



# SWAY'S *Bloom!*



# SWAY Productions

Phillip Gleeson & Emily Ryan,  
Co-Creative Directors  
Jay Carlon, Associate Director



# Bloom!

*Bloom!* is a colorful and spirited aerial spectacle performed atop SWAY's bespoke 15-foot sway poles. Inspired by the beautiful flowers of the Smoky Mountains, *Bloom!* features the aerial antics of three, highly skilled and equally colorful performers. Drawing parallels with the world of humans, *Bloom!* explores themes of individuality, diversity, transformation, and community. 17 minutes in length and accompanied by Ania Reynold's original soundtrack, *Bloom!* celebrates the natural world of the ephemeral.

*Bloom!* was commissioned by Dollywood and received its premiere in April, 2022 as part of Dollywood's Flower & Food Festival. In the 2022 season, *Bloom!* toured to: Columbia Festival, Columbia, MD; ArtsBrookfield, NYC; Dancers Group, Jackson, WY; Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Presents, CO; Purdue Convocations, West Lafayette, IN; and to the Charlotte International Arts Festival, NC. This year, it will return to Dollywood's Flower & Food Festival for performances April 21 – June 11, 2023. *Bloom!* is produced by Elsie Management: Laura Colby, President & Anna Amadei, Vice President.

[www.elsieman.org](http://www.elsieman.org)





[SWAY's Bloom! promo](#)





# SWAY PRODUCTIONS

SWAY is a Melbourne-based performing arts company that designs, produces, and performs large-scale performances and site-specific installations fusing theater, dance, and circus using a unique combination of sway-pole apparatus and bespoke performance equipment. The company engages and collaborates with a diverse range of creatives, multi-disciplinary performers, and specialist production teams to create and perform accessible, highly visible performances in broad contexts across the world.

SWAY was established In January, 2021 as a business partnership between Phillip Gleeson, (Creative Director of Strange Fruit for 12 years and independent maker) and Emily Ryan (Associate Director and performer at Strange Fruit for 16 years, independent circus maker and artist). While SWAY's operative history is young, it brings with it a wealth of accumulated expertise and design knowledge to underpin its creative and production capacity. To-date, SWAY has created new performance work for: The Victorian Opera's *The Ring Cycle* (AUS); *Rainbow Family Cabaret*, produced by Circus Oz and the Arts Centre Australia; *Bloom!* for Dollywood's 2022 Flower & Food Festival (US); and *Kabloom* in Monbulk, Victoria (AUS).

Photo Alex Lambert

You can stay in touch with SWAY on Instagram [@the\\_sway](#); Facebook: [@swaypoleaustralia](#); and via email: [phillip@sway.art](mailto:phillip@sway.art)



**JAY CARLON**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & PERFORMER**



Jay Carlon, (he/they) is a Filipinx American movement artist and community organizer based between Los Angeles, New York City, and the Philippines. Carlon is committed to connecting his art practice to sustainability and decolonization. Named Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch, their site-specific and theatrical work has been presented in Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, in Monterrey, Mexico; and Bangkok, Thailand. Carlon has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Bill T. Jones, jumata tu m. poe, The Industry Opera, Palissimo, Oguri, Solange Knowles, and Rodrigo y Gabriela. They have choreographed works for Kanye West and Mndsgn. Carlon has been performing with SWAY since 2013 and now serves as associate director. Tour highlights include the 2014 Olympics and the 2018 Super Bowl.

[.@jaycarlon](#); [.@carlondance](#); [jaycarlon.com](#)

# ANGELICA CASSIMIRO

## PERFORMER

Angelica Cassimiro, is a freelance dance artist, performer, choreographer and teacher. As a company member of SWAY, she has toured internationally and throughout North America. Performance highlights include engagements at: New Jersey Performing Arts Center (where she was awarded the Star Ledger Scholarship), Alvin Ailey CitiGroup Theater (NYC), The Academy of Music, Merriam Theater (Philadelphia), and L'Espace Louis Jouvet de Rethel (France). Cassimiro has also served as shipwide dance captain and mainstage performer on Disney Cruiselines. She has a BFA in Dance Education from the University of the Arts (PA), a Masters in Physical Education from Brooklyn College, and is Member of Actor's Equity Association. When not on tour, Cassimiro teaches both adult and children's dance classes. Philosophy: "We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities." [@angiecassimiro](#)





## ASHLEY DRAGON

### PERFORMER



Ashley Dragon is a professional movement artist with a background of studies within the dance, circus, and somatic movement field. She holds her BFA in Dance from Cal State University Long Beach and has danced professionally with companies such as Disneyland, Cedar Fair Entertainment, and Company XIV. Currently based in LA/NYC she continues to share her love of movement through performing, teaching, and learning new physical endeavors. Dragon has performed across the states and Germany presenting her work on the Cyr Wheel and is very excited to join SWAY for her first season with the company.

