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Performers from 16 African Nations Dazzle in Cirque Zuma Zuma Oct. 17

Pan-African acrobats and circus performers take the Carpenter Center stage to delight and impress.

LONG BEACH, California —After performing sell-out seasons in Europe, an extended debut run in Australia and appearing on American reality television, the performers of Cirque Zuma Zuma will take the stage at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center Oct. 17, 2015 at 8 p.m. on the Cal State Long Beach campus.

What sets Cirque Zuma Zuma apart from other circus variety acts is the show's commitment to African culture and history. The full show blends a wide variety of African performance styles, including Gabonese tumblers, Egyptian limbo dancers, South African vocalists, Ethiopian contortionists and Tanzanian balancing masters.

There are also foot table jugglers, clowns, comic magicians, pole artists and gumboot dancers. Acrobats leap between tall poles, flexible acrobats performer handstands on high human pyramids and stacked chairs 20 feet in the air.

The group first caught on in the U.S. in 2011 after becoming finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

The performance continues the Carpenter Center's mission of bringing world-class entertainment from around the globe to Long Beach. Other shows this season that demonstrate the diversity of world cultures include "Ji: A Common Pulse," featuring San Jose Taiko and the Bangerz (Jan. 30), the Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra (Jan. 31), Scotland's Red Hot Chilli Pipers (March 19) and Cuban jazz sensation Arturo Sandoval (May 14).

Tickets for Cirque Zuma Zuma start at \$43. For tickets and more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. This series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

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