GOGUE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

42ft — A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels by Cirque Mechanics

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

2019-20

Family Series

THE JAY AND SUSIE GOGUE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

presents

42ft — A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels by Cirque Mechanics

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Walter Stanley and Virginia Katharyne Evans Woltosz Theatre

Performance Sponsor

acre

School Performance Sponsors

MAX

Carol and Bill Ham

PROGRAM

ACT 1

Opening
Justin Finds the Circus
Matinee Finale
The Suitcase
Circus Parade
Charivari
Juggling with Rosebud
Duo Trapeze
Zombie Cape
Strong Man Bowling Balls
Bravado Brothers
Juggle Go Round

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

Poster Wall
Revolving Ladder
Rosebud Returns
Animal Trainer
Knife Throwing Wheel
Sword Swallowing
Slack Wire
Strong Man Log
Russian Swing
Justin Joins the Circus
Finale

CIRQUE MECHANICS

Cirque Mechanics was founded in 2004 by Boston native and German wheel artist Chris Lashua, after the success of his collaborative project with the Circus Center of San Francisco, *Birdhouse Factory*. Cirque Mechanics quickly established itself as a premier American circus, with its unique approach to performance, inspiring storytelling and innovative mechanical staging. *Spectacle Magazine* hailed it as "the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil."

Cirque Mechanics, although inspired by modern circus, finds its roots in the mechanical and its heart in the stories of American ingenuity. The shows, rooted in realism, display a raw quality, rarely found in modern circus, that makes their message timeless and relevant. The stories are wrapped in circus acrobatics, mechanical wonders and a bit of clowning around. The troupe has created four extraordinary productions: *Birdhouse Factory*, *Boomtown*, *Pedal Punk* and, new for the 2018–19 season, *42ft – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels*.

42FT – A MENAGERIE OF MECHANICAL MARVELS

Forty-two feet in diameter has been the measure of the circus ring for 250 years. Englishman Philip Astley discovered that horses galloping inside this ring provide the ideal platform for acrobatic feats—these equestrian acrobatics, along with clowns and flyers, are a large part of what we've all come to know as the circus.

This 250th anniversary of Astley's circus inspired Cirque Mechanics to produce a one-ring traditional circus show in their own modern mechanical way. *42ft – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels* follows the story of a down-and-out roustabout filled with wanderlust and enamored with the circus, willing to persevere in order to reach his dream of performing under the big top. *42ft* displays life in a tent show by exposing the glamour inside the ring and the vitality of the back lot.

To capture the authenticity of the traditional, Cirque Mechanics has assembled a veritable menagerie of circus acts worthy of the ring, like the strong man, the Russian swing, the trapeze, the ladder, slackwire and juggling. And to celebrate the important role animals have played in circus throughout its history, *42ft* features a captivating performer riding on a stunningly life-like mechanical horse!

In *42ft*, Cirque Mechanics dares us to let our imagination run away and jump inside this remarkable ring full of the lore, the beauty, the grit and the thrill of the circus.

CHRIS LASHUA

Founder • Creative Director • Producer • Machine Designer

Company founder Chris Lashua hails from Boston, Massachusetts, where he spent most of his youth riding on a BMX bike. He was discovered by Cirque du Soleil and created/performed a BMX bike act that was entirely his own. He was then commissioned to build a "German wheel" act for the company, an act he performed for several years in Cirque du Soleil's production of *Quidam*, cementing his reputation as a visionary of circus gadgetry. His engineering chops and creative energy led him to "run away" with his own circus company, Cirque Mechanics.

Lashua believes that innovative mechanical apparatus and the relationship between performer and machine sets his company apart and is at the heart of what makes Cirque Mechanics unique. He has delivered on this unique approach in the company's theatrical productions. Lashua's innovative machines interact with acrobats, dancers, jugglers and contortionists on a 1920s factory floor in *Birdhouse Factory*, a gold rush era town in *Boomtown*, accompany world renowned symphonies in the *Orchestra Project* and in a bicycle shop in *Pedal Punk*.

