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BALTIMORE GOES TO THE CIRCUS!

BALTIMORE, MD (December 29, 2008)—If you've ever thought about running away and joining the circus—now's your chance! From February through May 2009, Baltimore is sending in the clowns with dazzling performances by Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus®, and Zany Umbrella Circus; a colorful exhibition of circus-inspired art by European masters at The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), and an exciting concert with acrobats accompanied by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Special hotel deals and promotions at popular attractions let you enjoy more of Baltimore's famed Inner Harbor and other attractions with fewer pennies. To learn more about Baltimore, visit web sites for the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association (www.baltimore.org), Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (www.baltimoreevents.org), and Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (www.baltimoreculture.org).

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BSO SuperPops: Cirque de la Symphonie

February 5–8, 2009*

Classically Kids: Cirque de la Symphonie

February 7, 2009

Joseph A. Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

* February 5 concert is performed at the Music Center in Strathmore, North Bethesda

Enjoy an awe-inspiring performance when cirque meets the symphony. Stunning aerial feats, strongmen, mind-boggling contortionists, and juggling acts take your breath away while the BSO performs orchestral hits. Bring the whole family for a special Saturday afternoon Classically Kids performance. For tickets and information, call 800-BSO-1444 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

A Circus Family: Picasso to Léger

February 22 – May 17, 2009

At the turn of the 20th century, the daring feats, exotic acts, and spectacular attractions of the circus stirred the imagination of artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Fernand Léger. The BMA presents a colorful exhibition of more than 80 circus-inspired prints, drawings, paintings, and books by some of Europe's greatest artists. This special ticketed exhibition is drawn from the BMA's world-renowned holdings of modern art and augmented with significant loans from other museums and private collections. For tickets and information, visit www.artbma.org.

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CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

KOOZA

Grand Chapiteau at Lot O (next to M&T Bank Stadium)

March 12–29, 2009

Cirque du Soleil takes audiences on a thrilling journey with incredible acrobatics and raucous clowning. KOOZA tells the story of The Innocent, a melancholy loner in search of his place in the world who comes into contact with comic characters such as the King, the Trickster, the Pickpocket, and the Obnoxious Tourist and his Bad Dog. The show highlights the physical demands of human performance in a colorful mélange that emphasizes bold slapstick humor. The show will wow you with acts that challenge the senses and keep your pulse pounding. For tickets and information, call 1-800-678-5440 or visit www.cirquedusoleil.com.

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS®

Over the Top

1st Mariner Arena

March 25 – April 5, 2009

The Greatest Show on Earth® comes to Baltimore with 18 performances of *Over the Top*, a wacky and whimsical circus spectacular where dogs fly, Asian elephants stomp and groove, and one courageous man stands eye-to-eye with a pack of Bengal tigers. The amazing and extraordinary circus acts include a motorcycle on a high wire, seven motorcycles in a globe of steel, aerialists on a rare double-decker trapeze, and Chinese acrobats propelling through the air. Get in on the act with audience participation! For tickets and information, call Ticketmaster at 410-547-SEAT or visit www.ringling.com.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Behind-the-Scenes at the Circus

March 31, 2009, 7 pm

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. For information, call 443-573-1832 or visit www.artbma.org.

ZANY UMBRELLA CIRCUS

The Enchanted Toy Box

The Baltimore Museum of Art

May 8–9, 8 p.m., Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m.

Zany Umbrella Circus presents a European-style circus that dazzles audiences with their acrobatic feats and madcap charm. They use 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. For tickets and information, visit www.artbma.org.