

Timber!

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Cirque Alfonse, Canada



Photo: Timber! © Jane Hobson

"Joyous, homespun circus show."
The Guardian

"Thrillingly dangerous... Rousing live traditional music and singing underpin the scintillating action."
The Stage

"If I were running away to the circus, Alfonse would be my first stop."
Metro

"Utterly brilliant."
South London Press

There'll be whip-cracking, wood-chucking, log-throwing and axe-juggling galore as Quebec's **Cirque Alfonse** makes its Australian debut performance with *Timber!*

Blending circus with theatre, dance, live traditional music and folklore, this lumberjack circus spectacular is all kinds of unexpected. Performing thrilling tricks using metal saws and axes, and balancing acts on tree branches, the daredevil routines of the clan of acrobats and entertainers display their world class skill.

Hailing from the Canadian small town of Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, the energetic acrobatic troupe have drawn inspiration from their country roots to create this unique work. In a spectacle of strength and agility, muscular bearded men heft chunks of tree trunk with each prop and piece of equipment being something authentic from the woods. Incorporating three generations of acrobatic experience, The *Timber!* cast features the whole Alfonse family from 68-year-old Alain to his three-year-old grandson Arthur.

From the tangible scent of their timber props to the banjo-picking, bluegrass accompaniment, there's a host of factors which make *Timber!* a joy for all ages. Born from a desire to revive the childhood evenings of music and madness, the Alfonse family use the term "shebang" to describe more family orientated, intimate entertainment.

Cirque Alfonse was created in 2005 and soon after launched its first show *La Brunante*, backed by a team of professional acrobats graduated from the École nationale de cirque de Montréal, as well as a professional dancer, an ex-skiing champion and three talented and versatile musicians. Since then, Cirque Alfonse have worked with some of the world's most renowned contemporary circus companies including **Cirque du Soleil**, **Cirkus Cirkor** and **Les 7 Doigts de la Main**.

Timber! is a joyous celebration into the carefree world of a lumberjack family. Expect the skills of this world famous circus company to be as sharp as their sawblades.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015^{8-26 JAN}

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| Where | Riverside Theatres, Parramatta |
| When | Preview: 8 January Season: 9-18 January at 7.30pm Sat and Sun at 2pm (Sun at 2pm only) No performance on Monday |
| Price | Premium \$65 A Reserve \$55/\$50 B Reserve \$35/32 Family ticket \$180 (A Reserve, 2 Adults & 2 Children) |
| Duration | 90 mins |
| Booking | Sydney Festival 1300 856 876 Riverside Theatres 02 8839 3399 sydneyfestival.org.au/timber |

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