Now, in *42ft – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels*, Lashua continues to build on the might of his engineering mind, his passion for the circus and all things mechanical by designing a veritable menagerie of mechanical devices worthy of the generations of circus shows and acts the production aims to honor.

When Lashua is not developing material for a theatrical show, he is building other wacky performance devices for events, most recently the Paddleship, a portable stage that not only floats, but also can be navigated by pedal-powered paddle wheels. Lashua is a producing partner of the Vegas International Variety Arts Festival (VIVAFest). He was also recently featured as a guest lecturer at the annual Association for Theater in Higher Education conference.

CREATIVE DESIGN TEAM

ALOYSIA GAVRE

Co-Director, Choreographer

Aloysia Gavre co-founded both Cirque School and Troupe Vertigo in Los Angeles in 2009 after 22 years of touring internationally with the Pickle Family Circus, Cirque du Soleil and symphonies around the globe including the Sydney Opera House and the Kennedy Center. Her passion and knowledge for the circus arts has led her to a career as a director, choreographer and educator including *Cirque Cracker* (Phoenix Symphony), *Cirque Broadway* (Baltimore Symphony) and *Cirque Cinema* (Indianapolis Symphony), as well as her own creations including *Tableaux*. Gavre has both coached and choreographed for film and television including *Water for Elephants*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, Bravo, NBC and BuzzFeed. She has been recognized in *Dance Teacher Magazine*, *Dance Informa* and speaking engagements with TEDx, Center Theater Group, Directors Lab, Chicago Circus Festival, AYCO and VIVAFest.
Gavre has been a long-time artistic collaborator with Cirque Mechanics, having had creative involvement in more than four shows since 2004 after having met Chris Lashua while performing in Cirque du Soleil.

SEAN RILEY

Set Designer, Artistic Rigger

Sean Riley has a 20-year career combining suspension, kinetic movement and design with performance. Through scenic design, rigging design and mechanical design, often in concert with each other, he creates unique performance environments. Concentrating his design for performance on site-specific and non-traditional work, Riley has created installations in collaboration with a wide spectrum of accomplished artists and collaborators. Known for his bold and often surprising use of space for large-scale movement, Riley's installations commonly reflect his lifelong obsession with gravity and Newtonian physics. His works have been installed from backyards to Broadway and continue to tour internationally. He is a founding member of Cirque Mechanics and his company Gravity Design, through which he has developed an arsenal of specialized tools, pushing the bounds of performance as well as industrial safety. Riley was the host of the National Geographic television series *World's Toughest Fixes* and the four-part docuseries *SPEED*, currently on Curiosity Stream.

MICHAEL PICTON

Composer

Michael Picton is an award-winning composer whose eclectic career spans film, television, advertising, theatre and circus. Picton has scored four Cirque Mechanics productions: *Boomtown*, the Cirque Mechanics *Orchestra Project*, *Pedal Punk* and now *42ft*. His circus career began as a performer, touring as keyboardist with Cirque du Soleil's *Quidam*. He has written songs and scores for six editions of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus: *Bellobration*, *Funundrum*, *Dragons*, *Built to Amaze*, *Circus Xtreme* and its final edition, *Out of this World*. Recently his live work has expanded to include superhero arena shows with Feld Entertainment's *Marvel Universe Live* and *Marvel Universe Live: Age of Heroes*, currently touring the United States.

The winner of the Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composers Competition, Picton was chosen from a field of over 600 aspiring composers by a jury chaired by the legendary Elmer Bernstein. For TCM, he scored the silent films *The Temptress* and *The Red Mill*. Other film and television work includes *Mutt & Stuff* for Sid and Marty Krofft on Nickelodeon, the Syfy series *Flash Gordon*, the independent feature *Little Chenier* and main title themes for *I Want to Work for Diddy* and *Bates Motel*. Picton has composed network themes for PBS, Amazon Originals and CNN International, among others, as well as commercials and promos for a long list of clients.

