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STEP UNDER THE BIG TOP WITH THE BMA'S CIRCUS PROGRAMS

BALTIMORE, MD (January 12, 2009)—In conjunction with the colorful spring exhibition, *A Circus Family: Picasso to Léger*, The Baltimore Museum of Art hosts several special programs to round out your circus experience. Don't miss the imaginative Zany Umbrella Circus, a European-style troupe that dazzles family audiences with their acrobatic feats and madcap charm. A lecture and panel discussion with circus performers reveals what circus life is really like from their perspective, and Steve Martin's acclaimed comedy, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, receives a staged reading at the BMA by Theatre Hopkins. Family workshops, adult drawing classes, and guided exhibition tours ensure that everyone can get in on the act! For more information, call 443-573-1832 or e-mail programs@artbma.org.

TALK & PANEL DISCUSSION: Behind-the-Scenes at the Circus

Tuesday, March 31, 7 pm

Free

Dominique Jando performed as a clown with Paris' legendary Cirque Médrano and has written prolifically on circus history, including the recently acclaimed book *The Circus: 1870-1950*. He reflects on his experience of circus life and invites audience members to participate in an interactive discussion. The talk is followed by a panel discussion with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® circus performers: hair hanging woman Andrea Ayala-Raffo, clown eccentric Tom Dougherty, and ringmaster Chuck Wagner. The discussion is moderated by Circus Historical Society president Richard Flint. Arrive early—space is limited.

LECTURE: Picasso's Early Years

Saturday, April 11, 3 p.m.

Free

Learn how Picasso's early circus works informed the famous Cubist works he created later in his career. This presentation is led by National Gallery Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Harry Cooper.

STAGED READING: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

*Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18, 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.**

Tickets required

Comedian Steve Martin's imagines a jaunty duel of wits between Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in this clever and humorous play set in the famed Lapin Agile bar in the Montmartre section of Paris at the dawn of the 20th century—when Picasso painted his *Circus Family* and just before their respective breakthroughs in science and art. Performed by Theatre Hopkins.

PERFORMANCE: Zany Umbrella Circus

*Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m.**

Tickets required

Zany Umbrella Circus uses physical theater, dance, and live music to tell stories that explore a fantastical realm where everyday items and experiences come to life and take on a magic of their own. *The Enchanted Toy Box* is a story of a master toymaker whose whimsical collection of toys possesses astounding abilities. Treat Mom to a special Mother's Day performance on May 10.

—more—

A Circus Family/programs release
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* Tickets for Zany Umbrella Circus and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$7 for ages 18 and under, and include admission to the exhibition. Tickets are available in person at the BMA Box Office, by calling 443-573-1701 (no service charges apply), or online at artbma.org (service charges apply).

FREE FAMILY SUNDAYS – Circus!

Sundays, 2–4 p.m.

Free

March 1 – Family Workshop: Create Your Own Circus Costume

March 8 – Circus Performance Workshop with Karen Kuebler (NOTE: This is not an art-making workshop)

March 15 – Family Workshop: Circus Books

March 22 – Family Workshop: Circus Animals in 3-D

March 29 – Family Tour: *A Circus Family: Picasso to Léger*

FAMILY WORKSHOP: Circus Performance with Karen Kuebler

Sunday, March 8, 2-4 p.m.

Free

Learn how to move like a circus performer, as dance instructor and performer Karen Kuebler teaches simple acrobatic moves such as balancing, tumbling, and jumping.

ADULT ART CLASS: Drawing the Human Figure

Wednesdays, March 18–April 1, April 15 & 22, 1–2:30 p.m.

\$150 (\$120 BMA Members)

Prior to his invention and adaptation of a distinctly cubist vocabulary, Picasso masterfully represented the human figure in paintings depicting circus performers. Instructor Susie Fillion will guide participants through careful observation of works in the exhibition followed by drawing from live models in a variety of media. E-mail programs@artbma.org or call 443-573-1832 to reserve your space.

DROP-IN TOURS: A Circus Family: Picasso to Léger

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

March 4, 25, April 1, 15, May 13

THIRD THURSDAY CURATORIAL TOUR

Thursday, March 19, 1 p.m.

Free with admission to “A Circus Family”

Exhibition Curator Oliver Shell leads a tour of *A Circus Family: Picasso to Léger*. E-mail programs@artbma.org or call 443-573-1832 to reserve your space.

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