group after two years



Inspires creative thinking, which encourages innovation and problem solving

## 50%

increase in improvisation skills linked to creative thinking among SPARK participants after three years



Nurtures hope and improves self-confidence, which fosters optimism and resilience

## 10%

increase in hope for the future after one year among SPARK participants



Read more about the NEW VICTORY SPARK (Schools with Performing Arts Reach Kids) Impact Report: [NewVictory.org/Research](https://NewVictory.org/Research)





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The New 42 Artist Council is a dynamic group of professional artists who are devoted to the performing arts. These brilliant and dedicated individuals know that love of the theater can start at any age, and as such they champion the New Victory Theater and New 42's commitment to making extraordinary performing arts part of everyone's life.

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New Victory and New 42 are proud to acknowledge the following generous foundations, corporations and government agencies.

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The New Victory Theater is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



The New Victory Theater's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Council on the Arts



Thank you for your support.

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# Recognizing individuals whose generosity helps us make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward.

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New 42 Youth Corps funders support jobs and mentoring in the arts for high school and college students.

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 Pamel Family  
 Deveen G. Pettigrew  
 and Aiden D. Gonzalez  
 Snigdha Rathor and Amar Mehta  
 The Ron Family  
 Susannah Rose  
 Larry Rosenberg  
 Jennie Rothman  
 Rudin Family  
 Rudy and Parisa Sahay  
 Maggie Simmermon  
 The Singh Family  
 Kristin and Craig Smart  
 Tynan Smith Family  
 Lauren and Adam Soufleris  
 The St Louis Family  
 Paul and Stephanie Stamas  
 Amy Sung and Jeff Buick  
 Target  
 Rutger and Jenn von Post  
 Elizabeth and Jonathan Watt  
 The Weltsch Family  
 Laura Whitman  
 and Thomas Danziger  
 Whitney Wolfe  
 Ashley and Victor Wu  
 Anonymous

## NEW 42 STAFF

Meet the dedicated staff behind the New 42, New Victory and New 42 Studios.

### EXECUTIVE

*President & CEO, Russell Granet*  
*Artistic Director, Mary Rose Lloyd*  
*Vice President, Education & School Engagement,*  
*Courtney J. Boddie*  
*Vice President, Development, Elizabeth Cashour*  
*Vice President, Marketing & Communications,*  
*Lauren Fitzgerald*  
*Vice President, Administration,*  
*Wendy Hutton*  
*Vice President, Real Estate & Facilities, Leroy Li*  
*Vice President, Education & Public Engagement,*  
*Lindsey Buller Maliekell*  
*Vice President, Finance, Michele Pagnotta*

*Chief of Staff, Amber Shavers*  
*Executive Assistant to the Vice President,*  
*Administration, Rhesa Richards*  
*Administrative Assistant to the President & CEO,*  
*Tiara Hoover*  
*Intern, Office of the President & CEO / Usher*  
*Corps, Angelina Caputo*

### ARTISTIC PLANNING AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT

*Senior Director, Artistic Planning*  
*and General Management, Melinda Berk*  
*Assistant Director, Artistic Planning*  
*& Artist Services, Laura Hamilton*  
*Company Manager, Emmi Albarano*  
*General Management Associate, Justin Hom*

### ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

*Senior Manager, Artistic Programming,*  
*Laura Been*  
*Artistic Programming Associate, Nina Slowinski*

### CAPITAL PROJECTS & REAL ESTATE

*Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Real Estate,*  
*Travis Bell*

### DEVELOPMENT

*Director of Individual Giving, Lily Lovinger*  
*Senior Manager, Institutional Giving, Jolene Noelle*  
*Manager, Institutional Giving, Anthony Massa*  
*Manager, Campaigns and Events, Sabrina Cedeño*  
*Manager, Development Operations, Kevin Terwin*  
*Development Associate, Individual Giving,*  
*Freddie Davis Jr.*  
*Development Associate, Institutional Giving,*  
*Gwen Ober*  
*Development Fellow, Yasmin Salih*

