

"We Create Community Through  
People, Parks, and Programs"



Redwood City Parks, Recreation &  
Community Services Department  
1120 Roosevelt Avenue  
Redwood City, CA 94061-1499

For Immediate Release  
September 5, 2017

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**The City of Redwood City presents**  
***Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus***  
***175th Anniversario Tour***

REDWOOD CITY – The Circus is coming to town with an extra special show in Redwood City for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Step back in time, as Zoppé, An Italian Family Circus celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from October 13th through October 29<sup>th</sup>, with spectacular performances featuring amazing equestrian showmanship, daring acrobatic feats, canine capers and of course the antics of Nino the Clown!

The Zoppé Family Circus welcomes guests into the intimate tent for a one-ring circus that honors the best history of the Old-World Italian tradition. This year's event "Celebrating 175 Years Under the Big Top" will be a great show highlighting the Zoppé family of performers, including some exciting acts that haven't been seen in America for years.

In honor of their 175th year, Tosca Zoppé will present her father Alberto's classic bareback riding act. Plus, the circus will bring a plethora of new, engaging and exciting acts to the big ring, including the acrobatic and juggling feats of La Famiglia Gentile, Owen & Esmeralda Hand Balancing, German Rodogell Sword Balancing, and a rare bicycle riding act. Dubbed THE BLACK HOLE, this 120 year old throw-back is set in a unique bowl-like structure which has not been seen in modern circus for 95 years, and features the 18-year-old Argentinian Daredevil Chiqui.

"The way you're going to see the show is the same way our ancestors did the show for your ancestors—inside our home," Zoppé says to a crowd in Redwood City, California, before they enter the tent. The Zoppé Italian Family Circus is a traditional European circus with talented artists performing in the same interactive style their ancestors entertained families over a century ago, and is one of the last family-run, one-ring traveling circuses in the United States. The Zoppé Circus is staged as it would have been in the 1800's, with the costumes, music and style of show transporting guests back to that time period.

It's all the things you think a circus will be—horses, acrobats, clowns, a big top, a sawdust ring—but it's also something more, a magical experience, a joy, a personal thrill. "Things are happening inside our tent that are impossible," says Zoppé. "It broadens the imagination, and it broadens the joy of life."

The Circus Tent has its home in beautiful Red Morton Park, specifically 1455 Madison Ave. There are multiple parking lots distributed around the park with an easy walk to the tent. On your stroll, see why Red Morton Park was voted Bay Area Parent Magazine's "Family Favorite" park, with its multiple sports fields perfect for lounging, flower gardens, and kid's playground.

The Zoppé Family Circus is a once-a-year event not to be missed, so get your tickets early! On sale online September 12<sup>th</sup>, and in person September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets at: <http://www.redwoodcity.org/residents/redwood-city-events/zoppe-italian-family-circus/admission-tickets>

More info: <http://www.redwoodcity.org/zoppe>

<http://www.zoppecircus.com>

Check out the excellent article (quoted above) about the Zoppé Family Circus at:

<http://roadsandkingdoms.com/2017/zoppe-family-circus>

### **Full Show Schedule**

10/13: 4pm & 7pm

10/14: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm

10/15: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/18: 6:30pm

10/19: 6:30pm

10/20: 4pm & 7pm

10/21: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm

10/22: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/25: 6:30pm

10/26: 6:30pm

10/27: 4pm & 7pm

10/28: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm

10/29: 12pm & 3pm (no 6pm)

### **Press/Ticket Information**

Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus.

Matinee & Evening Showtimes, October 13-29.

Circus Tent: 1455 Madison Ave., Red Morton Park, Redwood City

Youth: \$12-\$16, Adults: \$17-\$21, Front Row Seats: \$22-\$26

at <http://www.redwoodcity.org/residents/redwood-city-events/zoppe-italian-family-circus/admission-tickets>

### **Ticket Purchase**

Online at: <https://squareup.com/store/RWCZoppe>

In person on September 26<sup>th</sup>

9am-4pm at the Community Activities Building 1400 Roosevelt Ave Redwood City, CA 94061

At the Circus Tent: 2 hours prior to the first showtime of each day.

Cash and Credit Cards are accepted for in-person transactions.

Info at <http://www.redwoodcity.org/zoppe>

### **BLURB/PSA**

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### **Downloads:**

Hi-Res Images: <http://www.hopeinsite.com/rwc/zoppe/JoelWade-NEW/>

Full Press Release about the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversario Tour: <http://www.hopeinsite.com/rwc/pdfs/Zoppe-2017PressKit.pdf>

### **The Zoppé Family Circus Celebrates 175 Years**

The Zoppé Family Circus has an amazing, unique story. In 1948, Alberto Zoppé agreed to come to America and perform with the Ringling Bros.—under one condition. In his absence, his circus in Italy needed a headliner, so he

to the U.S. to perform as a bareback horse rider. He eventually appeared in Cecil B. DeMille's ode to the pageantry and drama of life under the big top, *The Greatest Show on Earth*. In the circus' heyday, Alberto's stunts and pranks, including his signature backflip from one horse to another, won over audiences lining up for three rings brimming with spectacle.

Alberto remains perhaps the most famous of the Zoppés. Today, Giovanni Zoppé, one of Alberto's five children, is the sixth generation of Zoppé to run this show since it began in 1842. Alberto's children, Giovanni, Tosca and Carla, along with their spouses, have all been active at one time or another in the family business. Giovanni revived the Zoppè Family Circus in America ten years ago, and has since been building its reputation with audiences and critics as an enchanting exhibition of traditional European circus.

Learn More about the Zoppé family and history:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/giovanni-zoppes-real-life-family-circus>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiKd2GxteDk>

### **On the treatment of their animals...**

The Zoppe Circus uses only domestic animals - dogs and horses - who are the personal pets of their owners. As family-owned pets, the animals are raised, transported and housed with expert, loving care. Some of the dogs in the show have been rescued from animal shelters by the Zoppe family.

The Zoppé Circus is proud to be supported by the following sponsors:  
Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services  
Supporting Sponsor: Boardwalk Auto Mall

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