STEVEN RAGATZ

Writer

An original *Birdhouse Factory*, *Boomtown* and *Orchestra Project* cast member collaborator, plus lead writer for *Pedal Punk*, Steven Ragatz has been entertaining audiences with his juggling, physical comedy, stilt walking and general antics for the past three decades. As a ten-year veteran of Cirque du Soleil, Ragatz has toured throughout North, South and Central America, as well as Asia and Europe, performing multiple juggling acts and an eclectic array of characters. Ragatz is on the staff of Bloomington's Stage Flight Circus Arts, where he teaches juggling and unicycle skills workshops. You can find Ragatz on stage currently touring his one-man show *Under the Umbrella, Life is a Circus*—an evening with a juggling virtuoso and stories from world-wide circus adventures.

Ragatz holds a B.A. in variety theater and an M.S. in computer science from Indiana University. He studied mime, stage movement and circus arts with Fred Garbo, Tony Montanaro, George Pinney and Michael Moschen. He and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Melissa and Andrew, and currently live in Indiana, where they have perfected the art of making the perfect margarita.

CREATIVE DESIGN TEAM

ANTHONY POWERS

Lighting Designer

Anthony Powers is a lighting designer and production manager that has worked on a wide array of shows across four continents. He has been working with Cirque Mechanics since 2010 and is excited to be designing his third show with them. Powers has had a hand in all of the Cirque Mechanics touring shows, as either the lighting designer or the lighting and technical director on tour. Outside of Cirque Mechanics, Powers has been the designer or production manager for concerts, festivals and events across the United States. He currently has the honor of being the general manager for the San Francisco office of Felix Lighting. If he wasn't working in the lighting world, he would want to be a cheese monger or an editor for Marvel Comics (if Joe Quesada or C.B. Cebulski are reading this—feel free to call him). Powers currently lives in Oakland, California with his wife, Jody, and their dog, Lemmy, in an apartment way too small for his 11,000 comic books.

JOE D'EMILIO

Lighting Designer

Joe D'Emilio is a New York City-based lighting designer with more than a decade of experience in theatre, opera, dance and special events. He joined the Cirque Mechanics family in 2015 on *Birdhouse Factory* and continued on to tour with *Pedal Punk*. Additionally, D'Emilio has designed for Circus Juventas in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bindlestiff Family Cirkus in New York City and Circus Sarasota. His San Francisco Bay Area designs include work with Ray of Light Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Aurora Theatre and A.C.T. When not out on the road, D'Emilio works at the New York City venues National Sawdust, The Box and the Met Museum. He is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

CAROLINE ROGERS

Costume Designer

Caroline Rogers started at a young age as a ballerina—by the age of 16 and for the next decade she was a professional aerialist traveling all over the world performing for private gala events. This is also how she met her husband, fellow cast member Kevin Rogers. Having been taught how to sew as a young girl and her experience on stage wearing costumes were the perfect background and skills to move into costume design and building. She has now been designing for almost a decade for various companies at live gala events, award shows, theme parks and tours including Disney, DreamWorks and Cirque Mechanics. She is so excited to present her vision of a 1930s circus in *42ft*!

NATA IBRAGIMOV

Artist, Illustrator, Poster and Headpiece Designer

Originally from Baku, Azerbaijan, Nata Ibragimov currently resides in Los Angeles. She was a national-level rhythmic gymnast for 11 years. After retiring from the sport at the age of 16, she pursued her other passions, such as visual and performing arts. Circus was a perfect outlet for her creativity, it gave her freedom to experiment and improve her skills. Ibragimov was an original cast member in Cirque Mechanics' *Pedal Punk*, performing a solo hula-hoop act. She toured with *Pedal Punk* all four seasons. Ibragimov is currently a member of Troupe Vertigo and a coach at Cirque School LA. Ibragimov is grateful that circus has given her the opportunity to meet some incredibly talented people that inspire her art every day. Ibragimov is a professional illustrator. Her paintings have been included in private collections and displayed in galleries around the world.

