



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER



Tweet it!

A classic western with an acrobatic twist, the Wild West comes to life in the newest @cirque_elioize production "Saloon" 1/13 & 14 #BWYPHL

Press Contacts:

Amanda Conte

aconte@kimmelcenter.org

(215) 790-5847

Carole Morganti, CJM Public Relations

CJMpr01@aol.com

(609) 953-0570



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PHILADELPHIA CIRQUE ÉLOIZE'S NEWEST PRODUCTION SALOON TAKES THE STAGE AT THE MERRIAM THEATER JANUARY 13–14, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, November 17, 2016) — Presented collaboratively by the Kimmel Center and The Shubert Organization, **Broadway Philadelphia** presents the Philadelphia premiere of *Saloon – A Musical Acrobatic Adventure*, the 11th and newest production by Montreal-based contemporary circus troupe **Cirque Éloize**. The Wild West comes to life on stage in this new show, swinging into the Kimmel Center's Merriam Theater January 13 and 14.

"Cirque Éloize has a long history of transporting audiences to a specific place and time through their magical performances and this newest creation will not disappoint," said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "*Saloon* is the perfect addition to our Broadway

Philadelphia season, a theatrical fusion of music and tremendous acrobatic feats intertwined to tell an inspiring story.”

Inspired by the rich legacy of the Wild West, *Saloon* transports audiences to a dusty gathering place. Swing open the *Saloon* doors and rustle up some fun for the entire family with this musical and acrobatic adventure. The stage fizzes and thrums with infectious energy and phenomenal physical feats as 11 top-level cast members perform for a music-packed theatrical thrill-ride! Prepare to be blown away by a chase worthy of the greatest Westerns.

“The show was inspired by our thriving power, the same strength that has motivated us for nearly 25 years. We borrow from the world of the Wild West, which we have so much in common with: a fundamental commitment to moving forward, toughness and the survival instinct, a tendency for irreverence and a sharing sense of community,” says Jeannot Painchaud, President and Artistic Director of Cirque Éloize and Creative Director of *Saloon*. “The Saloon is a wonderful playground for work of artistic exploration. It’s also a place of opportunity, one that made us want to try something different. It has the physical energy of acrobatics combined with the poetry of the theatrical approach, punctuated with humour and accompanied by amazing live music. *Saloon* is bright, funny and musical.”

This creation also marks the first collaboration between Cirque Éloize and the show’s musical director, celebrated Canadian composer Eloi Painchaud (*Louis Cyr, La guerre des tuques 3D*). Staying close to the musical roots of the artistic director and musical director, who happen to be cousins, *Saloon* mixes country extracts (Patsy Cline and Johnny Cash) with more festive, folk-inspired compositions. There are four musicians and singers on stage, and all the artists sing or play instruments.

Saloon director Emmanuel Guillaume has put together an acrobatic comedy with 11 top-level, multidisciplinary artists performing with exuberance and humour: “*Saloon* is an invitation to the party, a fertile ground for emotions where everything is permitted. It’s also a meeting of different art forms that were already part of the rich heritage of this mythical place back then,” he said.

Saloon Creative Team

Jeannot Painchaud, President and Artistic Director of Cirque Éloize and Creative Director of *Saloon*

Emmanuel Guillaume, Director

Eloi Painchaud, Music Director, Composer and Arranger

Nicolas Boivin-Gravel, Acrobatic Designer and Head Trainer

Annie St-Pierre, Choreographer

Francis Farley, Set and Props Designer

Sarah Balleux, Costume Designer

Virginie Bachand, Makeup Designer

Francis Hamel, Lighting Designer

Colin Gagné, Soundscape Designer

Pascal Auger, Associate Producer

About Cirque Éloize

Over the past 23 years, Cirque Éloize has traveled the planet with its 11 shows and more than a thousand special events. Cirque Éloize has presented more than 4,000 performances in over 500 cities and 50 countries. More than three million people have been charmed by the originality, intimacy, energy and poetry of its creations. From the Magdalen Islands, “éloize” is an Acadian word meaning “heat lightning”. It captures the essence of Cirque Éloize: heat and energy.

Cirque Éloize would like to thank its creative partners: Montreal Arts Council, Ville de Montréal, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, The Canada Council for the Arts, SODEC, Desjardins, Filaction, The Pennsylvania State University Center for the Performing Arts, and Théâtre de Namur in Belgium.

For more information visit www.cirque-eloize.com

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE SALOON
Merriam Theater at the Kimmel Center Campus

Dates and times:

Friday, January 13, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale to the public now and start at \$45.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling (215) 893-1999, visiting www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling (215) 790-5883.

The Shubert Organization

For more than 100 years, The Shubert Organization has been in the forefront of the American theatre. Under the leadership of Philip J. Smith, Chairman, and Robert E. Wankel, President, the Shubert Organization owns and operates 17 Broadway theatres and six Off-Broadway venues, as well as the Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia. The company has produced and co-produced hundreds of plays and musicals, including the original Broadway production of *CATS*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Amadeus*, *The Real Thing*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Equus*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *School of Rock The Musical*, and *The Humans*. The Shubert Organization is proud of its ongoing refurbishment program for its theatres, seeking to preserve the historic character while modernizing them to accommodate the needs of today's audiences.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center's mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2016-2017 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit kimmelcenter.org.

#

For photography, please visit www.kcpress.smugmug.com