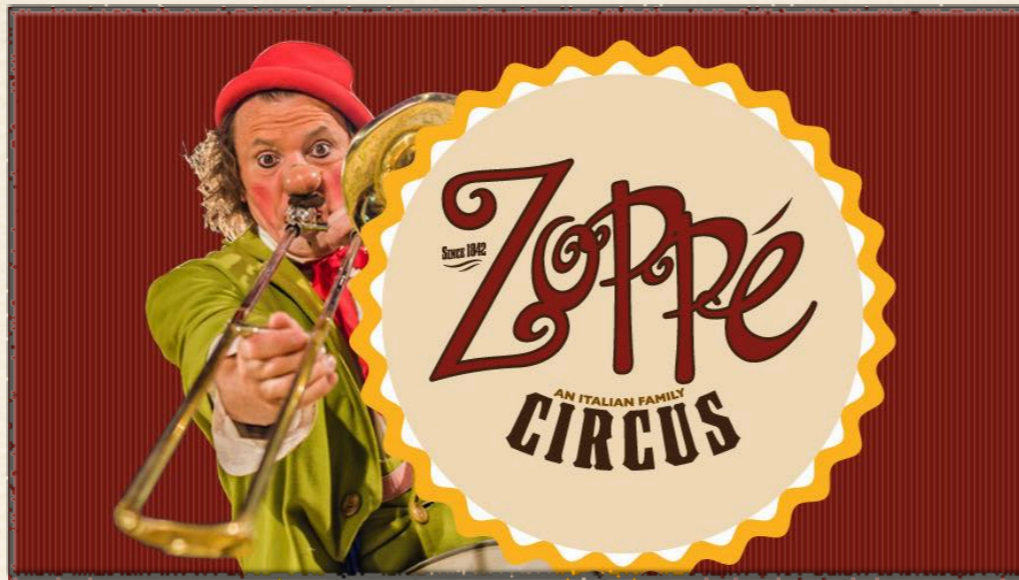


Circo Zoppé  
2017



*175<sup>th</sup> Anniversario Tour*





# BENVENUTI AL CIRCO

*Come enjoy our 175° Anniversario Tour!*



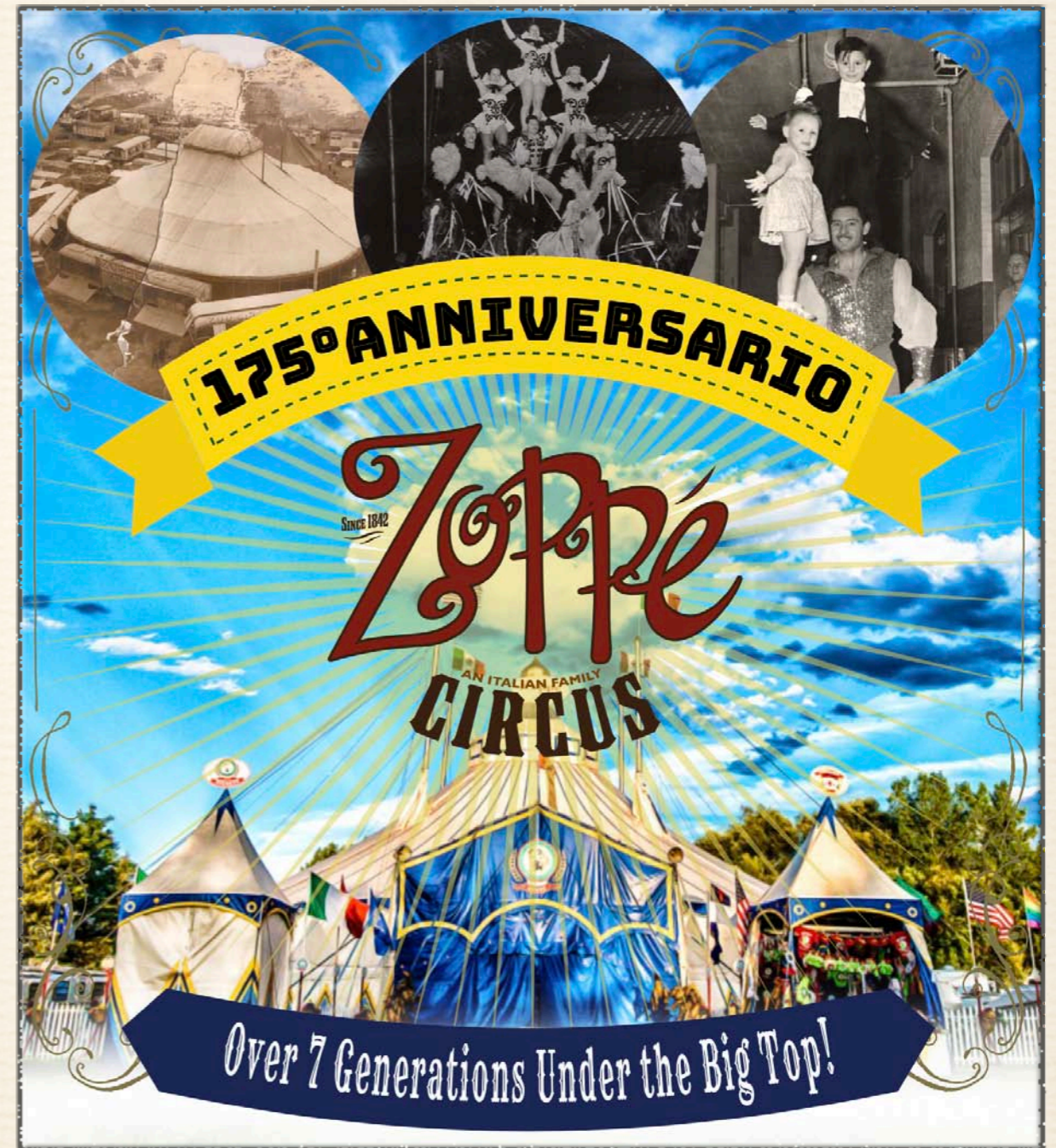
# “THE 175° ANNIVERSARIO TOUR”

The Zoppe` Italian Family Circus is one of the last “family run” circuses traveling in the United States.

Our story started in 1842, when a young French street performer named Napoleone Zoppè wandered into a plaza in Budapest, Hungary, looking for work. There, his eyes glanced upon a beautiful equestrian ballerina named Ermengilda. This talented beauty captured Napoleone's heart. However, since Napoleone was a clown, Ermengilda's father saw him as beneath her and disapproved of their relationship.

The two ran away to Venice, Italy, and founded the circus that still bears their name, Zoppé.

We are here now celebrating the 175th anniversary marking the beginning of our families circus history.