AIDA LASHUA

Co-Producer, Collaborator

Aida Lashua has been Chris' co-producer and creative partner in life and work for more than 20 years. Their partnership includes nearly a decade of touring and work experience with Cirque du Soleil as well as more than a decade running their own company, Cirque Mechanics. Lashua worked for Cirque du Soleil sponsor AT&T, implementing their multi-million-dollar sponsorship agreement on tour, which included product placement, sales staff training and supervision of special sales promotions. She also worked as a box office supervisor and house manager for Cirque du Soleil, where she trained and managed a staff of sixty, implemented customer service policies and helped develop and revise training manuals and VIP package tests.

Thanks to her experience with Cirque du Soleil, Lashua has an appreciation for the business and a passion for the circus arts. She currently manages the day-to-day operations of Cirque Mechanics and family with poise—she is a creative force and a stabilizing influence. Lashua's education and background in direct marketing allow her to use a targeted message approach in the development of the company's website and social media presence. As the mother of three boys, Lashua is an avid supporter of the educational component and community outreach programs offered by Cirque Mechanics. She has written the education outreach support materials and study guides, as well as developed the structure of the educational workshops. Lashua, who is a native of Puerto Rico, feels most at home near the ocean. She hopes to one day become a published writer.

JANEEN JOHNSON

Creative Team Liaison, Director of Production

A maven of stagecraft for more than 20 years, Janeen Johnson has served in stage management for dance, theatre and special events in both public and private sectors. In 2008, Johnson embarked upon her maiden voyage into circus with Cirque Mechanics' *Birdhouse Factory*. She continued her journey touring with the company's succeeding productions, *Boomtown* and *Pedal Punk*, serving as production stage manager. Today, 11 years later, demonstrating her management prowess, Johnson has toured with Cirque Mechanics, managing the company's seasonal touring productions in North America, Europe and Asia. She is delighted to return for the company's latest production, *42ft*, in its second season.

Johnson continues to find joy in supporting the performing arts locally and beyond and provides onsite event management, project-planning strategies and producing community arts events in between tours.

MIKE BROWN

Bullwhip Trainer, Collaborator

Mike Brown is a performer and producer who loves to design, build and perform with unique fire manipulation props and devices—the bigger, the better. Overexposure to Indiana Jones movies has also led him to a healthy interest in bullwhips. Brown has performed in excess of 3,000 shows in 12 countries around the world, across Asia, Europe and North America, including performing a solo fire manipulation act for more than seven years in Cirque Du Soleil's prestigious Las Vegas production O. Other parts in the show involved manipulation of bullwhips as well as driving a mechanical floating horse. He also performed a large two-part fire stunt at the 74th Academy Awards ceremony as part of a 30-strong Cirque Du Soleil special events troupe. When he is not whipping and burning things, Brown loves hiking and camping with his wife, traveling on exotic adventures and throwing knives, sometimes at the same time. He also likes long walks on the beach—with a metal detector and meditation. He has been heard to remark, "Finding treasure will not bring you a peaceful mind, but a peaceful mind might well bring you to find treasure!"

CAST

WES HATFIELD

Captain, Coach, Acrobat

Wes Hatfield was born in California. His parents raised him in Germany, where he got his start in gymnastics. At age 10, he joined T&T (Trampoline and Tumbling), when he and his family moved to Colorado. In the world of trampoline competition, his resume includes several state and national championship titles. At age 19, he quit competition and became a circus performer, traveling around the world and wowing audiences with his technical prowess and zany comedic antics. Hatfield has been an integral cast member in all of Cirque Mechanics touring productions—*Birdhouse Factory*, *Boomtown* and *Pedal Punk*—performing trampoline, Chinese pole, Cyr wheel and general acrobatics along with group choreography. Over the years, Hatfield has become part of the Cirque Mechanics production team, acting as team leader for the cast and head artistic rigger for the setup of the show. He now lives in Las Vegas, where he continues his work with Cirque Mechanics. Hatfield is a fan of avocados, needing only a spoon to enjoy them. His favorite breakfast entree is steak and eggs with hash browns—not potato chunks, hash browns—and don't forget the "catchup."

