

Hideaway Circus Launches Northeast Tour of

STARS ABOVE

AN ALL AMERICAN OPEN AIR CIRCUS

August 13 - September 18, 2021
in Vermont, New Hampshire,
Connecticut and Upstate New York



(June 24, 2021 – New York) 2020 Drama Desk Award nominees **Josh Aviner** and **Lyndsay Magid Aviner** of **Hideaway Circus** are proud to announce the launch of **Stars Above**, a brand new, open-air circus touring the Northeast region of the U.S. this August and September. The **Stars Above** Northeast tour will make ten stops throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Upstate New York, beginning with the premiere on August 13, 2021 in

Brattleboro, VT. Tickets are on sale now at starsabovecircus.com.

A modern take on the nostalgia and intimacy of early nineteenth century touring circuses, *Stars Above* is centered around a single day in the life of a traveling family troupe. The production explores and celebrates our interwoven connections to loved ones, community, and what we've lost.

Stars Above combines elements of both contemporary and classical circus while showcasing an all-star cast of American circus performers and musicians, performing original music and reimagined covers. The all-ages production is performed outdoors, under the vast canopy of sky and stars, on a custom-built circular stage and aerial rig.

The cast of *Stars Above* is comprised entirely of American circus artists – a rarity in contemporary circus. In March 2020, many in the cast were forced to leave contracts with top international companies to return home to the United States. Pandemic travel restrictions created a unique opportunity to bring together some of the most talented circus artists of our time into a single company, spanning ages, genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds. The performers range from sixth-generation circus acts, with skills passed down through their families, to highly gifted individuals from the top circus schools in the world.

Stars Above is created by Drama Desk Award nominees [Hideaway Circus](#), the team behind the underground hit *Beyond Babel*. A dance-theater riff on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* set amid the present-day border crisis, *Beyond Babel* is scheduled to return to the Gym at Judson in New York City in September 2021.

Hideaway Circus is partnering with over a dozen local organizations to offer affordable tickets for individuals and families that have been hit hardest by the pandemic, so that everyone can share in the exhilaration, wonder and nostalgia when the *Stars Above* circus comes to their community. Please visit starsabovecircus.com for more information on the availability of free and low-cost options.

***Stars Above* Northeast Tour Schedule**

New England Center for Circus Arts
[Brattleboro, VT](#)
August 13-14, 2021

Contemporary Circus & Immersive Arts Center
[Troy, NY](#)
August 19-21, 2021

Lumberyard Center for Film & Performing Arts
[Catskill, NY](#)
August 24-25, 2021

Town of Wilton Parks Department
[Wilton, CT](#)
August 28-29, 2021

Venue To Be Announced

New Paltz, NY
August 31 - September 1, 2021

Circus Culture
[Ithaca, NY](#)
September 3-5, 2021

Venue To Be Announced
Syracuse, NY
September 7-9, 2021

Lake Placid Center for the Arts
[Lake Placid, NY](#)
September 10-11, 2021

Phantom Theater
[Warren, VT](#)
September 14-15, 2021

Upper Valley Circus Camp
[Cornish, NH](#)
September 17-18, 2021

Safety Information

Stars Above follows all federal, state, and local guidance pertaining to outdoor gatherings. We do not anticipate masking or social distancing at most locations by mid-August 2021 and will not require proof of vaccination for our audience members. All seats are individualized and can be spaced apart from one another for patrons who may need additional accommodations. The entire cast and crew of *Stars Above* are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

starsabovecircus.com
Follow Hideaway Circus on
[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE CAST

Book Kennison – Singing Ringmaster

Book is an audio and performance artist in Chicago, Illinois. A circus performer since childhood, he has decades of experience working in front of live audiences. He has performed with Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus, Midnight Circus, Circus Flora, Circus Harmony, and Circus Smirkus. Since 2016, he has been immersed in music and audio, creating original compositions (Zobot, Book & Logan) and radio-style stories (“See U Down the Road”), as well as music to accompany live performances or be enjoyed on its own (“On Dropping,” “Sound & Juggling,” “Juggling Injuries”).

Delaney Bayles – Ball and Club Juggling

Delaney Bayles is an American juggler from Salt Lake City, Utah. Juggling historian David Cain has called her “the most technically gifted female toss juggler of all time.” In 2016, she won the World Juggling Federation Overall Championship. In 2020, she was voted the most popular juggler of the year in the Top 40 Jugglers list.

Lindsey Colbert-Olds – Aerial Straps

Lindsey grew up performing with Circus Smirkus and is a graduate from L'École Nationale de Cirque in Montreal, specializing in duo trapeze and aerial straps. She has toured internationally with Cirque Du Soleil, Cirque Eloise, and Circus Monti and is a regular artist in Chicago's Midnight Circus.