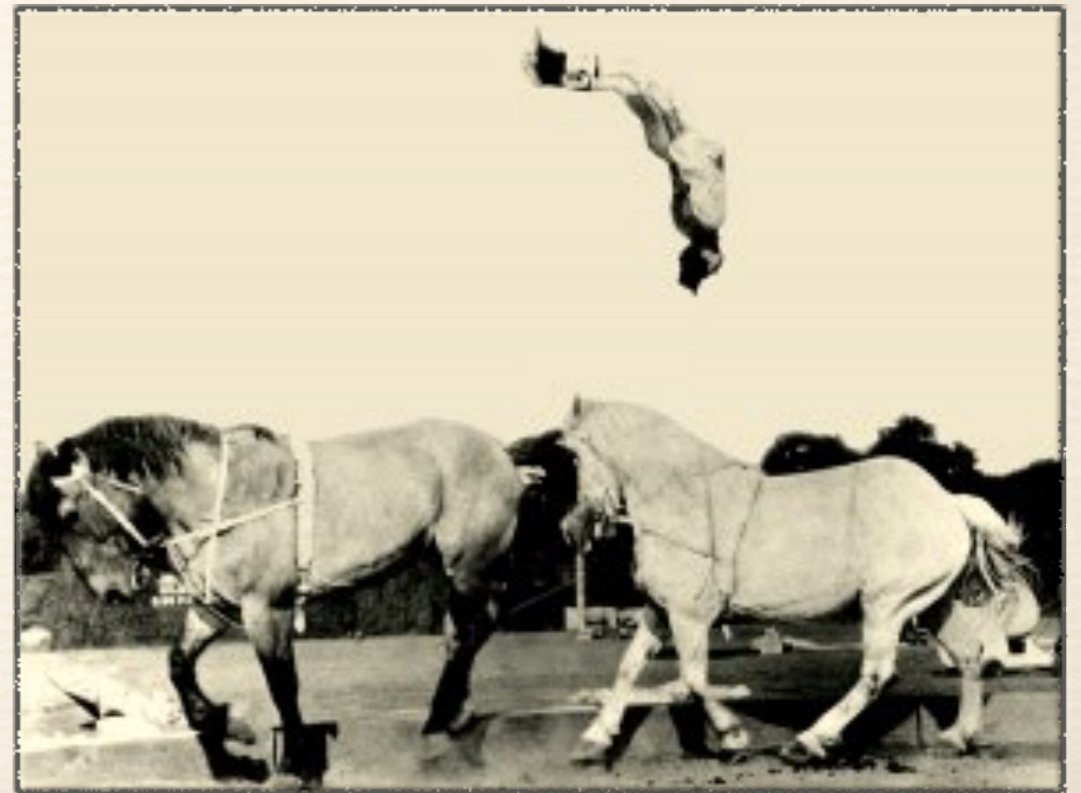


# Alberto & Sandra



Giovanni “Alberto” Zoppè was born in 1922 from a legendary family of equestrian circus artists in a Caravana on the roads of Italy. At the age of 22 he became the director of his families circus “The Zoppè Family Circus”. He moved the circus from Italy to the U.S.A. in 1948. During his career as an equestrian artist he also participated in many films including “The Greatest Show on Earth”

Although very proud of his Italian heritage from the time he landed on US soil, he made this great country his own. Alberto met and fell in love with American song writer Sandra Taylor, that soon became his wife, living her career to escape with the circus. They had three children, Carla, Giovanni, and Tosca... These three children grew up in the circus and now are the driving force behind this historical circus dynasty!





# Alberto “Giovanni” Zoppé

Giovanni Zoppé has been a clown since the day he was born. The artist who plays the character of Nino in the 175 year old circus that still upholds his families name, has a special definition of his art, “Circus is family, those two are almost the same”

He doesn't remember his own first public appearance, he tells the story about how when he was 2, he was in the family's trailer with a babysitter when he heard the music of his families act he broke away to be onstage, once in front of the audience he took a bow, “I was completely naked they don't let me do that anymore” Giovanni credits his family with helping to maintain this grand traditions. He is now the director of the circus. For him, the circus has always been his career, he has never had hesitation about life on the road, or about sharing his art with audiences throughout Europe, Asia and North America.