JUSTIN THERRIEN

Clown

Justin Therrien has been working in theatre and circus as a self-taught performer for nearly a decade. He has focused most of his efforts into weaving together traditional circus and sideshow skills with a theatrical element. He hopes this approach gives new breath to these familiar and loved art forms. Following the footsteps of the vaudeville greats and legendary circus clowns has brought him to many amazing stages across the world including giant theaters, traditional circuses, operas, circus festivals, competitions and even refugee camps all over the Middle East and Europe. He has seen comedy bring many different types of people together and believes that lightness and laughter could be a good starting place to change the world. Therrien appeared on *The Gong Show* and *America's Got Talent* as a contestant and was also awarded a Guinness World Record for "longest string pulled through the nose and mouth in one minute." Off the stage you can find him cutting a rug on the dance floor, exploring roadside attractions or traipsing through the forest looking for edible mushrooms.

AUSTIN BRADLEY

Acrobat

Austin Bradley began his acrobatic training in high school, thanks to the popularity of parkour and free running. His parkour skills and experience would eventually lead him to the circus, but first he completed an invaluable tour with the United States Air Force. Bradley started training, coaching and performing with HKPK - Hardkore Parkour after leaving the Air Force. He then became a cast member on *Dolly Parton's Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show* in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was during his time with *Pirates Voyage* that Austin sharpened his more traditional acrobatic and aerial circus skills on devices such as Chinese pole, Russian swing and Spanish web, and acquired aquatic performance expertise in three-meter diving and high diving. He hopes to take his talents and experience even further and show the world what he can accomplish. Bradley is thrilled to start life on tour with Cirque Mechanics in *42ft*.

BRYSEN BISHOP

Acrobat

At a young age, Brysen Bishop always had a passion for performing and acrobatics, but it was being cast in an episode of *So You Think You Can Dance* in high school that enlightened him to the idea of performance as a career. Bishop performed duo trapeze and ground acrobatics while in college, with an on-campus troop of circus-inspired theater students. After college, Bishop had intentions of becoming an anesthesiologist, but he instead pursued a different opportunity and became an acrobat for *Dolly Parton's Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show* in Myrtle Beach.

During his three-year tenure at *Pirates Voyage*, Bishop learned a variety of circus skills, such as tumbling, diving, sword fighting, trampoline, tramp wall, Russian swing and Chinese pole. He even performed as a back-up voice character, adding some voice acting to his repertoire. Confident from the skills he acquired with *Pirates Voyage*, Bishop moved to Las Vegas to audition for Cirque du Soleil. He attended a workshop with The Catwall Acrobats and was later hired as a Russian swing performer on the limited-run show *Rebel* by Cirque du Soleil in Andorra. Bishop continues to train hard and learn as many disciplines as he can to broaden his performance opportunities.

TAYLOR STEVENS

Acrobat

Taylor Stevens was raised in Myrtle Beach, where she was exposed to gymnastics at an early age. She quickly fell in love with the sport and dedicated the majority of her life to it. In her gymnastics career, Stevens was able to successfully medal in the South Carolina State Championships. She graduated with a degree in project and organizational management but decided to use her gymnastics experience and education to pursue her dreams of performing, especially within the world of circus. She started her acrobatic career at *Dolly Parton's Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show* in her hometown. She began as a generalist, but was later promoted to Captain Red Scarlet, the show's female lead role. *Pirates Voyage* afforded her the opportunity to learn and improve her skills on a variety of different performance apparatus, solo and group acts, like the teeterboard, Russian swing, Chinese pole, aquatic diving and duo trapeze. She recently moved to Las Vegas to keep on chasing her dreams. Stevens absolutely loves her animal child, Otto, going to the movies, Boba tea and simply enjoying what life has to offer.

