

PRESS KIT

# AirPlay



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ACROBUFFOS  
PRESENT



# AirPlay



WRITERS AND CREATORS  
**Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

PERFORMERS  
**Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

AIR SCULPTURES  
**Daniel Wurtzel**

DIRECTOR  
**West Hyler**

# AirPlay

"My characters have undergone the same process of simplification as the colors. Now that they have been simplified they appear more human and alive than if they had been represented in all their details.

-Joan Miró, surrealist painter

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For more information about Air Play and Acrobuffos  
please visit our website: [acrobuffos.com](http://acrobuffos.com)





## SHOW DESCRIPTION

In *Air Play* umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage. With stunning images and gales of laughter, *Air Play* bounces on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater.

A circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, *Air Play* transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty. Created by circus performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone in collaboration with kinetic sculptor Daniel Wurtzel, *Air Play* was devised through years of experimentation with simple materials, movement, and technology.

Great for all ages, *Air Play* creates beauty and inspires laughter across cultures and continents. No translation necessary, *Air Play* has played from the southernmost opera house in the world in Chile, to London's Royal Festival Hall, Melbourne's State Theatre, Shanghai's Grand Theatre, and continues to tour.

*Air Play* is a visual poem, using no words, and brings to life the very air we breathe.



## CREATORS NOTE

Our home of New York City has a long history of artists from different genres collaborating, most notably dancer Martha Graham and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. We followed suit, curious to see what combining our physical comedy with the air sculptures of Brooklyn based artist Daniel Wurtzel would create. Over five years we worked together, developing new sculptures and object manipulations to create the genre-bending *Air Play*.

Is *Air Play* theater, comedy, sculpture, or circus? Yes! Our show is rooted in our love of circus, clowns, aerialists, acrobats, and jugglers. Real people doing real things – defying gravity. If you tilt your head you'll see the circus in *Air Play* – the fabrics become our aerialists, helium balloons become juggling props, and the powerful fans gracefully defeat the same gravity circus performers work so hard to overcome.

*Air Play* is a visual poem, using no words. Just as a poem may have no literal story, *Air Play* is open to interpretation. We've performed across the USA and around the globe, from the southernmost opera house in the world in Chile, to London's Royal Festival Hall, Melbourne's State Theater, and Shanghai's Grand Theatre. Around the world, audiences tell us that the wonder and discovery of *Air Play* are bold reminders of their own childhood and growing up, of friendship, sibling rivalry, loss, and memory.

We invite you to breathe deeply, laugh, gasp, and find your own story.

-Seth and Christina



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## Creative Team

**The Acrobuffos - Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone** - are the creators, writers, and performers of *Air Play*. Seth and Christina met at a circus in Afghanistan, became engaged while street performing in Scotland, married in China, and occasionally go home to New York City. Specializing in non-verbal physical theater and comedy, Seth and Christina have created seven shows together, competed in international circus festivals, performed in over 28 countries, headlined at the Big Apple Circus, and were even featured on a postage stamp. [acrobuffos.com](http://acrobuffos.com)

**Seth Bloom** grew up in India, Kenya, and Sri Lanka. Seth spent many years touring the USA as a professional juggler and silent comedian, and worked extensively in Afghanistan with the Mobile Mini Circus for Children. Seth studied circus clowning at Ringling Brothers Clown College, Lecoq theater at LISPA (MFA), and commedia at Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Seth has performed in 30 countries and 49 US States.

**Christina Gelsone** grew up in Texas and has worked in 40 countries as a non-verbal clown, stilt walker, mask performer, juggler, puppeteer and acrobat. Previously a ballet dancer, Christina majored in Shakespeare at Princeton University and studied corporeal mime at the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. For years, Christina worked in multiple post-war zones with New York City-based Bond Street Theatre. Other professional adventures include starting a social circus program in Egypt and teaching at universities.



# AirPlay

## Creative Team

**Daniel Wurtzel** is a New York artist best known for his kinetic sculptures using air and lightweight materials that fly. Daniel's sculptures have been featured on Broadway, Cirque du Soleil, the Olympics, and with theater directors such as Julie Taymor, Diane Paulus, Robert Lepage, and Zhang Yimou. Museums around the world, including the Musee Rodin, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, and the Museu do Amanha in Rio de Janeiro, display Daniel's work. [danielwurtzel.com](http://danielwurtzel.com)



**West Hyler** is a theater director equally at home in the circus or on Broadway. In circus, West was story writer and scene director for *Paramour*, Cirque du Soleil's first Broadway musical, and twice directed Big Apple Circus. As Associate Director for *Jersey Boys*, he staged the show on five continents. West is the Producing Artistic Director of the New York Musical Festival and continues to develop new work. [westhyler.com](http://westhyler.com)

**Jeanne Koenig** is Associate Lighting Designer for *The Lion King* and has worked worldwide with more than 20 companies and in 14 countries. Jeanne's other Associate Lighting Design works include Broadway productions of: *Side Show*, Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* and *Come Fly Away*, *Leap of Faith*, *Ragtime*, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, *All Shook Up*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Juan Darien* and *Hughie*.