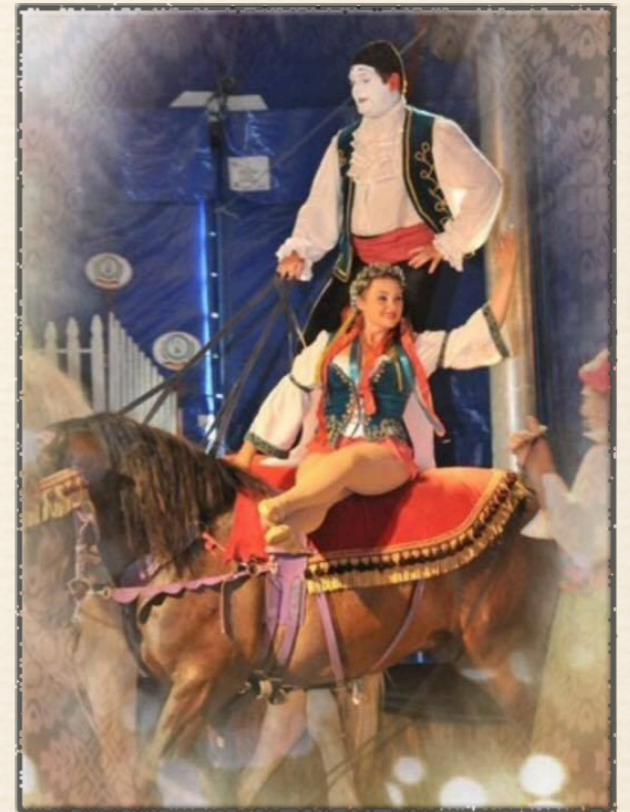
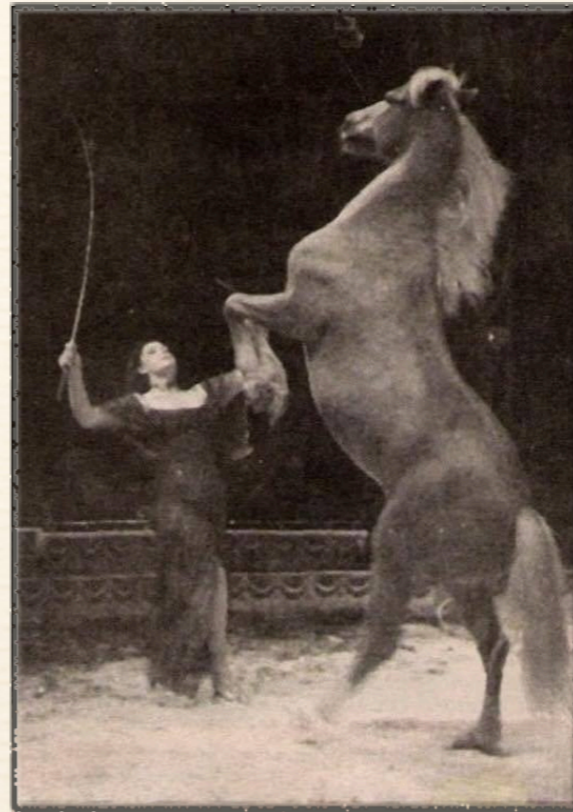
