

A project of The New 42nd Street

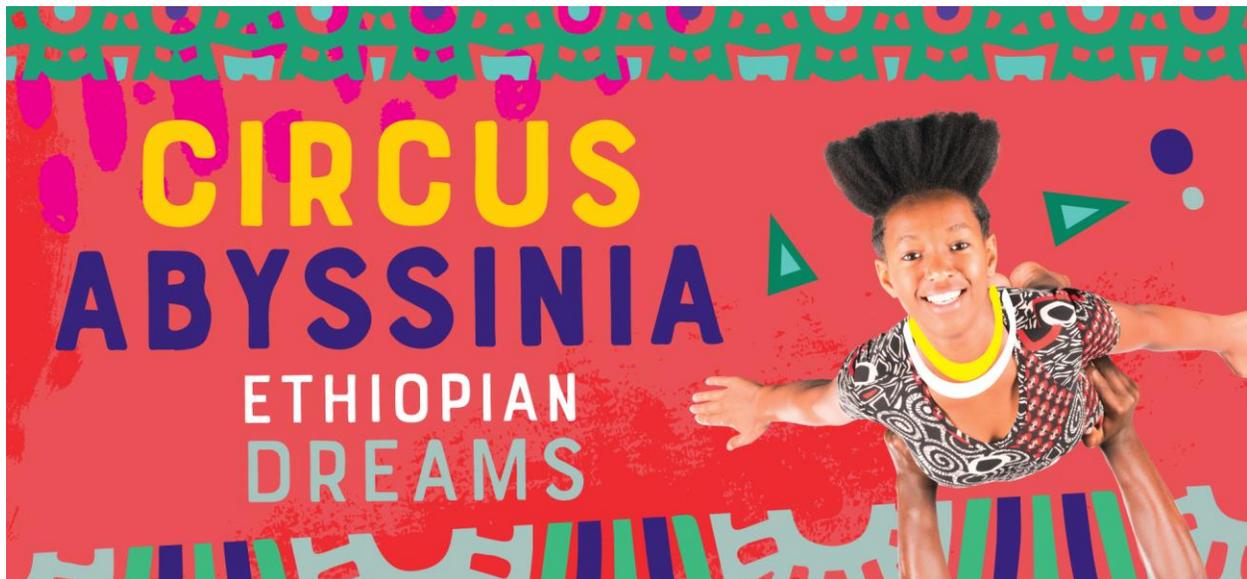
**Administrative Offices**  
229 W 42nd Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10036

**Theater and Box Office**  
209 W 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

**CONTACT AT THE NEW 42<sup>nd</sup> STREET:**  
Corinne Fitamant 646.223.3065

**CONTACT AT MATT ROSS PUBLIC RELATIONS:**  
Matt Ross 212.756.1248

## The New Victory Theater Presents Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams



### African Circus Troupe Led By Acclaimed Juggling Brothers Brings Gravity-Defying New Ethiopian Tradition Stateside

The New Victory Theater on 42nd Street Hosts Ethiopian Circus Acrobats  
for the Holidays

**U.S. Premiere November 30-December 30, 2018**

**New York, NY** (November 8, 2018) -- This holiday season, experience the magical journey of two Ethiopian brothers, Bibi and Bichu, who realize a lifelong wish to run away with the circus. In ***CIRCUS ABYSSINIA: ETHIOPIAN DREAMS***, two young boys discover a world of wonder, full of dreamers like them: agile tumblers who ricochet around the stage, elastic contortionists who

twist into unfathomable shapes, and expert jugglers who exchange an endless array of objects. **CIRCUS ABYSSINIA: ETHIOPIAN DREAMS** weaves together heart-stopping stunts with the irresistible rhythms of Ethiopian music and song to create a family-friendly spectacle of infectious joy and effervescent energy! The all-Ethiopian troupe vaults onto the New Victory stage this holiday season from November 30 - December 30, 2018.

Bibi and Bichu are two real-life brothers who saw a circus on the television and vowed to one day be in the Big Top. But for all its rich and vibrant cultural traditions, Ethiopia had no circus tradition, so the brothers taught and trained themselves, flipping and tumbling for the jostling crowds of their hometown. As teenagers, they joined the emerging Circus Jimma and toured throughout Europe. Eventually, over twenty years ago, they moved to London.

