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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
CIRQUE ÉLOIZE'S SPLASHY NEW PRODUCTION
RAIN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 2:00 P.M. & 8:00 P.M.
& SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

SCHOOLTIME: SPECIAL 1-HOUR SHOW FOR STUDENTS, MONDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 11:00 A.M.

BERKELEY, December 7, 2004 – Combining “wow!” with classical grace **Cirque Éloize** returns to Zellerbach Hall with the troupe’s latest work ***Rain* Saturday, January 29 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m.** The 11 member, multi-disciplined company creates a theatrical experience where dance, music and acting are second only to flying through the air, balancing on a tightrope or being packed into a suitcase. Following the Bay Area debut performances of *Excentricus* in 2001 and *Nomad* in 2003, the *San Francisco Chronicle* hailed the group “a daredevil circus with a delightfully idiosyncratic human face.”

Cirque Éloize will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students **Monday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. *The Saturday, January 29, 2:00 p.m. performance is a Family Fare show. Children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.*

RAIN

“I come from a family of photographers,” explains ***Rain*** writer/director **Daniele Finzi Pasca**, “where memories were made up of moments snatched from time and frozen forever. In my shows, I simply make these images move.” *Rain*, Cirque Éloize’s fifth production since the company’s founding in 1993, is set in a theater where a circus show is in rehearsal, where theater and reality blend into one another. The artists, costumed as characters from an old photo album, evoke a sense of bitter-sweet nostalgia referred to as “rain in your eyes” by Mr. Finzi Pasca’s family as he was growing up. That feeling is what inspired him to create *Rain*. As in all Cirque Éloize productions, *Rain* is an intimate, close-up circus experience, sans animals, with a handful of performers doing everything from juggling to bicycle routines to backflips. The production features live classical and traditional music from Eastern Europe and southern Italy. In summary,

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Mr. Finzi Pasca explains, “On our stage, not only rain will fall, but surprises will rain down as well.”

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

In the early 1980s, a new generation of circus performances arrived on the scene in the Canadian province of Quebec. Breaking with tradition, the circus became a place for a thriving collaboration between theater, music and dance communities. The birth of this contemporary North American circus has generated considerable national and international interest. Partly in response to growing demand, but mostly due to their great passion for the circus, seven young artists, all graduates of Montreal’s National Circus School, decided in 1993 to combine their various talents and energies in the creation of a new *Montrealois Circus*, a European-style, animal-free circus, under the banner of **Cirque Éloize**. In the Magdalen Islands, where all seven founders originate, flashes of heat lightning seen on the horizon are colloquially called *éloize* (pronounced “el-was”). An inspiration for the troupe’s founding members, this lightning symbolizes the heat and energy that are characteristic of the ensemble’s spirit.

Although related to Cirque du Soleil by a common geography (both are based in Montreal), and artistically born out of the *Cirque Nouveau* movement, Éloize has evolved as a different kind of circus, with a more down-to-earth atmosphere. “Cirque [du Soleil] is a very imaginary world, big image, big tableaux,” says **Jeannot Painchaud**, co-founder and artistic director of Cirque Éloize. Painchaud, like other members of Éloize, did a stint with its larger counterpart a few years prior to the creation of Éloize. “Our world is much more intimate, and more concentrated on the individual performers,” says Painchaud. “By the end of the show, the audience knows each performer and band member,” troupe member Jamie Adkins explains. “You see how everyone relates, and there are little microstories that develop, like everyday life.”

Since its conception, more than two million spectators from 20 countries have watched one of its five productions beginning with the first self-titled *Cirque Éloize*, followed by *Excentricus*, *Cirque Orchestra*, *Nomade*, and now *Rain*. The company won silver medals at the *Festival de cirque de demain* in Paris in 2002 and 2003. Also in 2003, Cirque Éloize was awarded a Gemini Award in the Best Performance Program or Series category. The company has been presented at prestigious festivals and venues around the world including the Edinburgh Festival, Israel Festival,

Hong Kong Festival, Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogota, Sadler's Wells, Sydney Opera House, Bunkamura Orchard Hall, New York's Lincoln Center and the Hollywood Bowl. Productions are created for a worldwide audience with no language barrier.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Cirque Éloize** on **Saturday, January 29** at **2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, January 30** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$36.00, and \$48.00.** Saturday, January 29 at 2:00 p.m. performance is a Family Fare show: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded).

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