### DIGITAL SERVICES

*Director of Digital Services, Lilaia Kairis*  
*Associate Director of Digital Services,*  
*Jamie O'Brien*  
*Senior Manager of CRM Applications, Joe Yoga*  
*Senior Associate, Cat Monteleone*  
*Senior Associate, Natalia Ramirez*

### EDUCATION

#### School Engagement

*Director of Education / School Engagement,*  
*Erica Reinsch Tuscium*  
*Assistant Director of Education /*  
*School Engagement, Christopher Totten*  
*Senior Education Programs Manager,*  
*Asha John*  
*Education Programs Manager, Kaylah Dixon*  
*Education Programs Manager, Greg Mytelka*  
*Education Programs Associate, Jake Chen*

#### Public Engagement

*Assistant Director of Education /*  
*Youth Engagement, Micah Thomas*  
*Assistant Director of Education /*  
*Family Engagement, Siobhan Santini Pellot*  
*Senior Education Programs Associate /*  
*Family Engagement, Nicole Wong*  
*Education Programs Associate /*  
*Youth Engagement, Angel Hermosillo*  
*Education Programs Associate, Kyla Kantor*

#### Front-of-House / Operations

*Theater Manager, Nikkia Redd*  
*Senior Associate House Manager /*  
*Youth Engagement, Caitlin Alaimo*  
*Senior Associate House Manager /*  
*Youth Engagement, Shanice Rodriguez*  
*House Manager, Olivia Ros*  
*Theater Operations Coordinator, Kofi Browne*

#### New Victory Teaching Artists

*Janice Acevedo, Andrea Ang, Ugo Anyanwu,*  
*Chad Beckim, Liz Bolick, P. Tyler Britt,*  
*Dwayne Brown, Sofiya Cheyenne Brown,*  
*Emily Bruner, Zahra Budhwani, Neil Dawson,*  
*David DelGrosso, Alberto Denis,*  
*Olney Edmondson, Christina Eskridge,*  
*Carolyn Charpie Fagan, Patrick Ferreri,*  
*Rebecca Gerrard, Nanya-Akuki Goodrich,*  
*Pallas Gutierrez, ChelseaDee Harrison, Curt James,*  
*Joel Jeske, Ben Johnson, Michael Karas,*  
*McKenna Kerrigan, Sun Kim, Arielle Lever,*  
*Gyana Mella, Hassiem Muhammad,*  
*Najah Imani Muhammad, Peter Musante,*  
*Jamie Roach, Drew Petersen, Sarah Petersiel,*  
*Melle Phillips, Therese Schorn, Billy Schultz,*  
*Marisol Rosa-Shapiro, Lauren Sharpe,*  
*Julia Sirna-Frest, Kristian Sorensen,*  
*Marissa Stewart, Heidi Stallings,*  
*Renata Melillo Townsend, Ania Upstill,*  
*Jason Vance, Ana Cantorán Viramontes,*  
*Jono Waldman, Adia Tamar Whitaker,*  
*Ellen Winter, Vlada Yaneva*

## NEW 42 STAFF

Meet the dedicated staff behind the New 42, New Victory and New 42 Studios.

### FINANCE

*Controller, Olga Melnichuk*  
*Senior Accountant, Stephanie O'Connell*  
*Staff Accountant / Accounts Payable,*  
*Nenad Djelevic*  
*Staff Accountant / Accounts Receivable,*  
*Adrianne Johnson*  
*Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Sarang Khele*  
*Interim Staff Accountant / Accounts Receivable,*  
*Judith Orellana*

### HUMAN RESOURCES

*Director of Employee Engagement*  
*and Human Resources, Russell Small*  
*Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Sarang Khele*

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Director of IT, Cyber Security,*  
*and Infrastructure, Vincent Taylor*  
*IT Systems Administrator, Rafael Lantigua*  
*IT Help Desk Technician, Jason Cordner*

### MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

*Director of Marketing, Melissa Pelkey*  
*Assistant Director of Art & Design,*  
*Alexis Buatti-Ramos*  
*Assistant Director of Creative Content,*  
*Zack Ramadan*  
*Assistant Director of Media & Communications,*  
*Niki Cruz*  
*Graphic Design Associate, Brittany Nievinski*  
*Media and Communications Associate,*  
*Leigh Bauer*  
*Video Production Associate, Michael Velez-Ojeda*  
*Graphic Design Fellow, Sophia Nath*  
*Marketing Associate, Amanda Ribnick*