NIKKI UNWINN

Acrobat

Nikki Unwinn has been performing circus arts since 2012. She began as an aerialist at Pendulum Aerial Arts in Portland, Oregon, her main disciplines being dance trapeze and same-size duo trapeze work. Her love for performance began with participation in their contemporary in-house shows as well as corporate gigs for various Oregon-based companies including Intel, Nike and Travel Portland. Since moving to San Diego in 2017, she has focused on training hand-to-hand and duo trapeze with her partner Elijah Newton at the San Diego Circus Center. Aside from training in San Diego, Unwinn has been booked for yearly spring and summer contracts performing hand-to-hand, juggling and puppetry with Wray Creations at the San Diego Zoo. She is overjoyed to join the Cirque Mechanics team for the national tour of *42ft*!

CAST

ELIJAH NEWTON

Acrobat

Elijah Newton has been training acrobatics with his partner Nikki Unwinn for more than six years. In 2016, they moved from Eugene, Oregon to San Diego, to train more seriously at the San Diego Circus Center, where they worked on perfecting their hand-to-hand and duo aerial skills. In addition to his circus acts, Newton performs puppetry. You may have seen Newton at the San Diego Zoo, where he performs seasonally for Wray Creations. He is eager to travel the country with Cirque Mechanics and the national tour of *42ft*.

ESTHER DE MONTEFLORES

Slackwire Performer, Juggler

Esther de Monteflores is one of a tiny handful of circus performers in the United States specializing in slackwire walking. In her work, Monteflores seeks a balance between technical skill and expressive movement, and her unique take on circus has been seen across North America. Her recent touring credits include Bindlestiff Family Cirkus in New York City, Circus Bella in San Francisco and her own company, A Frayed Knot Circus, in Seattle. Monteflores' work has received grant funding from 4Culture and Artist Trust. She is an original *42ft* cast member and is excited for the second season on tour with Cirque Mechanics. Monteflores maintains a keen interest in building puppets and masks, enjoys commuting by bicycle and loves small, green, vintage mugs.

BROOKE NEILSON

Acrobat

Brooke Neilson has been a gymnast most of her life. She majored in dance performance at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida where she was born and raised. After college, she performed at Universal Studios Orlando in the Superstar Parade, *Terminator 2: 3D*, the *8th Voyage of Sinbad* stunt show, the Macy's Holiday Parade and Mardi Gras Parade. Neilson got her first break in the circus world at Sea World San Diego's summer show, *Cirque de la Mer*. There she performed Chinese pole and tramp wall with aquatic dismounts. She continued to develop her circus skills on the Carnival Dream Cruise Ship, performing hand-to-hand, Chinese pole, tumbling and dancing acts. She recently moved to Las Vegas. Neilson spent last summer bouncing on tramp wall at the San Diego Zoo. She is obsessed with traveling and horses and spends all her money on both travel adventures and her horse, Echo.

MICHAEL RUBINO

Acrobat

Michael Rubino started out in gymnastics at his parents' gym. His mother would carry him in a sling while she coached until he was old enough to walk. Rubino moved around for a few years, changing gyms and states. He was also involved in theater. At the age of 17, combining his acting and gymnastics experience and skills, Rubino landed his first acrobatic job at Lego Land California as a firefighter for a children's show. In the past seven years, Rubino has performed in shows at Disneyland California, *Cirque de la Mer*, Cirque Electrique, the San Diego Zoo, Six Flags in New Jersey, Cirq'ulation Locale in Belgium and Milord Entertainment in Canada. He enjoys being outdoors and finding the best shady spot to take naps.

TATIANA VASILENKO

Juggler

Tatiana Vasilenko was born to a circus family in a small city in Russia, where she always dreamt about performing on a circus stage. She began circus skills training by practicing tricks with her dad (who is a juggler); she learned hula-hooping and general acrobatics. Inspired by a bounce-juggling act she first saw on video, Vasilenko decided to pursue it. Following in her dad's footsteps, she became a juggler. She graduated from the Moscow Circus School before moving to Las Vegas in 2014. Vasilenko has worked all over the world in cities like Moscow, Paris, Singapore and Vietnam. She has been a featured act at Rose. Rabbit. Lie. at the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino and in the *Tommy Wind Magic Show* and *Streetmosphere* at the Venetian Hotel and Casino. Vasilenko is a fan of football (soccer) and astronomy—you may find her looking up at the sky and dreaming about flying to the moon or someday playing soccer with Leo Messi.

