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

For Immediate Release

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The City of Redwood City presents Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus The 7th Generation

REDWOOD CITY – The Circus is coming to town! Redwood City is pleased to welcome, for the eighth year, Zoppé, An Italian Family Circus from October 9th through October 25th for spectacular two-hour performances 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, 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.

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. Giovanni's son Julien Veneto Zoppé, who was born at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City in 2009 and made his first appearance in the family circus when he was just six days old, celebrates his sixth birthday this year. Folks who attend "Zoppé An Italian Family Circus" during its Oct. 9-25 run at Red Morton Park might see him perform alongside his father as his mini me, "Nineto". Julien will participate for a week this year, and while his specialty is being quite adorable, he also performs hat tricks, balancing acts and more. Giovanni's sister, Tosca, continues in her family's footsteps by combining death-defying equestrian feats with exquisite grace as she dances on horseback.

"The show changes every year," explains Zoppé. So no worries if you saw last year's Redwood City gig. Highlights of this year's show include several performances by guest artists which features two new acts: the world-famous Black Bear Group interprets one of China's oldest art forms with dazzling acrobatic displays and Jose and Elizabeth Ayala from Mexico bring Rolla bolla performances and gravity defying hair hanging.

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: <u>https://www.mkt.com/rcpaf</u> <u>http://www.redwoodcity.org/events/zoppe.html</u> <u>http://www.zoppecircus.com</u> Meet the Zoppé Family at: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiKd2GxteDk</u>

Full Show Schedule

10/9: 4pm & 7pm 10/10: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm 10/11: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/13: 6:30pm 10/14: 6:30pm 10/15: 6:30pm 10/16: 4pm & 7pm 10/17: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm 10/18: 12pm, 3pm & 6pm

10/20: 6:30pm 10/21: 6:30pm 10/22: 6:30pm 10/23: 4pm & 7pm 10/23: 12pm, 3pm & 7pm 10/25: 12pm & 3pm

Press/Ticket Information

Zoppé - An Italian Family Circus. Matinee & Evening Showtimes, October 9-25. 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/events/zoppe.html

Blurb/PSA

The Zoppé Family Circus welcomes guests into the intimate 500 seat tent in Red Morton Park in Redwood City from October 9th through the 25th 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: www.redwoodcity.org/events/zoppe.html

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: <u>https://www.mkt.com/rcpaf</u> In person: 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. TICKET HOTLINE: 650.780.7586 for up-to-date information about tickets and sold out shows or <u>https://www.mkt.com/rcpaf</u>

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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tt_3GNqp3LY

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.

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