Adam Kuchler – Clown

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Adam followed in his uncle's footsteps and became a clown. Since 1995, he has worked in 43 of the United States and 14 countries around the globe in circuses, variety theaters, parks, cruise ships, and once in a bullfighting ring. In 2012, Adam was honored to be awarded a special prize for clowning at the International Circus Festival in Figueres, Spain.

Summer Lacy – Aerial Chains

Summer Lacy is one of New York's most sought-after performers and instructors. She was recently featured on “America's Got Talent” and specializes in Aerial Chains, Aerial Hoop, and Silks. She has performed Off-Broadway in *La Soiree* and in the Circus Abyssinia show *Ethiopian Dreams* during its residency at the New Victory Theater.

Willem McGowan – Diabolo and Club Juggling

Willem grew up doing youth circus in Chicago, spent two summers on tour with Circus Smirkus, and is a graduate of L'Ecole de Cirque de Québec. His act won multiple awards at Young Stage Festival in 2019 and was touring in Switzerland with Circus Monti prior to the pandemic. He is co-founder of the juggling program Rog Academy.

Ottavio & Naomi Gesmundo – Crossbows and Whips

Ottavio is a sixth-generation circus performer and author of the memoir *The Grand Gypsy*. His wife and partner Naomi is a graduate of Royal Academy of Ballet in Amsterdam and specializes in classical ballet and folkloristic dance. Together they have performed in over 25 productions on Broadway and Las Vegas and specialize in daring crossbow stunts.

Alexandra Feit – Cyr Wheel

Scientist turned circus artist, Alexandra is a recent graduate of Circadium's inaugural class. Her Cyr Wheel act has been featured at the Contemporary Circus and Immersive Arts Center and at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. After graduating during a pandemic, Alex's act will be premiered for an audience for the first time during the *Stars Above* tour.

Jacob Aviner – Multi-Instrumentalist Musician / Music Direction

Jacob Aviner is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and educator living in Brooklyn, NY. He performs with and composes for his indie-fusion quartet, Porterfield, which has twice been nominated for the Boston Music Awards' Jazz Artist of the Year. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and New York University's Steinhardt School. He has toured with various ensembles in the U.S., both on the East Coast and in the Pacific Northwest, and performed in various venues in Spain.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Josh Aviner & Lyndsay Magid Aviner – Creative Direction

Josh and Lyndsay's partnership goes beyond the mighty bonds of husband and wife. Through their producing company, Hideaway Circus, they have created critically acclaimed theatrical circus and dance shows as well as multimedia projects. Their company's original theatrical productions include the two-time Drama Desk Award nominated dance show *Beyond Babel* (a *New York Times* Critics Pick described as "astonishing and irresistible"), and the genre-defying slasher circus show, *SLUMBER*, described by *Time Out NY* as "contemporary, sexy and a little bit dangerous." Josh and Lyndsay also host the popular and award-nominated *Hideaway Circus Podcast* featuring show-business industry news analysis and interviews with creators in the circus, dance, and theater arts. In 2018, the company created a series of circus and dance experiences designed specifically to be watched in a [virtual reality](#) headset.

Josh received a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he studied Film Directing and Producing. Afterwards he studied at Columbia University and earned an MFA in Theater Producing and Management. Following a childhood career performing in the circus (Circus Smirkus, and later Variety Worldwide), Josh transitioned into casting and producing. He previously led casting at Spiegelworld, overseeing shows at Caesars Palace and the Cosmopolitan Hotel of Las Vegas. He associate-produced the award-winning *The Miss Behave Gameshow*, which ran for two and half years at Bally's Casino in Las Vegas. Josh has served on the board of the non-profit youth circus organization Circus Smirkus since 2015. In 2020 Josh received the Lincoln City Fellowship in connection with the Sperenza Foundation.

Lyndsay received a BA and BS from the University of Tampa in Theater Arts and Arts Management. She later studied at Columbia University and earned an MFA in Theater Producing and Management. Prior to starting Hideaway Circus, Lyndsay worked in both commercial and non-profit theater in New York City, with a focus on fundraising, special events, and investor relations. She has fundraised for award-winning not-for-profit theater companies including Atlantic Theater Company and Soho Rep. Lyndsay also worked in commercial development for Olympus Theatricals and theater management for the Nederlander Organization. She was an associate producer on the award-winning *The Miss Behave Gameshow* at Bally's Casino in Las Vegas. Lyndsay currently sits on the board of New Dramatists, the leading playwright organization, and served for six years on the board of Off-Broadway theater company The Debate Society.