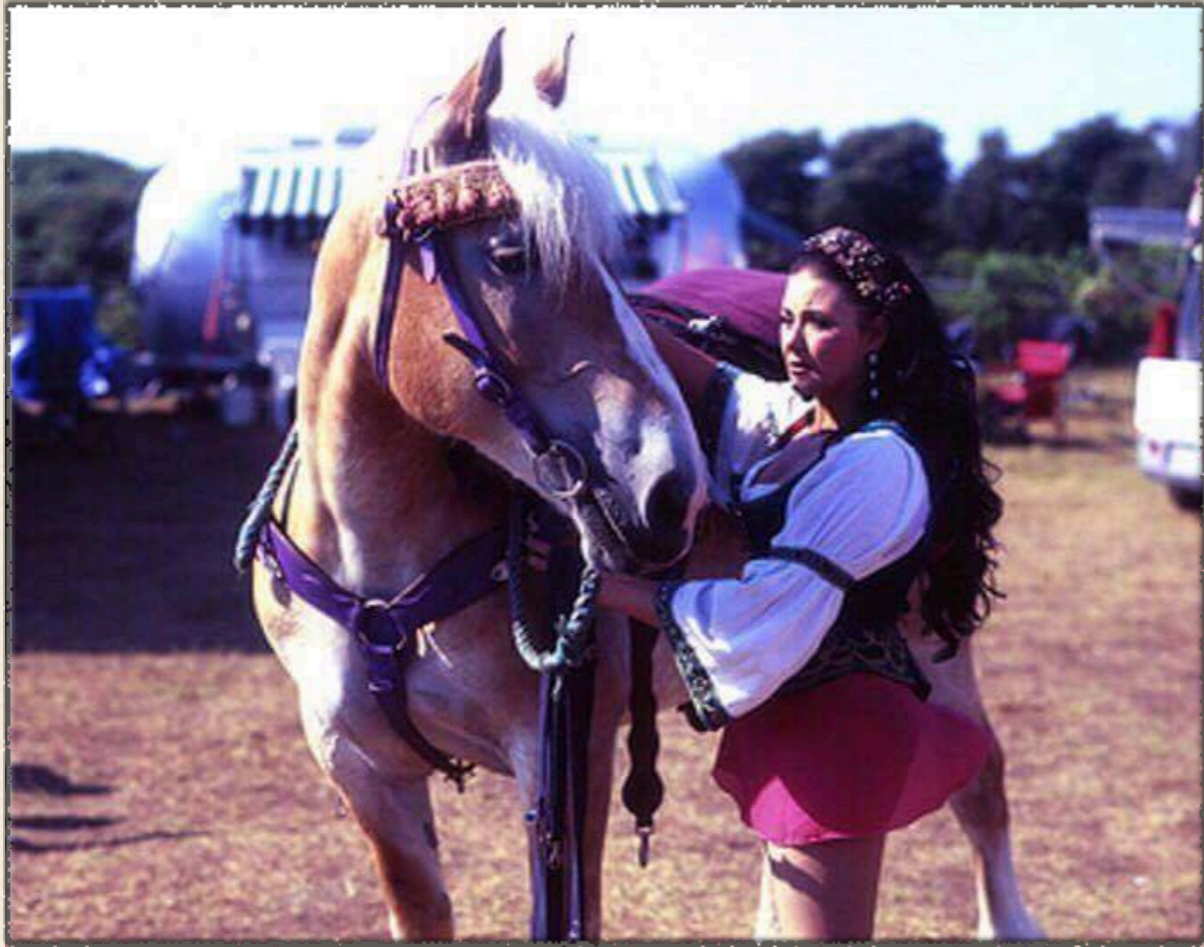
# HORSES

