



CIRQUE MECHANICS

TILT!

SHOW ORDER

Park Opens
Bounce Juggle
Swing Chair
Chair Stacking
Plate Spinning
Park Closes
Teeter Board

Intermission

Park Opens Next Day
Cradle Roller Coaster
Ring Toss
Chinese Pole
Balloon Game
Ping Pong Ball
Ferris Wheel
Finale

CAST

Chase Culp – Main Character | Clown

Will Farlow – Acrobat | Teeterboard

Anwar Hassouni - Teeterboard | Chair
Stacking

Clara Laurent – Cradle | Teeterboard

Andrew Leachman– Acrobat|
Teeterboard

Celeste Murman – Chinese Pole |
Teeterboard

Lexi Powell – Aerialist | Swing

Luis Miguel Roldan Santiago - Cradle |
Acrobat

Ossy Sanchez – Juggler | Acrobat

CREATIVE TEAM

Chris Lashua – Founder | Creative

Director | Producer | Machine Designer

Aida Lashua – Producer | Collaborator

Aloysia Gavre – Co-Director |
Choreographer

Leonardo Hidalgo – Lighting Designer

Janeen Johnson – Production Director |
Assistant Choreographer

Michael Picton – Composer

Caroline Rogers – Costume Designer

Steven Ragatz – Co-Director |
Dramaturge

Sean Riley – Co-Director | Set Designer |
Artistic Rigger

PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Rogers – Artistic Director

Bryan Runion – Company | Production
Stage Manager

Ossy Sanchez – Crew Chief

Penelope Onofre – Costume Manager

Max Rosenfeldt – Lighting Director

Toby Stanley – Props Master | Master
Carpenter

SYNOPSIS - DESCRIPTION

Step right up to the dazzling world of *Tilt! A Circus Thrill Ride!*

Journey back to the 1980s and experience a high-flying homage to America's iconic amusement parks. Bursting with acrobatics, aerial feats, juggling, and a dose of nostalgic charm, this theatrical circus adventure brings the sights, sounds, and spirit of the era to life. At the heart of the spectacle is a marvel of man-powered engineering: a giant Ferris Wheel, surrounded by incredible mechanical creations that reimagine classic rides and games of the time. The story follows a weary amusement park worker, worn down by the grind and long disconnected from the joy around him. When he confiscates a guest's boom box, a playful chase erupts, an exhilarating whirlwind of stunts, surprises, and laughter. By the end, the pursuit transforms into a touching moment of connection, proving that even in the unlikeliest of places, shared joy can bring us together.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Founded in 2004 by Chris Lashua, Las Vegas-based Cirque Mechanics masterfully blends American storytelling with inventive mechanical staging. Inspired by traditional circus and grounded in realism, their performances explore timeless themes of ingenuity through a captivating mix of acrobatics, mechanical artistry, and humor. Hailed by *Spectacle Magazine* as "the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil," Cirque Mechanics creates unforgettable experiences for audiences worldwide, including corporate and private clients through their Events and Under Canvas divisions. Their touring repertoire features acclaimed productions such as *Birdhouse Factory*, *Boom Town*, *Pedal Punk*, *42ft*, the Drama Desk Award-nominated *Zephyr*, their inaugural holiday spectacular *Yuletide Factory*, and *Winter Wonder Shoppe*, created in partnership with the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Their sixth touring production, *Tilt!* promises an exhilarating circus thrill ride for all ages.

MEET THE PERFORMERS

CHASE CULP

MAIN CHARACTER | CLOWN

Chase Culp was born and raised in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, but his heart was set on adventure from the start. The grandson of a cowboy, he dreamed of joining the circus at just three years old, inspired by the films of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, as well as the clowns who passed through town with touring shows. As a teenager, Chase discovered Circus Smirkus, a traveling tented youth circus, where he spent three summers honing his craft. After graduating high school, he joined Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, touring for two years across the U.S. and Mexico. His career has since taken him to circus tents, theaters, theme parks, and festivals in more than ten countries, with credits including Slava's Snowshow, Venardos Circus, Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium, and the Circus World Museum. Chase has also toured extensively with Cirque Mechanics productions, including *Birdhouse Factory*, *Pedal Punk*, and *Yuletide Factory*, and is thrilled to join the cast of *Tilt!* Offstage, Chase is a fan of all-you-can-eat sushi, is certified in Laughter Yoga, and—true to his love of showmanship—is also a licensed auctioneer.

