MONTREAL'S <u>LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN</u> CIRCUS TUMBLES, LEAPS AND SPRINGS INTO ZELLERBACH HALL WITH *PSY* ON FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 3-5

SchoolTime: Special one-hour performance for students Friday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Berkeley, April 5, 2013— Circus ensemble Les 7 Doigts de la Main will perform in Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall Friday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 5, at 3:00 p.m. The ensemble embraces the style of *cirque nouveau* (contemporary circus), combining theater, dance, live music, and circus arts in order to present a coherent story in addition to traditional circus acts. Les 7 Doigts' program *PSY*, directed by Bay Area native Shana Carroll, explores the unconventional theme of human weaknesses—the mental and emotional kind. Each performer represents a different issue, and they use their art and talent to overcome the obstacles. For instance, the trapeze artist plays a character that has a fear of heights, and the knife thrower has an issue with anger management. "The circus skills are brilliant, twisted into clever, often funny dramas" (*The Independent*).

Les 7 Doigts de la Main will give a SchoolTime performance for Bay Area students Friday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. <u>Tickets available in advance only.</u>

Les 7 Doigts de la Main translates literally to "the seven fingers of the hand," a twist on words of the French idiom "the five fingers of the hand" that describes distinct parts working together towards one common goal. The number seven stands for the seven founding directors of the company, including *PSY*'s director Shana Carroll, Isabelle Chassé, Patrick Léonard, Faon Shane, Gypsy Snider, Sébastien Soldevila, and Samuel Tétreault, many of whom originally met as cast members of Cirque du Soleil. Founded in 2002, Les 7 Doigts de la Main has performed for the Queen of England and at the Opening Ceremonies for both the Turin and Vancouver Olympics. "PSY is filled with beautiful moments that combine ingenious set design and unusual displays of circus skills" (Orange County Register).

PSY is the fourth work the company has created, which they describe as "merging acrobatics of the body with acrobatics of the mind and soul." The initial scene is set up in a psychiatrist's office but the setting quickly transforms into innovative bizarre locations that are meant to represent the deep recesses of the mind. The program will include a variety of circus acts including the trapeze, juggling, teeterboard, German wheel, and aerial rope. For more, visit 7doigts.com/en/shows/3-psy.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Les 7 Doigts de la Main Circus on May 3 at 8:00 p.m., May 4 at 2:00 p.m. and May 5 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$22.00 to \$52.00, and are subject to change. The performance on Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. is a Family Fare event; children 16 and under receives 50% off single ticket prices. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For more information about discounts, go to http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php or call (510) 642-9988.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m. SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

SchoolTime Les 7 Doigts de la Main Circus

Program: Les 7 Doigts de la Main Circus performs a special one-hour performance for school children.

Tickets: \$8.00 per student or adult chaperone, available <u>in advance only</u> through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. 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 or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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Friday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m. [FF] Sunday, May 5, at 3:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage Les 7 Doigts de la Main Circus *PSY*

Program: Canada's *nouveau cirque* troupe, Les 7 Doigts de la Main Circus, includes its diverse forms of acrobatics, avant-garde dance, physical comedy, music, song, video projections and live DJ-ing in its production of *PSY*.

Tickets: Range from \$22.00-\$52.00, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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