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**THE CHEEKY, IN-YOUR-FACE CIRCUS OZ RETURNS WITH ITS  
30TH BIRTHDAY BASH! THURSDAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5-8**

**SchoolTime: Special One-hour Performance for Students Tuesday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m.**

**BERKELEY, December 20, 2008**—Expect the unexpected when Australia’s world-renowned **Circus Oz** comes to celebrate its *30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash!* at Cal Performances **Thursday-Saturday, February 5-8**. Since 1978, Circus Oz has brought its “simultaneously laid back, satirical, funny, slightly naughty, chaotic and richly musical” (*New York Times*) performances to audiences of all ages. Its November 2007 appearance in Cal Performances had critics demanding that the troupe “come up from Down Under more often” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Circus Oz features “no animals, no scary clowns, no cheesy music (but proper rock’n’roll) and no women in abbreviated costumes just for the hell of it. Instead they gave us outstanding skill, wit, invention, innovation and beauty” (*The Times*, London). The troupe combines contemporary acts of physicality and humor as well as the more traditional acts of juggling, tightrope walking, human pyramids, and contortionism. The madness of this troupe’s death-defying feats, Aussie humor and original live music will be a feast to the eyes, ears and funny bone.

Circus Oz will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students Friday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets available in advance only.

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 to Papua New Guinea, Holland, Belgium, London, Norwich, Bath and Chichester. During the middle of the 1980s, 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

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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. 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 years, 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** on **Thursday & Friday, February 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m.**; **Saturday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**; and **Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$26.00, \$38.00 and \$48.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); 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.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. 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; 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thursday & Friday, February 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Saturday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley**  
**Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m.**

*World Stage*  
**Circus Oz**

**Program:** With death-defying feats, Aussie humor and original live music, Australia's Circus Oz returns to Berkeley to celebrate its 30th birthday.

**Tickets:** \$26.00, \$38.00 and \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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**Friday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley**

*World Stage*  
**Circus Oz**

**Program:** Circus Oz presents a special one-hour performance for school children.

**Tickets:** \$4.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at [eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu) or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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