[.@dragonmovements](https://www.instagram.com/dragonmovements)

**ERIN MCMAHON**

**PERFORMER**



Erin McMahon hails from Perth, Australia. She is a singer-songwriter, actor, dancer, and musician who has performed her original music to thousands on stage at festivals and as a support act for renowned musicians. She began touring at the age of 12 with FLING Physical Theatre, a youth performance company based along the south coast in New South Wales, Australia. McMahon has worked on cruise liners and has experience in screen acting and modelling campaigns. McMahon trained at Brent Street Performing Arts School in Sydney, where she honed her skills as a performer. She has been performing with SWAY since 2019 and enjoys bringing concepts to life through artistic expression and exploration.

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# ANDRE DARNELL MYERS

## PERFORMER

Andre Darnell Myers, was born in Washington, DC, where he honed his skills of acting, singing, and dancing at the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Myers attended Philadelphia's University of the Arts before moving to New York City. He toured nationally and internationally in such Broadway musicals as Dreamgirls, Seussical, and Peter Pan. Now living and working in Los Angeles, Myers can be seen in projects ranging from television and film to print and commercials. Some notable credits include: Blackish, Snowfall, Dear White People, Space Force (television); McDonalds, Smirnoff, KFC, Toyota, and Jockey (commercials); in The Toy Soldiers, As I Am, Ready Player One, Leave It On the Floor, Vigilante Diaries, and The Break Out (film). Myers looks forward to stepping into many more roles and continuing to share his talents with the world. Myers has performed with SWAY since 2013. Tour highlights include: Bogota Colombia, Antalya Turkey, Mumbai India, Hong Kong, and Dubai. [@PrinceADM](#)



## PHILLIP GLEESON

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Phillip Gleeson, is an internationally acclaimed director and maker of large-scale, spectacle based, repertoire pieces and site-specific performances. His artistic background has been informed by a combination of practices including dance, physical theatre, circus, and music. From 2009-2020, Gleeson served as Creative Director for one of Australia's most successful touring companies, Australia's Strange Fruit. He delivered performances for the company in more than 50 countries, at more than 600 international festivals and to an audience of over 5 million people. During his tenure, the company received the following awards: The National Myer Performing Arts Award, The Silver Trophy at the Daidogei World Cup, Japan, The Premio Del Publico, Valladolid, Spain, and The Governor of Victoria Export Award in Arts & Entertainment. In 2019, Gleeson was the recipient of the Marcel Bezençon Award for creative excellence for Australia's entry into Eurovision 2019. Gleeson formed SWAY Productions in January, 2021 with Emily Ryan. [@philltheglee](#)



## DANIEL LUPO

### PRODUCTION OFFICER & PERFORMER

Daniel Lupo is a former competitive gymnast turned performance artist based in NYC. He is a senior company member of SWAY and has worked as both a performer and Safety Officer since 2013. Notable engagements include: 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi; Madonna's 2015 Rebel Heart Tour; Antalya Expo 2016; and NFL Super Bowl Tailgate Party 2018. Lupo would like to acknowledge how grateful he is to not only continue traveling, working, and performing, but to share this experience with company members who have become like a second family to him throughout the years. "You'll learn much more from failure than success, so don't let failure stop you from building your character."

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## ANIA REYNOLDS

### COMPOSER

Ania Reynolds is a multi award-winning composer, artist, and musician who has performed her original music across five continents. She was the Musical Director for Circus Oz and Yothu Yindi and the Treaty Project. She has shared a saxophone solo duet with Femi Kuti and played baritone sax hanging upside down at the National Theatre in London. Her live performance has been described as a 'stunning display of musicality' (Nicole Precel, Sydney Morning Herald 2019). Reynold's rich and diverse career as a composer and musician has seen her score over 50 theatre works with Australian companies including: Polyglot Theatre, SWAY, and Force Majeure; attend international artist residencies (Despina, Rio de Janeiro and Ambronay, France); perform and tour extensively with Australian and international artists; and develop her own award-winning audiovisual practice exploring the relationship between music and image, and uncovering the extraordinary within the ordinary. [@synhotronica](#)



**EMILY RYAN**

## **CO CREATIVE DIRECTOR & PERFORMER**

Emily Ryan is an international circus artist who has captivated audiences around the world for 18+ years, with her powerful and striking acts on the German Wheel and mesmerizing artistry on the Sway Pole. In January 2021, Ryan established SWAY Productions with Phillip Gleeson, creating various shows that have toured Australia and the USA. Ryan has performed with such international performance companies as Cirque Du Soleil, Strut & Fret, Universal Studios and This Side Up, at countless international events including Doha Asian Games, Milano World Expo, USA Superbowl, Rio Carnival, and Eurovision.

[@bendyemmy](https://www.instagram.com/bendyemmy)





Represented and produced by

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