WILL FARLOW

ACROBAT | TEETERBOARD

Will is one flipping cool guy, literally. He loves to swim, dive, and, of course, flip. An expert diver, he also enjoys coaching and bringing his fun, motivating energy to anyone eager to learn. Hailing from Myrtle Beach, the putt-putt capital of the world, Will grew up with a love for both water and thrills. That passion eventually carried him into the circus world, where he became part of the original cast of Cirque du Soleil's *Crystal*. Audiences saw him soaring through crisp arena air, flying off poles, and pushing his acrobatic skills to the limit. Despite having vision in only one eye, Will is a true thrill-seeker. For him, the challenge makes every daring move even more exhilarating. Offstage, you'll likely find him chasing rollercoasters with his buddies, slushy in hand, until the amusement park lights flicker out. Laid-back by nature but fueled by adventure, Will brings both chill vibes and jaw-dropping talent to the stage. Whether he's coaching, flipping, or laughing with friends, he reminds us all to keep life in balance, ride the highs, embrace the thrills, and never forget that #mensmentalhealthisimportant.

ANWAR HASSOUNI**ACROBAT/CHAIR STACKING**

Anwar Hassouni grew up in the circus. A second-generation performer, he began learning hand balancing and acrobatics from his father as a child and has been hooked ever since. He continued developing his skills at Circus Juventas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he trained and performed in everything from hand balancing and acrobatics to flying trapeze. Since then, circus has taken Anwar around the world, touring throughout the United States and Europe and performing at festivals in Australia and Germany. In 2025, he joined Cirque Mechanics for the remount of *Pedal Punk*, and he couldn't be happier to be back with the Cirque Mechanics family and on the road again with *Tilt!* For Anwar, performing is about more than the tricks, it's about the connection with the audience. He loves the energy of live performance, sharing what he loves, and bringing a little joy to people wherever the circus takes him.

CLARA LAURENT**ACROBAT/CRADLE**

Originally from San Diego, California, Clara Laurent discovered circus after retiring from artistic gymnastics at 17—and quickly found a new way to spend as much time as possible upside down. After exploring a variety of disciplines at the San Diego Circus Center, she continued her training at the National Circus School of Montreal, specializing in aerial straps while also training in Russian cradle, static trapeze, and teeterboard. Since graduating, Clara's circus career has taken her around the world, performing with companies including NoFit State Circus, The 7 Fingers, and Palazzo. She has performed both as a soloist and as a member of **Vol au Vent**, the first all-female teeterboard group to graduate from the National Circus School. Whether she's flying through the air, hanging upside down, or being launched from a teeterboard, Clara is happiest when gravity is merely a suggestion. Naturally, when it comes to roller coasters, her favorite is whichever one has the most loop-the-loops!

ANDREW LEACHMAN**ACROBAT/TEETERBOARD**

Andrew Leachman is a lover of all things movement and, without realizing it, spent most of his life training for the circus. A gymnast, cheerleader, coach, parkour enthusiast, cliff-jumping maniac, and snowboarding newbie, Andrew has always been happiest when he's in motion, or preferably airborne. Growing up between California and Hawaii as a military brat, Andrew moved around often, but movement was always a constant. After years of coaching gymnastics, tumbling, and parkour, he discovered that performing offered another way to share that passion. He began his circus career at San Diego Circus Center, where he trained in teeterboard, tramp wall, hoop diving, and more. Andrew loves the adrenaline of pushing himself, whether he's flying through the air or riding a roller coaster. His current favorite? El Toro at Six Flags, a massive wooden coaster that immediately shot to the top of his list. Offstage, Andrew is equally happy keeping his feet firmly on the ground, indulging his love of computers, video games, and cars.

CELESTE MURMAN**ACROBAT | CHINESE POLE**

Celeste is ready to take you on the ride of a lifetime. A proud Cleveland, Ohio original (#goBrowns), she's been climbing poles since the age of four. While some worried she might take her talents in another direction, circus proved the safest—and most thrilling—track. A true wild card of an acrobat, Celeste never fails to surprise. In 2023, she graduated from École de cirque de Québec, where she specialized in double Chinese pole, a discipline that instantly felt like home. She thrives on the adrenaline rush of leaping, flipping, and flying from one pole to the next. With a wide repertoire of skills, Celeste brings both versatility and edge, keeping audiences on their toes. For her, amusement parks capture the same sense of magic and wonder that circus delivers. She gets to live that thrill every day and loves sharing it with audiences, inviting them to buckle up for the ride. She has landed unimaginable flips and tricks and hopes to one day land her dream hunk. Though she has already landed flips, tricks, and the unimaginable, Celeste still dreams of landing her perfect partner. Until then, please keep your hands, arms, and legs inside the ride at all times—and enjoy the show.

