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**THE BRILLIANT AND ZANY CIRCUS OZ
LEAPS INTO ZELLERBACH HALL WITH ITS *LAUGHING AT GRAVITY* TOUR
THURSDAY–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 2**

BERKELEY, October 30, 2007—Australia’s internationally acclaimed contemporary circus, the “irresistibly impressive” (*The Times*, London) **Circus Oz**, comes to Cal Performances with its *Laughing at Gravity* Tour **Thursday & Friday, November 29 & 30 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. For more than 25 years Circus Oz has brought its self-created performances of wit, grace, spectacle, satire and finely-honed silliness to audiences the world over. Circus Oz combines an eclectic mix of original live music, with daring stunts and traditional circus skills like trapeze, adagio and juggling placed in a modern context with tongues firmly jammed in cheeks. The result is something entirely original and fresh that reflects Australian culture while challenging convention and delighting audiences around the globe. For the *Laughing at Gravity* Tour, the company has gathered a new batch of world-class performers and created a performance that melds anarchy with absurdity. This rendition includes a man walking upside down on the ceiling while getting dressed for the day; contortionists passing through tennis rackets; and a flaming stage. Circus Oz proves to be “hysterical and graceful, awesome and intimate, weird and beautiful” (*New York Daily News*).

All Circus Oz performances are *Family Fare* events: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.

CIRCUS OZ

Currently headed up by artistic director **Mike Finch** and senior circus artist and founding member **Tim Coldwel**, **Circus Oz** was formed in 1978 when two smaller independent circuses, Soapbox Circus and the New Circus, merged. Circus Oz debuted in the same year at the Adelaide Festival. By 1980 Circus Oz had begun to tour internationally. The first tour traveled

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to Paupa New Guinea, Holland, Belgium, London, Norwich, Bath and Chichester. During the middle of the 1980's Circus Oz trained with China's Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe, building their repertoire and adding acrobatic skills such as pole climbing and hoop diving to the circus. Circus Oz has performed across five continents and in more than twenty-six countries including spots as diverse as New York City, a refugee camp on the West Bank, indigenous communities in the Australian desert and a glass opera house in the Brazilian rainforest. Performances have been given in dozens of languages from Hindi to Danish. Circus Oz broke the box office records at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has represented Australia at many other international festivals.

While there have been a few hundred different performers working with Circus Oz over the year, there are still founding members with the company today. This combination of new imagination and talent with the original culture and spirit of Circus Oz allows it to reinvent itself year after year without losing sight of the troupe's original aspirations of gender equality, collaboration, humanity, social justice and a good time for all.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Circus Oz, *The Laughing at Gravity Tour*** on **Thursday and Friday, November 29 and 30 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and December 2 at 3:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$36.00 and \$48.00**. All Circus Oz performances are *Family Fare* events: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount; additionally, all other performances of Peking Acrobats are 25% off for children 16 and under. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.net.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers Rush Tickets to UCB students, faculty and staff, senior and community members. Rush Tickets are announced two hours prior to a

performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush Ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person, and all sales are cash only. Rush Ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. For more information call 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2007/08 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is Cal Performances' 2007/08 season media sponsor.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday & Friday, November 29 & 30 at 8:00 p.m. **Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**
Saturday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Family Fare
Circus Oz

Program: Australia's Circus Oz brings its *Laughing at Gravity* Tour to Cal Performances.

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