**Todd Alan Little** has production managed more than 40 musicals for the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut, as well as a record-breaking around-the-world solo balloon flight. Adept at comedy improv, he occasionally plays fiddle in a honky-tonk band and creates new work.

**Flora Vassar** is a stage manager, lighting supervisor, and prop maker. Flora serves on the board of directors for The Resource Exchange, Philadelphia's creative reuse center, and helped pilot Pop Up Repair, a theater-based intervention in the cycle of use-and-discard consumer goods.





## Info and Credits

Running Time **55 Minutes**

Age Guidance **All Ages**

Recommended for ages 5 to 105

*(Air Play is not suitable for infants and toddlers)*

Writers and Creators **Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

Performers **Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

Air Sculptures **Daniel Wurtzel**

Director **West Hyler**

Technical Director **Todd Alan Little**

Stage Manager **Flora Vassar**

Lighting Design **Jeanne Koenig**

Costumes **Ashley Dunn Gatterdam**

Sound Design **Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

Additional Sound Design **Phil Ingle**

Props **Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone**

*Air Play has been made possible with support from*

**Playhouse Square**

**New Victory Theater**

**Zoellner Arts Center**

**Flushing Town Hall**



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## PRESS

\*\*\*\* (Four Stars) **"Fun for all ages' is a common puff in the arts, but with *Air Play* it's strictly true.** From the minute the curtain goes up on this buoyant fusion of wordless clowning and aerial spectacle, you feel as if you've stepped into an enchanted world somewhere between childhood and what comes afterwards, where normal rules (gravity included) have been temporarily held at bay. ... A joy from start to finish, *Air Play* will entrance children, and will act as a great reset button for stressed adults."

—*Sydney Morning Herald*

\*\*\*\* (Four Stars) "A brilliant demonstration of the human imagination."

—*The Argus*

"Making magic out of thin air."

— *The New York Times*

**"Air Play holds the whole audience in the palm of its outstretched hand.** A winning combination of visually stunning sculptures and cheeky but heartfelt storytelling that keeps both adults and children enthralled."

—*British Theatre Guide*

"You feel you're witnessing divine natural occurrences rather than carefully devised circus stunts." —*Hartford Courant*



"The curtains open and we see a man holding on to a huge piece of light fabric, dancing in the air, moved by a circle of fans. **The wonder begins and I suddenly feel like a child again, receptive to every single magical moment in *Air Play*.**"

— *A Younger Theatre*

# AirPlay



# TOUR 2015-2019

# AirPlay

**World Premiere 2015**  
Playhouse Square Cleveland, OH, USA

## AUSTRALIA

Melbourne State Theater, Melbourne  
Out of the Box Festival, Brisbane  
HOTA, Gold Coast  
Sydney Festival, Sydney

## AUSTRIA

Cirque Noel, Graz

## BELGIUM

Cultuur Centrum Du Werf, Aalst

## CANADA

Monument-National, Montreal

## CHILE

Teatro Del Lago, Frutillar

## CHINA

Shanghai Grand Theater, Shanghai  
Beijing Comedy Theater, Beijing  
Shanghai 1862, Shanghai  
Tianqiao Theater, Beijing  
University Arts Center, Kunming

## ENGLAND

Royal Festival Hall, London  
Brighton Dome, Brighton  
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford  
The Lowry, Manchester  
Lawrence Batley Theater, Huddersfield

## HONG KONG

Hong Kong Int. Arts Carnival

## MEXICO

El Cervantino Festival, Guanajuato

## NETHERLANDS

De Harmonie, Leeuwarden  
Congrescentrum Het Park, Hoorn  
Theater Kerkrade, Kerkrade  
Zaantheater, Zaandam  
Parktheater Eindhoven, Eindhoven  
Stadsschouwburg Haarlem, Haarlem  
Schouwburg Orpheus, Apeldoorn  
TAQA Theater de Vest, Alkmaar  
De Stadsschouwburg Groningen, Groningen  
Flint Theater, Amersfoort  
Schouwburg Amstelveen, Amstelveen  
Theater Geert Teis, Stadskanaal