ALEXANDRA (LEXI) POWELL**AERIALIST**

Lexi Powell has always been an artist. Somewhere along the way, she discovered she could tell stories with her whole body, and preferably several feet off the ground. A lifelong mover, athlete, and creative, Lexi earned a degree in Kinesiology before finding her home in circus, where movement, art, and adventure could become something entirely their own. Since then, she has performed around the world in productions including *Marvel Universe Live*, MTV, Missy Elliott, cruise ships, festivals, and plenty of adventures in between. For Lexi, circus is equal parts craft and connection, a way to explore what the human body can do while telling stories that make people feel something. Offstage, she's usually

painting, writing, making music, finding the nearest body of water, wearing some form of leopard print, or aggressively encouraging the people around her. Raised just 45 minutes from Disneyland, Lexi grew up on family park days, churros, mouse ears, and Disney magic. Her favorite attraction? The Jungle Cruise, because a well-timed dad joke is clearly a mark of sophistication. She still believes in wonder, play, and shared experiences, and that's the kind of magic she hopes to create for audiences, too.

LUIS MIGUEL ROLDÁN SANTIAGO

ACROBAT/CRADLE

Luis Miguel Roldán Santiago is a Puerto Rican circus artist, acrobat, and dancer who has been tumbling, flying, and occasionally questioning his life choices in the air for years. After initially pursuing a career in medicine, he followed his passion for movement to Europe, training at the École Supérieure des Arts du Cirque (ESAC), where he specialized in Korean cradle, hand-to-hand, group acrobatics, aerial silks, and dance. Since then, Luis Miguel has performed internationally with companies including CirkVOST, La Compagnie Zali, and Los Hermanos Suárez. At Madrid's FIRCO Festival, he earned both the Public Award and a Silver Medal. When he's not throwing people around—or being thrown around himself, Luis Miguel is a coach, personal trainer, and serial entrepreneur who can turn almost anything into his next business idea. A conversation? Business idea. A circus trick? Business idea. A cup of coffee? Probably a business idea. At an amusement park, Luis Miguel heads straight for the biggest, fastest, most ridiculous ride he can find. If it makes him question his decisions while strapped into a seat, he's having a great time.

OSSY SANCHEZ

JUGGLER

Ossy is a fifth-generation circus performer from Mexico City, Mexico, now calling Las Vegas home. He's been bouncing, tumbling, and juggling his way through life since age 11, with favorite acts including trampoline, gauchos, Russian swing, and of course, juggling! Inspired by his dad, Ossy dreams of becoming a master juggler one day... if he doesn't get distracted by the popcorn and funnel cakes first. He's performed around the world, from circus rings to theaters, including Rouge at the STRAT Hotel and Casino and Cirque Mechanics' Zephyr: A Whirlwind of Circus. Ossy feels happiest when at the circus and is thrilled to return to Cirque Mechanics in Tilt! When it comes to amusement parks, he's all about the classic wooden roller coasters, because some things never go out of style, just like his juggling tricks.

MEET THE PRODUCTION CREW

BRYAN RUNION

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Bryan is a production and stage management leader whose work spans immersive entertainment, contemporary circus, theatrical premieres, and large-scale live events. His professional credits include Stranger Things: The Experience (Netflix), Winter Wonder Shoppe (Cirque Mechanics), Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Duel Reality (The 7Fingers), La Perle (Franco Dragone), Drawn to Life (Cirque du Soleil/Disney), Mastercard Experiences, Everybody Black (World Premiere), Queens (La Jolla Playhouse), Ken Ludwig's The Gods of Comedy (The Old Globe), TEDx Chula Vista, The Voice of Tolerance (UAE Ministry of Education), Mark Morris Dance Company, Joey Alexander Trio, Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain (La Jolla Music Society), and The Bridges of Madison County (Arkansas Rep). Bryan's work has taken him across the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. He has supported productions seen by more than 650,000 audience members annually and collaborated with artists and technicians from over twenty-five countries. His experience ranges from intimate theaters to major performing arts centers and global immersive venues. Dedicated to bringing stories to the stage with precision, care, and deep respect for the collaborative process, Bryan is grateful to be part of Tilt! and extends thanks to the cast, crew, and creative team for their artistry. Outside the theater, he enjoys cooking, traveling, spending time with family, and developing tools for stage managers at BackstageOS.com.

