

*"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 10, 2018

Contact: Albert Romero  
Redwood City Parks, Recreation  
and Community Services  
650-780-7311

**The City of Redwood City presents  
*Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus*  
Celebrating 176 Years!**

REDWOOD CITY – Founded in Venice, Italy in 1842, the Zoppé Italian Family Circus has been entertaining audiences for seven generations with its enchanting exhibition of European circus. For its 11<sup>th</sup> year in Redwood City, circus brings live performances from October 12<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> for spectacular two-hour shows that will enthrall the entire family!

The Zoppé Family Circus welcomes guests into the intimate 500 seat tent for a one-ring circus that honors the best history of the Old-World Italian tradition. Starring Nino the clown, and featuring his son Julien, the circus is propelled by a central story (as opposed to individual acts) that showcases acrobatic feats, equestrian showmanship, canine capers, clowning and plenty of audience participation. The Circus evokes something from a picture book: the clown, the trapeze, the dancing dogs, the ring and the tent, created to be reminiscent of the one-ring European family circuses of the last century and will thrill and amaze children and adults alike with its breathtaking stunts and astonishing acrobatics.

Sixth generation circus performer Giovanni Zoppé traces the beginning of performance art to the circus arts, with its humble beginnings in street clowns and jugglers. “The circus is antique,” he says, “it’s history.” In his case, it’s something more. It’s family history. Still, the show’s story line and acts change every year, so no worries if you saw a prior Redwood City gig. While based in history and tradition, this year's show will feature a couple of new acts, including several performances by guest artists.

The Circus Tent has a home in beautiful Red Morton Park, specifically 1455 Madison Ave. There are multiple parking lots distributed around the park and it is an easy stroll to the tent. On your stroll, see why Red Morton Park was voted Bay Area Parent Magazines “Family Favorite” park of 2013 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!

Tickets at:

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

<http://www.zoppecircus.com>

Check out the excellent article about the Zoppé Family Circus at:

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

Check out our Zoppé Promo Video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo9iMB0wOGA>

## **Full Show Schedule**

10/12: 4pm & 7pm  
10/13: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm  
10/14: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/17: 6:30pm  
10/18: 6:30pm  
10/19: 4pm & 7pm  
10/20: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm  
10/21: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/24: 6:30pm  
10/25: 6:30pm  
10/26: 4pm & 7pm  
10/27: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm  
10/28: 12pm & 3pm & 6pm

10/31: 6:30pm  
11/1: 6:30pm  
11/2: 4pm & 7pm  
11/3: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm  
11/4: 12pm & 3pm

## **Press/Ticket Information**

Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus.

Matinee & Evening Showtimes, October 12 - November 4.

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

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

at 650.780.7586 or

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

## **Blurb/PSA**

The Zoppé Family Circus welcomes guests into the intimate 500 seat tent in Red Morton Park in Redwood City from October 12<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> for matinee and evening show times. This one-ring circus honors the best history of the Old-World Italian tradition and stars Nino the clown, along with many other thrilling acts. The circus is propelled by a central story (as opposed to individual acts) that feature acrobatic feats, equestrian showmanship, canine capers, clowning and plenty of audience participation. Ticket and info at: <http://www.redwoodcity.org/zoppe>

## **Detailed Ticket Prices**

Weekdays: Youth \$12/Adult \$17/Front Row All Ages \$22

1st Weekend: Youth \$15/Adult \$20/Front Row All Ages \$25

2nd & 3rd Weekends: Youth \$16/Adult \$21/Front Row All Ages \$26

Ages: Youth 2-11, Adults 12+

Children under 2 must sit on laps - NO CAR SEATS

## **Ticket Purchase**

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

In person on October 2nd-11th from 9am-3pm at the Community Activities Building

1400 Roosevelt Ave Redwood City, CA 94061

At the Circus Tent after October 12th: 2 hours prior to the first showtime of each day.

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

TICKET HOTLINE: 650.780.7586 for up-to-date information about tickets and sold out shows

## **New Acts for 2018**

### **Los Rios**

Jamie Diana Suarez, a Mexican American 6th generation circus artist, and Samer Solis have born into the circus world 2 beautiful daughters to follow the traditions they hold dear. Six-year-old Alexa loves performing with her parents and uncles in the circus. Together, with featured jumper, Carlos Rios and his wife Catherine Poema Rios, the Rios troupe, all the way from Guadalajara Mexico, showcase their mastery of balance and timing upon the trampoline under the beautiful tent of the Zoppè Family Circus.

### **Catherine Hanneford Poema Rios - Lyra**

An 8th generation circus performer, Catherine comes from two distinct circus families in Europe and Argentina. Since the age of two she has been performing alongside her family as they mastered acrobatic acts and displayed equestrian horsemanship. Following in the footsteps of her late grandmother, Struppi Hanneford, Catherine both soothes and amazes the crowd with her elegantly powerful aerial stunts. Watch as she effortlessly ascends into the air upon the lyra trapeze and captivates the audience.

### **Duo Straight Up**

Rachel Randell and Nick Lowery have been charming audiences together since 2014 in the States, Mexico, and Canada with their duo Chinese Pole act. While doing freelance dance and choreography Rachel discovered circus arts with Professor Bud's Mini-Circus, a youth troupe in the Yakima Valley of Washington State. Nick began his sideways stumble into the world of circus while studying mathematics at Oberlin College. After degree completion, he found his way to coaching at the School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts (SANCA), where he happily met Rachel, who was coaching circus arts. Duo Straight up performs on the Chinese Pole, an austere and difficult apparatus. Duo Straight Up has electric performance chemistry and audiences will gasp at their display of enormous strength and surprising tricks.

### **La Familia Sanchez**

Osbaldo Sanchez has been performing in the circus for 37 years. Everything he knows about the circus was taught to him by Nanucho, an Argentinian man who was like a grandfather to him. This year he has created a Russian Swing and turned the reins over to his sons, Owen and Chiqui. An act beginning just before the 1900s, the Russian Swing propels acrobats astonishingly high, giving them enough altitude to perform a series of flips and twists before being caught in fabric by the strength of their fellow circus artists

### **About The Zoppé Circus:**

The Zoppé Family Circus has an amazing, unique story. The Zoppè Family Circus emerged more than 160 years ago to become one of the legendary circuses in all of Europe. And like many good legends, it begins with a boy and a girl falling in love. In 1842, a young French street performer named Napoline Zoppè wandered into a plaza in Budapest, Hungary, looking for work. There, his eyes glanced upon a beautiful equestrian ballerina named Ermenegilda, who captured the hearts and minds of the crowd with her grace and showmanship. More importantly, this talented beauty captured Napoline's heart.

However, since Napoline was a clown, Ermenegilda'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. Alberto Zoppè, Napoline's great-grandson, inherited the circus almost 100 years later.

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 eight years ago, and has since been building its reputation with audiences and critics as an enchanting exhibition of traditional European circus.

**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 sponsored by the City of Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

(end)