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ACME MINIATURE CIRCUS

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For Immediate Release
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KILL DATE AUGUST 27, 2007



Pulex Irritans, magnified 157 times actual size

Fleas Perform In Our Nation's Capital

WASHINGTON, DC 8-2-07

This summer, our nation's flea circus will not be performed in the White House or the Capitol Building, and will not feature any elected officials. That's because this year, the flea circus will take place in Washington D.C.'s up and coming Atlas District, and will feature insects. Trained insects. Fleas, to be exact.

The show, the Acme Miniature Flea Circus, is an authentic Victorian flea circus that features trained fleas Midge and Madge who perform spectacular circus stunts as seen before (and on top of) the crowned heads of Europe. Midge and Madge will perform their star turn at D.C.'s wildest and wackiest venue, the Palace of Wonders on Sunday August 26.

Details magazine called the show "One of the top alternative circuses in the country." The New York Times said "The appeal is irresistible... Gertsacov is every bit the fantastical impresario, in his purple top hat and cash-register voice, introducing us to the wondrous insects itching (sorry) to perform" And the Los Angeles Times says that "Professor Gertsacov holds the audience (and the stars of the show) in the palm of his hand."

According to Professor A.G. Gertsacov, ringmaster and proprietor of the Acme Miniature Circus, flea circuses were popular entertainments during Victorian times, but had nearly disappeared since the advent of television. The last popular American flea circus was Professor Heckler's of Time Square, which left New York in 1957. The rumor is that Heckler thought that the nude shows were giving his fleas a bad name.

There are now only a handful of flea circuses still performing throughout the world. Gertsacov's is arguably the most famous. The Rhode Island native (now based in Yonkers, NY) and his amazing insect stars have performed throughout the country, and in Canada, Chile, and Brazil. He recently spent three months performing in Times Square, less than two blocks from where Professor Heckler once had his fleas. Gertsacov has also been filmed for documentaries on the History Channel, the Travel Channel, and numerous news programs. He's even been a question on Jeopardy!

Gertsacov's educated insect stars pull chariots, dance on a tightwire, and perform other circus-like stunts. While he does not reveal his method of training (a proprietary secret, he explains), he assures the curious and the civic minded that he uses only methods of positive reinforcement to teach the insects their routines. "I treat them as if they are my own flesh and blood," Gertsacov says. "And in some ways, they are."

Professor Gertsacov will bring his minuscule marvels to perform at Washington's wildest and wackiest venue on Sunday August 26. He invites all curious parties to come and see the show that was deemed one of the top shows of the world famous Spoleto Festival in 2004. But he asks that you leave your dogs and cats at home. Gertsacov quips, "I don't want anyone to steal the show."

Shows are at the Palace of Wonders, 1210 H Street NE in the Atlas District of Washington DC. Shows are at 4 pm and 8 pm. Admission is \$8. The first show is for all ages. The second show is for over 21 only. (In this show, the fleas will perform completely nude!)

PLEASE NOTE: At the 8 pm show ID's will be checked!

PLEASE NOTE: Positively No Dogs Will Be Admitted To the Show.

For more information about the show, or to reserve tickets, call the Palace of Wonders at 202-398-7469 (SHOW)

Or visit <http://www.palaceofwonders.com> or <http://www.trainedfleas.com>.

WHAT: Acme Miniature Flea Circus at the Palace of Wonders

WHERE: Palace of Wonders, 1210 H Street NE Washington DC

WHEN: Sunday August 26, 2007 at 4pm and 8 pm. (4 pm is an all ages show)

CALL: 202-398-7469 (SHOW)

COST: \$ 8

PRESS RELEASE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AT www.trainedfleas.com/dcfleas.html

TOO PERVERSELY FASCINATING TO MISS!" - digitalcity.com

TRAINED FLEAS!

Performing Spectacular Circus Stunts
As Seen Before (And on top of)
The Crowned Heads of Europe.



ACME MINIATURE CIRCUS

"A WACKY, WITTY CREATURE FEATURE"
"OLD TIME VAUDEVILLE IS NEW AGAIN!"
"#1 SURE BET OF THE FESTIVAL"

Minneapolis Star Tribune
New York Times
Montreal Gazette

CRITIC'S PICK: TIME OUT NY, VILLAGE VOICE, POST & COURIER

www.trainedfleas.com (202) 398-SHOW www.palaceofwonders.com

TWO SHOWS ONLY!

SUNDAY AUGUST 26

4 & 8 PM SHOWINGS (4 PM ALL AGES)

TICKETS only \$8

Palace of Wonders

1210 H Street Washington, DC

CALL (202) 398-SHOW (7469) FOR TICKETS/INFO



**POSITIVELY NO DOGS WILL BE
ADMITTED TO THE SHOW!**

Our Flea-ting Moments Of Fame

some critical acclaim for the Acme Miniature Circus

NEW YORK TIMES



The appeal is irresistible... a high-spirited glance back at an entertainment form that had been dead as a doornail since Professor Heckler's show at Hubert's Dime Museum closed in 1957.

NEW YORK PRESS



Professor A.G. Gertsacov and his Acme Miniature Circus will amaze and astound even the most cynical and near-sighted of visitors.... So maybe something good is finally happening in Times Square.

LOS ANGELES TIMES



Professor Gertsacov holds the audience (and his performers) in the palm of his hand...Audience reaction builds from bewilderment to fascination and glee.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



An Ironist of the Insect Realm... a 'psycho-entomologist' with an encyclopedic knowledge of flea lore... the show sparkles with wit.

BOSTON PHOENIX



Biting Entertainment... a cross-generational crowd, ranging from mesmerized kids to kitsch-loving, tattooed twentysomethings to nostalgia-driven seniors.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL



A charming show that flashes us back to Victorian times.... The Professor's fleas have the power to amuse.

MONTREAL GAZETTE



#1 SURE BET... This Rhode Island act wins hands down as the curiosity of the festival... Pure feel-good nonsense, amusing for adults, suitable for children.

MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE



PICK OF THE LITTER
...This one man introduction to the flea and its performing capabilities is what the Fringe should be all about. It's funny, off-beat and skillfully delivered by Circus Master Professor A. G. Gertsacov of Providence, RI. You have probably heard of a flea circus, but have you ever attended one? Bring the kids and avail yourself of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. No bug spray allowed!

PHILADELPHIA CITYPAPER



Provides the springboard for thoughts on our oppression of the species (through the use of soap) and the psychology of two microscopic divas. Brilliantly warm-hearted: ... suitable viewing for your "inner child."

**A WACKY
WITTY
CREATURE
FEATURE !**

MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE

**A
GEM OF
A SHOW...
DEFINITELY
DON'T SCRATCH
THIS ONE OFF YOUR LIST!
SAN FRANCISCO FRINGE GUIDE**

**ONE OF THE TEN
BEST ALTERNATIVE
CIRCUSES IN THE
COUNTRY!**

DETAILS MAGAZINE

PART SIDESHOW, PART EXHIBIT, & A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

**VISIT www.trainedfleas.com for more information
articles and references available on request.**