KEVIN ROGERS

ARTISTIC COORDINATOR

He's always loved the era when bigger was better, the fashion was brighter, and apparently every attraction needed a little more spectacle. A longtime member of the Cirque Mechanics family, Kevin has worked on nearly every production in the company's repertoire, taking on roles ranging from performer to head carpenter. His career, in addition to performing as an actor, acrobat, and stuntman in every theme park in Southern California, has also included helping Heroes fly high for Walt Disney Imagineering, building the Isle of Berk for Universal's brand-new Epic Universe, and Creative Directing a full-park Halloween event for SeaWorld in San Diego. Safe to say, he feels right at home in his new role as Artistic Director of Tilt. Offstage, Kevin shares his creative life with his wife, Caroline Rogers, who is the costume designer for Tilt. The two

have spent years creating, designing, building, and dreaming up theatrical worlds together, and they're excited to bring that shared creative energy to *Tilt*.

MAX ROSENFELD
LIGHTING DIRECTOR

Max Rosenfeld is a New York-based Lighting Designer and Programmer whose work spans theater, musical productions, and live performance. They have designed and programmed for a range of productions, including serving as Assistant Lighting Designer for *The Garbologists* at Shadowland Stages and Lighting Designer for *Shrek: The Musical* at SUNY New Paltz, among many others. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for shaping atmosphere through light, Max continues to build a diverse portfolio that blends artistry with technical precision. Max fondly recalls their very first rollercoaster ride during a summer camp trip. At first, rollercoasters felt too intimidating—but thanks to a favorite counselor who encouraged them onto just the right set of rides at Six Flags, the fear turned into exhilaration. That breakthrough sparked a lifelong love of rollercoasters, and today Max still seeks out the thrill, both in theme parks and in the excitement of live production.

ESMERALDA ONOFRE
COSTUME MANAGER

Esmeralda Onofre, a fifth-generation circus performer from Mexico, grew up immersed in the vibrant world of circus arts. She began training at age 10 with the hula hoop and discovered the challenging art of slack wire at 15. By 21, Esmeralda moved to the United States, performing with prestigious circus shows across the country. Alongside her performing career, Esmeralda developed a passion for costume design. Mentored by her mother, a seasoned costume maker, she became a skilled wardrobe technician and designer for numerous circus productions, including *Do Portugal Circus* and *Cirque Mechanics*. Now based in Las Vegas, Esmeralda continues to perform while contributing her costume expertise to the circus world. A true artist, she blends performance and craftsmanship, leaving a lasting mark on every stage and wardrobe she touches.

TOBY STANLEY
PROPS MASTER | MASTER CARPENTER

Toby is both a skilled carpenter and an accomplished performer, striking a balance between sawdust and spotlight. By day, he continues his family's tradition of craftsmanship, working with wood to create pieces that are as strong as they are beautiful. By night, he brings the same discipline and precision to the stage, performing his favorite act—the Russian Swing—where timing, nerve, and trust are everything. Woodworking has been a constant in Toby's life, offering both comfort and a creative outlet. Over the years, that passion has grown into a career that seamlessly combines technical skill with a performer's perspective. As the show's carpenter, Toby doesn't just build equipment—he tests it himself, ensuring every prop and apparatus is safe, functional, and ready for the demands of performance. His experience extends from restoring historic homes to designing stage elements tough enough to withstand the impact of acrobats in motion. For Toby, carpentry and circus aren't separate callings but two sides of the same coin—each requiring creativity, adaptability, and exacting attention to detail. Whether on the workshop floor or mid-flight on the swing, Toby is always ready for the challenge, finding ways to make things work—and making sure they hold up under pressure.