## Tosca Zoppé

Tosca Zoppé, a 6th generation equestrian artist from the Zoppé family, is carrying on her rich heritage which is renown for bareback equestrian arts since 1842. Tosca has had an extraordinary life performing a variety of disciplines including Liberty, Roman Riding, Aerial Displays, as well as directing her family's theatrical production, Circus Zoppé, and continues to be the creative vision behind the Zoppé circus. However, her true passion is the preservation and promotion of the art of bareback riding. She dances with grace upon the back of her massive steed while galloping around the ring with her husband John Walther. Tosca's equestrian artistry lives on today through her talent and devotion to her heritage of an almost forgotten era of traveling circus families.









# PAPINO

## John J Walther



John J Walther, aka "Papino" has been working with the Zoppé family for 24 years this season. Starting out as the shows sound engineer, John has since worked his way up to his current position as Technical director.

John fell in love with, and married Tosca Zoppé in 1997. He considers himself to be the most blessed man in the world with both a woman he loves, and a job he loves.

He also took on the role of a classic European white face clown in 2005. He loves the interaction between Nino and his character and says, "who else gets to slap his brother in law twice a day, and three times on Saturday?"

"Being head pooper scooper is a demanding job sometimes, but I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world."



# NINO NINETTO & JUSTINO

Nino has been the alter-ego of Giovanni Zoppé since his career began at a very young age. At the age of 32 he became the youngest person ever to be inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame. He is passing this truehearted art form on to his son Giovanni “Julien” Veneto Zoppé aka Ninetto. “He was born with sawdust in his blood and every day we are together, I am inspired by the pure clown that he is, and he makes me realize that I still have so much to learn” says Giovanni. Recently Nino has found on the road his brother Justino, who started to travel with the Zoppé family. These three crazy guys are the comic heart of the show.

Laughter ensured!