Book Kennison & Peter Bufano – Original Music Composition

Peter is a composer and multi-instrumentalist. He's written original scores for The Big Apple Circus (2019 Production, *40th Anniversary* and *Grand Tour*), The Bindlestiff Family Cirkus (*Cardboard and Duct Tape Spectacular*, *My Last Circus*, and *From the Gutter to the Glitter*), Circus Smirkus (*Alice*, *Pinocchio*, *Zoot Suit Caper*, *Midnight at the Museum*, and *Vaudeville*), Spiegelworld (*Nocturne NYC*, *Edinburgh*, and *Los Angeles Productions*) and Parallel Exit's *The Artist Will Be with You in a Moment*. His 2011 score for the PBS documentary "Circus Dreams" won an ASCAP Plus award.

Spencer Novich – Comedic Act Designer

Spencer Novich is a Performer, Writer and Director. He studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in the Experimental Theater Wing and the International Theater Workshop - Amsterdam. As a Comedy Director he has worked for *Palazzo* (Berlin 19'/20', Amsterdam 18'/19'), Strut N Fret's *Blanc de Blanc* (Sahara Las Vegas) and *Blanc de Blanc Encore* (Sydney Opera House). He was Comedy Writer for P&O Cruise Lines production of *Love Riot* aboard the

Pacific Explorer, as well as Strut N Fret's *FUNHOUSE* (Dreamworld, Brisbane Festival). He acted as an Artistic Associate for Strut N Fret's *LIFE the Show* (Sydney Festival, Brisbane Festival) and *Deluxe Deluxe* (Home of the Arts Gold Coast). He has worked as a creative/comedy consultant for *Showtime at the Pink Flamingo* (Atlantis Resorts Bahamas), *Palazzo* (Vienna 17'/18'), Hideaway Circus's *SLUMBER* (Adelaide Fringe), among others.

Bokyung Park – Choreography

Bokyung “Bo” Park is a professional choreographer and dancer based in New York City. It has been over ten years since she moved to New York City to pursue her dream of dance. Park has worked with top choreographers such as Keone & Mari, Brian Friedman, Kyle Hanagami, and Luam Keflezgy. Her dance credits include Nike, Adidas, Lil Nas X, Michael Kors, Adam Lambert, and MALUMA. Park also had a chance to work with game company HARMONIX for their recent project, “Dance Central VR.” She recently finished work on a Broadway Lab for *KPOP the Musical* as an associate choreographer. Park started her own dance company, SHINSA, in 2017, as well as created and directed two shows in New York City that completely sold out. Her company won 1st place at Elements XIX, one of the biggest dance competitions in the United States.

Jeff Croiter – Lighting Design

Jeff is a New York based lighting designer with over 25 years of experience working on Broadway, Off-Broadway, dance, opera, special event, regional theatre and touring productions. Jeff has received Tony, Hewes, and Bass Awards and has been nominated for Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Lortel, Ovation, Irne, and AUDELCO Awards. Broadway credits include *Freestyle Love Supreme*, *Bandstand*, *Falsettos*, *Something Rotten*, *Holiday Inn*, *Newsies*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Penn & Teller*, *Disaster*, *Next Fall*, *Mothers and Sons*, *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, *Kiki and Herb*, *A Time to Kill*, *Soul Doctor*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Performers*, and *The Anarchist*. He designed the lighting for *Penn & Teller at the Rio* in Las Vegas and *The Big Apple Circus* at Lincoln Center. His work has been seen at many New York theaters including The Roundabout, Manhattan Theatre Club, Shakespeare in the Park, Signature Theatre, Second Stage, The Public, The New Group, Playwrights Horizons, The Atlantic, The Vineyard, Primary Stages, Ars Nova, MCC, Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New World Stages, The Westside Theatre, and The Joyce.

Barbara Erin Delo – Costume Design

Barbara is a Costume Designer and Artisan working in dance, theater, and opera. A New York native, she has previously designed costumes for Williamstown Theatre Company, Theatre at St Clement's (*The Bigot*, Off-Broadway premier), Martha Graham Dance Company, The Flea, Castillo Theatre, Parsons Dance Company, Megan Williams Dance Projects, Capital Repertory Theatre, Battery Dance Company, NYC Fringe Festival, Chain Theatre Company, Third Rail Productions as well as many other NY and regional theaters. She studied costume design at SUNY Binghamton and NYU Tisch.

Ben Scheff – Sound Design

Ben Scheff is an NYC-based freelance sound designer and composer for theater, dance, and circus. Most recently he designed Cirque du Soleil's first Christmas show, *'Twas the Night Before*. Off-Broadway he designed *Only Human*; *Kennedy: Bobby's Last Crusade*; and *Red Roses, Green Gold*, a play featuring the music of Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter in which the cast played all the instruments. In addition, he has been an associate or assistant designer at Roundabout, Manhattan Theatre Club, Primary Stages, Cherry Lane Theater, and New York Theater Workshop. He has assisted regionally at South Coast Rep, The Geffen Playhouse, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He has written custom software for

performances and immersive environments, including PY1 and Cirque du Soleil's *RUN*.