MEET THE CREATIVE DESIGN TEAM

CHRIS LASHUA
FOUNDER | CREATIVE DIRECTOR | PRODUCER | MACHINE DESIGNER

Chris Lashua, founder of *Cirque Mechanics*, grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, where his passion for movement began on a BMX bike. Discovered by *Cirque du Soleil*, he created and performed a groundbreaking BMX act before being commissioned to design a "German Wheel" number for *Quidam*, a role he performed for several years, and which established his reputation as a pioneer of circus gadgetry. His engineering ingenuity and creative vision eventually inspired him to "run away" and launch his own company, *Cirque Mechanics*. At the heart of Chris's work is a belief that the interaction between performer and machine defines *Cirque Mechanics*' unique voice. His theatrical productions showcase this vision: acrobats, jugglers, dancers, and contortionists perform on and around extraordinary machines—from a 1920s factory floor in *Birdhouse Factory*, to a gold rush town in *Boom Town*, a bicycle shop in *Pedal Punk*, a classic circus ring in *42ft: A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels*, a countryside windmill in *Zephyr: A Whirlwind of Circus*, and most recently, the rides of an amusement park in *Tilt!*. During the pandemic, Chris reimaged live performance by creating *Drive-n-Dine*, an outdoor, socially distanced show staged on a Las Vegas golf course, and *Cirque Mechanics Under*

Canvas, a spectacle presented inside the company's custom orange-and-gray big top. Beyond the stage, Chris continues to invent playful, pedal-powered creations like the Paddle Ship—a floating stage propelled by human-powered paddle wheels—the Wine Trike, and the Buffet Train, which double as whimsical hospitality devices and performance platforms. Chris also invests in the broader circus community as a producing partner of the Vegas International Variety Arts Festival (VIVA Fest), Founding Board Member of the American Circus Alliance (ACA), Founding Member of the Producers Alliance of Southern Nevada (PALS), Board Member of the Circus Historical Society, charter member of Black Box Collective, and guest lecturer for the Association for Theater in Higher Education.

AIDA LASHUA

PRODUCER | COLLABORATOR

For more than 30 years, Aida Lashua has been Chris Lashua's creative partner in life and in work, helping to shape Cirque Mechanics into one of America's most innovative circus companies. Her professional journey began with Cirque du Soleil (CDS), where she spent a decade both on tour and behind the scenes. While with CDS, she worked for sponsor AT&T, managing the implementation of a multi-million-dollar sponsorship that included product placement, sales promotions, and staff training. She also served as Box Office Supervisor and House Manager, where she trained and managed a team of 60 and helped refine customer service policies, training manuals, and VIP programs. Those experiences gave Aida a deep appreciation for the business of circus and a lasting passion for its artistry. Today, she manages the day-to-day operations of Cirque Mechanics, balancing the demands of touring productions, marketing, and family life with poise. With a background in direct marketing, she has guided the company's website and social media development with a targeted, strategic approach. She has also written the company's study guides, created educational materials, and designed workshop programs that bring circus arts into classrooms and communities. A native of Puerto Rico and mother of three boys, Aida is both a stabilizing force and a creative driver within Cirque Mechanics. Beyond circus, she contributes as a writer for CityLife Publications and dreams of one day finishing her novel, ideally near the ocean, where she feels most at home. A true amusement park enthusiast, Aida never skips the souvenir shops, and she proudly admits to being an unabashed Diet Coke fanatic.

ALOYSIA GAVRE

DIRECTOR | CHOREOGRAPHER

Aloysia Gavre is a Circus Creator, Director, Educator and founding board member of the American Circus Alliance. She co-founded both Troupe Vertigo and Cirque School in Los Angeles in 2009 with a vision to contribute and grow a wider appreciation for the Circus Arts. She began her own performance career with the Pickle Family Circus in her hometown of San Francisco and then went on to perform with Cirque du Soleil, Monte Carlo Circus Festival, Teatro Zinzanni and numerous international symphonies. Her expertise has been used in the films "Water for Elephants" and "Pitch Perfect 2." She was featured on the cover of Dance Teacher Magazine for her expertise in circus-arts. Speaking engagements include TEDx, Center Theater Group, Directors Lab, Chicago Circus Festival, AYCO and VIVA Fest Las Vegas. Aloysia's creative journey with Cirque Mechanics began at its inception with its premier show, Birdhouse Factory, in 2004. Her expertise of integrating CM trademark architectural machines with circus bodies in motion remains an integral part of the company. A vintage fun memory: in 1999 Aloysia & Chris rode their bikes through Amsterdam after their performance in Quidam to see Lauryn Hill in concert.