### OPERATIONS

*Senior Director of Operations, Ed Stallsworth*  
**New 42 Studios**  
*Associate Director of Studio Operations,*  
*Thomas Ciganko*  
*Studio Business Manager, Brian Rosenblum*  
*Operations Resource Manager, Sean Flynn*  
*Operations Associate, Jennifer Flores*  
*Operations Assistant, Dillon Swanson*  
*Lead Front Desk Attendant, Michael Acevedo*  
*Front Desk Attendants,*  
*Andrew Engram, Erik Forlong, AJ Jimenez*  
**Facilities**  
*Director of Facilities,*  
*Reynold Raymond*  
*Assistant Director of Facilities, Derek Rawls*  
*Superintendent, Ernest Pelerin*  
*Superintendent, Winston Thompson*  
*Handy Person, Danny Velazquez*  
*Lead Cleaners, Bulbul Ahmed, Herbert Castro,*  
*Nelson Roque*  
*Cleaners, Aniyah Carr, Joseph Felicier,*  
*Keith McKey, Andre Morton, Shawn Ramos,*  
*Jean Rosa, Joshua Santiago, Shaquan Turner*

### New Victory Theater

*Stage Door Attendant, Rebecca Knell*  
*Stage Door Attendant, Amanda Nyarko*

### PRODUCTION

*Senior Director of Production, Dave Upton*  
**New Victory Theater**

*Technical Production Manager, Paul Bradley*  
*Production Coordinator, Colleen Davis*  
*Production Manager, Jomary Peña*  
*Master Technician, Matt Zimmerman*  
*Assistant Master Technicians, Mike Di Marco,*  
*Julien Mellon*  
*Production Finance and Office Assistant,*  
*Yve Carruthers*  
*IATSE Apprentice, Nick Calafiore*  
*Lighting Programmer, Ruth Faulkner*  
*Wardrobe Supervisor, Brooke Elsinghorst*  
**Duke on 42nd Street / New 42 Studios**  
*Technical Coordinator, Leslie Recinos*

### TICKET SERVICES

*Senior Director of Ticket Operations, Robin Leeds*  
*Assistant Director of Ticket Operations,*  
*Sam Eckmann*  
*New Victory Box Office Manager,*  
*Ned Raube-Wilson*  
*Group Sales & Audience Development Manager,*  
*Amanda Zuckman Sellers*  
*New Victory Assistant Box Office Manager,*  
*Andrew Girmann*  
*Ticket Services Sales Associates,*  
*Madison Bailey, Maggie Beson, Andrew Girmann,*  
*Shemar Pelzer, Nicole Seunarine*

### SPECIAL SERVICES

**Accountants,** *Lutz and Carr / Fred Martens,*  
*Frank Voccio*  
**Attorneys,** *Davis Wright Tremaine LLP /*  
*Carolyn J. Casselman, Paul Weiss Rifkind*  
*Wharton & Garrison /*  
*Salvatore Gogliormella, Ruobing Chen,*  
*Proskauer / Evandro C. Gigante,*  
*Arielle E. Kobetz, Michael J. Lebowich,*  
*Joshua S. Fox*  
**Insurance,** *DeWitt Stern / Jennifer A. Brown*  
**Original Season Artwork,** *Andrew Bannecker*  
**Sign Language Interpreters,** *Hands On, Inc.*  
**Consulting for Sensory-Friendly**  
**Performances,** *Aliza Greenberg in*  
*partnership with Arielle Lever*  
**Live Audio Description,** *Laura H. Congleton*

UP NEXT

May 11 – 19

For ages 4 – 7

# I WISH

Life's Not Fair (ytale)

A Unicorn Production in association  
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**“Le Gateau Chocolat  
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\$28\*

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Photo (for Le Gateau Chocolat's  
production of Echoe): Alexis Dubus