## NEW ZEALAND

Arts Festival Dunedin  
TSB Showplace, New Plymouth  
Baycourt Arts Center, Tauranga  
Bruce Mason Theater, Auckland

## PORTUGAL

Theatro Circo, Braga

## SINGAPORE

Esplanade, Singapore

## USA

Playhouse Square Cleveland OH  
Music Center at Strathmore Kensington MD  
Flint Hills Family Festival St. Paul MN  
International Children's Festival Pittsburgh PA  
Flint Hills Family Festival St. Paul MN  
Festival of Arts and Ideas Festival New Haven CT  
FestivALL Charleston WV  
Zoellner Arts Center Bethlehem PA  
Morse PAC The Villages FL  
Brooks Center Clemson NC  
Hopkins Center Hannover NH  
Des Moines Civic Center Des Moines IA  
Miller Auditorium Kalamazoo MI  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center Nashville TN  
Fine Arts Center UMass Amherst MA  
Weis Center Lewisburg PA  
New Victory Theater New York NY  
RVCC Branchburg NJ  
Fine Arts Center at CSB/SJU St. Joseph MN  
AT&T Center Dallas TX  
Summer Fest Ann Arbor MI  
Atwood Concert Hall Anchorage AK  
Laxson Auditorium Chico CA  
Mount Baker Theater Bellingham WA  
Capitol Theater Yakima WA  
Walton Arts Center Fayetteville AR  
Orpheum Theater Omaha NE  
Rozsa Center Houghton MI  
Pablo Center Eau Claire WI  
Merril Auditorium Portland ME  
Annenberg Center Philadelphia PA  
McCarter Theater Princeton NJ



Royal Festival Hall, London, UK



Teatro Del Lago, Frutillar, Chile



New Victory Theater, New York City, USA



Tianqiao Theater, Beijing, China

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## TRACK LIST

<b>Song</b>	<b>Artist</b>	<b>Composer</b>
Doina Si Cintec	Fanfare Ciocarlia	<i>Adrian Sical</i>
Sun Will Set	Zoe Keating	<i>Zoe Keating</i>
Gymnopedie No. 1	Finghin Collins	<i>Erik Satie</i>
Moliendo Cafe	Doch ft. Doch Gypsy Orchestra	<i>Jose Perron Manzo</i>
Slobujenia	Doch ft. Doch Gypsy Orchestra	<i>T. Donaldson, W. Eager</i>
The Clandestine Adventures of Ms. Merz	Tin Hat Trio	<i>Tin Hat Trio</i>
Attaboy	Yo-Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, Chris Thile	<i>Stuart Duncan, Chris Thile</i>
Spiegel im Spiegel	Sally Maer, Sally Whitwell	<i>Arvo Part</i>
Rebel Enforcer	Mix Master Mike	<i>Mix Master Mike</i>
Bang Bang	Nancy Sinatra	<i>Sonny Bono</i>
Secktor Two	Mix Master Mike	<i>Mix Master Mike</i>
Galang	M.I.A.	<i>M.I.A.</i>
The Planets, Op. 32 Jupiter	London Symphony Orchestra	<i>Gustav Holst</i>
Mother's Journey	Yann Tiersen	<i>Yann Tiersen</i>
Arabesque No. 2	Simon Trpceski	<i>Claude Debussy</i>
Bo Mambo	Yma Sumac	<i>Moises Vivanco, Billy May</i>
Turandot: Nessun Dorma!	Luciano Pavarotti	<i>Giacomo Puccini</i>
Maraja	Vinicio Capossela	<i>Vinicio Capossela</i>
The Rach. 3	David Helfgott	<i>Sergei Rachmaninoff</i>
Prelude from Psycho	Invert	<i>Bernard Hermann</i>
Point Zero	Yann Tiersen	<i>Yann Tiersen</i>
Danza Española, Op. 37, No 2	Enrique Granados	<i>Enrique Granados</i>
Songs From "Friday Afternoons", Op. 7: Cuckoo!	Choir of Downside School	<i>Benjamin Britten</i>
Laulud laulust ja laulikust: Lauliku lapsepoli	The American Boychoir	<i>Veljo Tormis</i>
bu Ert Joroin	Olafur Arnalds	<i>Olafur Arnalds</i>
Somewhere Over The Rainbow	Israel Kamakawiwo'ole	<i>Israel Kamakawiwo'ole</i>
Maraja	Vinicio Capossela	<i>Vinicio Capossela</i>

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## CONTACTS

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