LEONARDO HIDALGO

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Leonardo Hidalgo is a New York-based Lighting Designer, Production Manager, and educator specializing in theatre, circus, and dance. He has collaborated with a wide range of companies and productions, bringing technical precision and artistic vision to every project. Recent credits include serving as Lighting Designer for *Zephyr: A Whirlwind of Circus* with Cirque Mechanics, Lighting Designer/Production Manager for Circus Juventas, and Lighting Designer/Production Manager for Battery Dance Company. He also contributes to the internationally recognized Battery Dance Festival, a weeklong outdoor event showcasing artists from around the globe. In addition to his professional work, Leo is currently pursuing a master's degree in city and Regional Planning at Rutgers University's Bloustein School, where he explores how the arts intersect with community development and urban design. His dual interests in performance and planning reflect a commitment to creating spaces—both theatrical and civic—that inspire connection, creativity, and shared experiences. When he's not behind the console or drafting a production plan, Leo can often be found at the Dutchess County Fair in the Hudson Valley. For the past six years, he and his friends have made it a tradition to watch the pig races, a favorite amusement park memory that never fails to bring joy.

JANEEN JOHNSON

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR | ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

Janeen Johnson is a visionary arts administrator, stagecraft specialist, and cultural strategist with more than 20 years of experience driving excellence in arts management, event operations, and theatrical production. With a foundation as a professional dancer, she brings a rare artistic lens to her production leadership, earning recognition as a dynamic force across dance, theatre, and live performance. For the past 13 years, Janeen has been at the helm of **Cirque Mechanics' touring operations** as Principal Production Stage Manager, directing logistics, administration, and tour leadership for six original productions — *Birdhouse Factory*, *Boomtown*, *Pedal Punk*, *42FT*, *Zephyr*, and now *TILT!* — performed across North America, Europe, and Asia. Her progressive leadership extends beyond the stage. Through **O.Y.A. Strategies**, her cultural consulting and coaching agency, Janeen mentors emerging stage managers and cultural practitioners through *The Cultural Powerhouse Model*, blending creativity, strategy, and community impact. This season, Janeen expands her creative contribution as **Assistant Choreographer and Production Director for *TILT!***, further weaving her creative insight into Cirque Mechanics' latest theatrical experience. Janeen also loves to travel and experience new spaces and places, finds joy in dancing wherever Spirit guides, and proudly calls California home.

MICHAEL PICTON

COMPOSER

Michael Picton is an award-winning composer whose eclectic career spans film, television, advertising, theatre, and circus. Michael has scored five Cirque Mechanics productions: *Boom Town*, the *Cirque Mechanics Orchestral Project*, *Pedal Punk*, *42ft* and now *Zephyr*, *A Whirlwind of Circus*. His circus career began as a performer, touring as keyboardist with Cirque du Soleil's *Quidam*. He has written songs and score for six editions of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus: *Bellobration*, *Funundrum*, *Dragons*, *Built to Amaze*, *Circus Xtreme*, and the final edition *Out of this World*. Recently his live work has expanded to include superhero arena shows with Feld Entertainment's *Marvel Universe Live* and *Marvel Universe Live - Age of Heroes*. The winner of the Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composers Competition, Michael was chosen from a field of over 600 aspiring composers by a jury chaired by the legendary Elmer Bernstein. For TCM, he scored the silent films *The Temptress* and *The Red Mill*. Other film and television work includes *Mutt & Stuff* for Sid and Marty Krofft on Nickelodeon, the SyFy series *Flash Gordon*, the independent feature *Little Chenier*, and main title themes for *I Want to Work for Diddy* and *Bates Motel*. Michael has composed network themes for PBS, Amazon Originals, and CNN International among others as well as commercials and promos for a long list of clients.

CAROLINE ROGERS

COSTUME DESIGNER

By age 16, Caroline was a professional aerialist traveling the world, a journey that eventually led her to meet her husband, Kevin, a former Cirque Mechanics cast member. Her dual passions for performance and sewing naturally evolved into a career as a costume designer. Over the past 20 years, she has designed hundreds of costumes for live shows, including Disney, DreamWorks, and, of course, Cirque Mechanics. One of her favorites was designing *CM's 42ft*, set in her beloved 1930s era. A lifelong theme park enthusiast, Caroline continues to indulge her love of Disney, visiting Epcot weekly—and occasionally braving Spaceship Earth despite her astraphobia. She has brought stories to life for millions of guests worldwide, both through costume design and performance. Recently, she contributed as Scenic Artist and Lead for the Viking Training Camp at Universal Studios' Epic Universe. Growing up in the 1980s fueled her excitement for designing *Tilt!*, where she hopes her costumes transport audiences back to a simpler time, reigniting childhood wonder and the magic of theme parks. Caroline is deeply grateful to Cirque Mechanics for welcoming her creativity into another production and gives glory to God for the talents and opportunities she has been given. Follow her work @DesignsByNine.

