

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 28, 2012



Contact: Francisco Juanillo  
Phone: (562) 985-1822  
E-mail: [Francisco.Juanillo@csulb.edu](mailto:Francisco.Juanillo@csulb.edu)

**CARPENTER CENTER PRESENTS THE OLD-WORLD  
ITALIAN CIRCUS ZOPPÉ AT THE MAJESTIC QUEEN MARY**

*Circus Zoppé Will Be Located At The Queen Mary  
for the Weekend of Sept. 28-30*

**LONG BEACH, Calif.** – The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center presents the return of the family favorite Circus Zoppé to Long Beach for the weekend of Sept. 28-30, 2012 with its colorful and intimate 500-seat tent located at the majestic Queen Mary. Show times for the circus are: Friday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7pm; and Sunday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The family-operated Circus Zoppé emerged from humble beginnings more than 160 years ago to become one of the legendary circuses in all of Europe. Starring Nino the Clown—performed by Giovanni Zoppé—the circus is propelled by a central story that feature acrobatic feats, equestrian showmanship, canine capers, clowning and plenty of audience participation. Giovanni Zoppé, the sixth-generation circus performer who plays Nino, says the show aims higher than what passes for circuses these days. "We try to touch every emotion during the show," he says. "They'll laugh, they'll cry, and they'll feel for the characters. It's more of an event than a show."

The circus traces its roots to 1842 when a young French street performer named Napoline Zoppé met a beautiful equestrian ballerina named Ermenegilda, who captured the hearts and minds of the crowd with her grace and showmanship. They made their way to Venice, Italy, and founded the circus that still bears their name, and would survive wars and political upheaval in Italy and the rest of Europe.

The late Alberto Zoppé—Napoline's grandson and Giovanni's father—inherited the circus almost 100 years later after its inception. A grand equestrian in his own right, Alberto toured Europe with the circus since his youth, forging many unique friendships along the way, including with famed actor/director

--MORE--

Orson Welles. In addition, Alberto helped the circus appear in the Oscar-winning film “The Greatest Show on Earth” by director Cecil B. DeMille, and stay in the United States permanently.

Giovanni is now in charge of the circus as he tries to build up the success and reputations of the European inspired circus—and has ushered in a new generation to continue the family tradition of European circus. As the modern, top-dollar Cirque du Soleil took the world on a trend of high-flying, theatrical shows, Circus Zoppé pride itself in only using domesticated animals during performances, and being the classical image of what the circus was 100 years ago: a clown, the trapeze, the ring and tent, and kids having fun.

Tickets are on sale for \$30-25, and are available at [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org) or by calling the CSULB Arts Ticket Office at 562-985-7000. Discounts for seniors, students and groups are available, call for details. This presentation is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3FM and The Queen Mary.

###

CALENDAR LISTING

**Photos are available – Please contact Francisco Juanillo at (562) 985-1822**

- What: Circus Zoppé**
- When: Friday, September 28, 2012, 7pm  
Saturday, September 29, 2012, 1pm, 4pm and 7pm  
Sunday, September 30, 2012, 11am, 2pm and 5pm**
- Where: Queen Mary**  
1126 Queen's Highway  
Long Beach, CA 90802
- Tickets: \$30-20 Regular; \$70 Family 4-Pack**
- Ticket Office: (562) 985-7000, [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**  
Box Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm  
Saturdays are closed except on season performance days from Noon – 4pm.
- In Brief:** Performing at the majestic Queen Mary, Circus Zoppé returns to welcome your whole family into the colorful 500-seat tent for a one-ring circus that honors the best history of the Old-World Italian tradition. The adventure begins as Nino the Clown leads you through a show that features acrobatic feats, equestrian showmanship, canine capers, clowning, plenty of audience participation, and fun!

**Additional information and tickets available at the Carpenter Center's website: [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**