Since then, Bibi and Bichu have become an acclaimed juggling duo, appearing on BBC's *Justin's House*, the Olivier Award-winning English National Opera production of *Akhmaten*, and with the performing groups Gandini Juggling and Giffords Circus. Bibi and Bichu will appear in Tim Burton's upcoming film, *Dumbo*, scheduled for release in March 2019.

To support the next generation of circus artists in Ethiopia, Bibi and Bichu have been sponsoring circus schools in Addis Ababa for several years: Circus Wingate since 2010 and Bita Brothers Circus since 2016. There, they discovered a troupe of incredible acrobats who started out like they did, as buskers and street performers honing their skills on city streets with no expectation of pay. In 2017, the brothers established their own company and teamed up to start the first circus created for and by Ethiopians: **CIRCUS ABYSSINIA**.

Bibi and Bichu hold the record for being the longest-serving juggling act in England's Giffords Circus! Prior to developing **CIRCUS ABYSSINIA: ETHIOPIAN DREAMS**, the brothers traveled all over the U.K. with the acclaimed troupe throughout 2015 and 2016.

**CIRCUS ABYSSINIA: ETHIOPIAN DREAMS** is directed by Binyam "Bichu" Tesfamariam and produced by Mehari "Bibi" Tesfamariam. On stage they are joined by the acrobats of the Circus Abyssinia Troupe: Sisay Abebe, Yabsera Alebachew, Etsegenet Ashenafi, Endalkachew Belaynehe, Tesfamichael Bilal, Betelhem Dejene, Befekadu Esmael, Fikir Gebremedhin, Semeret Getachew, Daniel Gezahegn, Abraham Lemma, Ermiyas Manayeh, Alemayehu Mulugeta, Ezera Nigusse, Helen Shimeles, Abraham Tadesse, Abraham Tamrat and Tarekegn Teshome. Gaby Cooke is the stage manager, Elshaday Shimels is the tour manager and Mark Whatmough is the lighting designer.

Learn more about **CIRCUS ABYSSINIA** at [NewVictory.org](http://NewVictory.org).

**Public Performance Schedule:**

Friday, November 30 at 7pm

Saturday, December 1 at 2pm / 7pm

Sunday, December 2 at 12pm / 5pm

Saturday, December 8 at 2pm / 7pm

Sunday, December 9 at 12pm / 5pm

Friday, December 14 at 7pm\*

Saturday, December 15 at 2pm / 7pm

Sunday, December 16 at 12pm / 5pm

Friday, December 21 at 7pm  
Saturday, December 22 at 2pm / 7pm  
Sunday, December 23 at 12pm / 5pm

Wednesday, December 26 at 2pm  
Thursday, December 27 at 2pm  
Friday, December 28 at 2pm / 7pm  
Saturday, December 29 at 2pm / 7pm  
Sunday, December 30 at 12pm / 5pm

\*sign-interpreted performance

**CIRCUS ABYSSINIA** has a running time of 1 hour and 50 minutes including one intermission, and is recommended for ages 5 and up.

### **Ticket Information**

Full-price tickets for **CIRCUS ABYSSINIA** start at \$17. Tickets are available online (<http://www.newvictory.org/boxoffice>) and by phone (646.223.3010).

To purchase tickets in person, the New Victory box office is located at 209 West 42nd Street (between 7th / 8th Avenues). Box office hours are Sunday & Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

### **About The New Victory Theater**

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids. Created in 1995 on iconic 42nd Street, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all students, teachers, kids, families and communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international programming of theater, dance, circus, music, puppetry and opera on its stages. A leader in arts education, youth employment and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

### **About The New 42nd Street**

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent nonprofit organization charged with the continuous cultural revival of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues, building on the foundation of seven historic theaters to make extraordinary performing arts and cultural engagement part of everyone's life. The New 42nd Street fulfills this purpose by ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street's historic theaters; supporting performing artists in the creation of their work at the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street; creating arts access and education at The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families; and through the New 42nd Street Youth Corps, its model youth development initiative, which pairs life skills workshops and mentorship with paid employment in the arts for NYC youth. Inspired by the city it serves, The New 42nd Street is committed to the transformational power of the arts.