# JUSTINO

"Justino" Therrien celebrates life as often as he can, which is why he ran away with the circus. He believes that laughter is the grease of the supernatural gears of life on earth. For the audiences of the Zoppé circus Justino clowns and performs his original solo act he calls, "the tale of the magical suitcase and the surprising contents inside". Some fun facts about Justino are.. He smells like fresh mountain air even after working setting up the tent all day. Also, when his mother gave birth to him he came out tight rope walking on his own umbilical cord and tap dancing on the operating table. One thing to remember about Justino, if you ever meet him, is despite his striking good looks, don't believe anything he says.









# CANINES

## Rudy Heinen, Carla Zoppé and their Performing Dogs

Rudy comes from a long tradition of German circus, in the past he has worked with lions, tigers, monkeys, bears, horses, and finally found his passion working with man's best friend, the dog or shall we say dogs! Carla began her career at age three as a ballerina on horse back, now she performs with her husband Rudy and their 16 rescued dogs, that all live with them. For Carla and Rudy their dogs are everything.









# ANTIPODISM

## La Famiglia Gentile

Carlo and Orlene Gentile are the first generation of circus artists of their families. They are graduates of the San Francisco Circus Center's Clown Conservatory and have trained multiple times in China where they worked to perfect their foot juggling techniques. Carlo has performed as a clown, juggler, unicyclist and diabolo artist.

Orlene has been singing and dancing since age three in Vietnam, Thailand and India. They choose family over everything and travel, perform, and home school their four children in their Avion RV Trailer.

“Our Children never move, but their backyard always changes.”









# LOS GAUCHOS

## La familia Sanchez

Osbaldo Sanchez has been performing in circuses for 37 years, He most enjoys performing with his family in the act called “Los Gauchos”, inspired by the Argentinian cowboys (Gauchos) who were skilled horsemen of the 1500s, they would use there boleadoras as weapons in battle and were very respected in their time. He has been performing and improving this act for over 20 years now. Everything he knows about the circus was taught to him by Nanucho, an Argentinian man that was like a grandfather to him.

Osbaldo and his family are working for the second season with Zoppé Family!









# HAND BALANCING

## Owen & Esmeralda

Owen is the 4th generation of a Mexican circus dynasty. He started at 5 years old focusing on his passion in hand balancing but from then has also perfected many others circus skills like Gauchos, trampoline, Russian swing, tumbling, etc. Now for the second season with the Zoppè family he's dabbling in his life long dream of hand balancing with his beautiful wife Esmeralda.









# SWORD BALANCING

## German Rodogell

German worked as a Circus artist since he was a child. He comes to us from Chiapas Mexico with an amazing history of circus arts.

Now in his first season with the Zoppé family he is performing the same act that members of his family performed over 135 years ago.

His uncle Raül Vasquez helped German to perfect all of his circus arts including the extremely dangerous ancient art of “Sound Balancing.”









# THE BLACK HOLE

## The Argentinian Daredevil Chiqui

This 18 year old Daredevil CHIQUI has always been familiar with circus life, and yet has always wanted to push the limits to the point of no return for his audience.

He arrives from La Terra del Fuego in Argentina to the USA riding his bike to become the first person in over 95 years to perform the classic circus act on US soil.

CHIQUI and the Zoppé family are proud to present the BLACK HOLE.







## OUR STAFF

They are the people behind the scenes, equally if not more important than the artist in the ring! Thanks to them the show still goes on!

They come from the most different corners of the world: Russia, Peru, Italy and... Bald Knob Arkansas! The only occasion you have to see them is during our amazing Pre-show (don't miss it).








# COME TO SEE US IN THIS SEASON




More info:

 Facebook pages: [ZoppeFamilyCircus](https://www.facebook.com/ZoppeFamilyCircus)

 Instagramm profile: [zoppe\\_circus](https://www.instagram.com/zoppe_circus)

 YouTube channel: [CircusZoppe](https://www.youtube.com/channel/CircusZoppe)

Sites

 <http://www.zoppe.net/>

 [www.newworldclassics.com/portfolio/zoppe-circus/](http://www.newworldclassics.com/portfolio/zoppe-circus/)

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