STEVEN RAGATZ

CO-DIRECTOR | DRAMATURGE

An original Birdhouse Factory, Boom Town, and Orchestra Project cast member collaborator, plus lead writer for *Pedal Punk*, *Zephyr*, *A Whirlwind of Circus* and currently *Yuletide Factory*, Steven Ragatz has been entertaining audiences with his juggling, physical comedy, stilt walking and general antics for the past three decades. As a ten-year veteran of Cirque du Soleil, Steven has toured throughout North, South and Central America as well as Asia and Europe performing multiple juggling acts as well as an eclectic array of characters. Steven is on the staff of Bloomington's Stage Flight Circus Arts, where he teaches juggling and unicycle skills workshops. He recently toured his one-man show "*Under the Umbrella, Life is a Circus*"—an evening with a juggling virtuoso and stories from world-wide circus adventures. Steven holds a B.A. in Variety Theater and an M.S. in Computer Science from Indian University. He studied mime, stage movement and circus arts with Fred Garbo, Tony Montanaro, George Pinney and Michael Moschen. He and his wife, Lisa,

have two children, Melissa, and Andrew, and currently live in Maine, where they have mastered the art of making the perfect margarita.

SEAN RILEY

CO-DIRECTOR | SET DESIGNER | ARTISTIC RIGGER

Sean Riley creates performances that merge suspension, kinetics, architecture, and narrative sculpture. Working at the intersection of production, rigging, and mechanical design, he develops striking environments and apparatus for time-based art. His work spans a wide range of genres—including theatre, circus, dance, opera, television, and both outdoor and gallery installations. Through his company Gravity Projects, Riley has built a unique arsenal of specialized tools and techniques, expanded the boundaries of live performance while advancing standards of industrial safety. He is a founding member of Cirque Mechanics, host of two television series (*World's Toughest Fixes* on National Geographic and *Speed* on Curiosity Stream), and a lead collaborator on the construction of the Long Now Foundation's 10,000 Year Clock. He also serves as production designer and producer for the annual *Panto in the Presidio* holiday show. His design work has earned multiple honors, including six Izzies, TBA Awards, Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, and the Isadora Duncan Sustained Achievement Award in Scenic Design. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz, Riley now lives in British Columbia with his wife, three sons, and an abundance of bears. He is thrilled to still be creating circus with dear friends after 20 years of Cirque Mechanics. More at www.visiblegravity.com.

WITH GRATITUDE

The creation of *Tilt!* has been a true labor of love, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has shared their time, talents, and heart in bringing this 1980s-inspired amusement park adventure to life. To our family, Zion, Quinn, and Iago, thank you for your boundless imagination, encouragement, and hands-on help, from brainstorming wacky ride ideas to rolling up your sleeves in the workshop. To our parents, we are forever grateful for sparking our passion for circus by taking us to carnivals, fairs, and amusement parks, memories that still fuel our imagination and inspire our work today. To our remarkable cast and crew, your artistry, dedication, and joy have transformed *Tilt!* into the thrilling ride we dreamed it could be. To Alliance Artists Management, thank you for your unwavering belief in our vision. A very special thank you to Lori Cobo and the UNLV Performing Arts Center for their generous collaboration, enabling us to premiere *Tilt!* at home. Special thanks to Bo Bogatin and Kurt Nelson for their legal guidance, Andy Espo for technical support, and Bryan Schuette and Stephen Butz at United Machine for their precision craftsmanship and Mike Levine for the fastest T-shirt turnaround ever, your speed and quality product kept our cast and crew looking totally tubular. We are indebted to Don Seiersen for his artistic contributions, which added texture and depth to this production. We are grateful to the Las Vegas Circus Center for fostering such a vibrant community of creators, and to Cirque du Soleil and circus companies worldwide for their enduring commitment to pushing this art form forward. Finally, to our audiences: your enthusiasm and joy fuel our passion. Thank you for strapping in and taking this ride with us, together we celebrate the thrills, nostalgia, and wonder of the circus, the amusement park, and the totally awesome spirit of the 1980s.