TULGA (BATTULGA BATTOGTOKH)

Strongman

Born and raised in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, Tulga trained in traditional wrestling, acrobatics and circus arts. He decided to join the circus after he graduated with a bachelor's degree in history. Tulga first performed in America with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, where he performed point ballet acrobatics, aerial straps and his Mongolian strongman act all while touring the country on the Ringling's historic one-mile-long circus train.

In a showcase of unbelievable strength, Tulga demonstrates a herculean display of human dexterity as he juggles bowling balls, acrobats and lifts large cumbersome telephone poles and performs unbelievable displays of strength and agility. Tulga won the Golden Elephant at the International Circus Festival in Spain. He's performed on nine different television shows around the world, including *America's Got Talent*, *Das Supertalent* in Germany, *La France a un Incroyable Talent*, *Tu Si Que Vales* in Italy, *World's Got Talent* in China and *Australia's Got Talent*.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE PRODUCERS

We want to thank our family—our three wonderful sons, Zion, Quinn and Iago—for their unconditional love and support, their enthusiasm, their imagination and for adopting the spirit of a true circus family by discussing act ideas, narrative and plot points at the dinner table and helping in the shop with painting, building and clean up! We'd also like to thank all of the following people: our parents for taking us to the circus as children and allowing us to dream our cast and crew for their tireless efforts and their collaborative energy; Marc Baylin and his team at Baylin Artists Management for believing in our company and setting us on a new path; Lori Pullen and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for their sponsorship; Armand Thomas for his continuing support of us, our family and our projects; Bo Bogatin and Kurt Nelson for keeping us honest and legal; Andy Espo for his friendship, clear head and objectivity; Bryan Schuette and the boys at United Machine for fabricating and creating, and trusting us with their equipment; Terry Pittman at The Bike Shop in Henderson for helping to make the mechanical horse go; Michael Brown of Blue Sky Circus Productions for the many sessions of whip training; Don Seiersen at Vishnu Creative for his great graphic support; Maike Schulz Photography for her wonderful and stunning images; Brendan Mullenix for his dedication, positive attitude and willingness to learn; Skye Strauss for studying and documenting the process; Renee Clinton for being a champion of our work; and our friends and family at Cirque du Soleil for continuing to set the bar higher. The creation process was long and arduous, but extremely rewarding. We had so much fun designing and exploring, training and rehearsing. Our goal is that you are entertained, and our hope is that you are moved. Finally, thank you to our audience for your loyalty and faith in our company, for your laughs, applause and appreciation for the circus arts.

UPCOMING
2019–20
INAUGURAL SEASON PERFORMANCES

NOVEMBER

AMERICANA ROOTS
Allman Betts Band
Friday, November 1 • 7:00 p.m.

AMERICANA ROOTS
Béla Fleck and The Flecktones
Thursday, November 21 • 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

CHAMBER ARTS
Montrose Trio
Tuesday, December 3 • 7:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
Escape to Margaritaville
Wednesday, December 4 • 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 5 • 7:30 p.m.

VOCAL SONGBOOK
VOCES8 (*Holiday Program*)
Tuesday, December 17 • 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY

FAMILY
Dino-Light by Lightwire Theater
Friday, January 17 • 7:30 p.m.

DANCE
Dorrance Dance
Friday, January 31 • 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

CELEBRITY CONCERT
The Beach Boys
Thursday, February 13 • 7:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
RENT 20th Anniversary Tour
Tuesday, February 18 • 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 19 • 7:30 p.m.

GLOBAL STAGE
Terrance Simien and The Zydeco Experience
Friday, February 21 • 7:30 p.m.

BROADWAY
Waitress
Tuesday, February 25 • 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 26 • 7:30 p.m.

View our complete 2019–20 inaugural season lineup at goguecenter.auburn.edu.

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