Dear Friends,

We are extraordinarily happy to be here with you – live, in person – in the Big Top, for this one-weekend only event, “The St. Lou Revue”! We are thrilled to be able to bring together the best in St. Louis entertainment, including circus artists (of course) as well as our other friends in the arts community; in this way, we honor the St. Louis community who tirelessly supported Circus Flora from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to this day, on which we welcome you back into the Big Top for “The St. Lou Revue” and announce the rescheduled “Trial of the Century” this fall!

While some things may look a bit different this summer – the masks, the space between seats – Circus Flora's mission remains the same, as it has for over 30 years: to bring joy, delight, and laughter to life through the magic of circus and community outreach.

In 2020, that mission looked a bit different than in years past! Instead of our annual summer production in the Big Top, Circus Flora presented a “Virtual Showcase” in June and the online “Out of Bounds Circus” show in December. Both featured the amazing acts our St. Louis audiences have come to expect – aerialists! horses! jugglers! – albeit performing from their homes, keeping their skills sharp during the pandemic until they could return to live stages. Instead of making in-person rounds, our Clowns on Call clown doctors made virtual visits at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital via iPads. One way or another, the show did go on.

On behalf of the entire Circus Flora company, thank you for your support. We hope that you enjoy this weekend’s production, and will join us October 7 – 31, 2021, for “The Trial of the Century” in the Big Top! In the meantime, we invite you to read further and learn more about our amazing cast of artists and crew.

With sincere gratitude for our dedicated sponsors, donors, volunteers, and audience members,
CIRCUS FLORA TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Jack Marsh

SHOW DIRECTOR + GLORIFIED STAGE MANAGER
Joseph Pinzon

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Karen Shoulders

DEVELOPMENT + SALES MANAGER
Chloe Shoulders

ARTISTS AND CREATIVE TEAM

AHSA-TI NU – SINGER
AhSa-Ti Nu is a multi-disciplinary artist, sound engineer, and producer whose work is rooted in soul, jazz, R&B and gospel. Established as a solo artist in 2015, she utilizes soulfully based music in a contemporary context to tell the untold stories of marginalized communities. AhSa-Ti Nu’s creative process centers on the integrity and social context of communities of color, showing how music and poetry can act as modes of resistance and empowerment for the marginalized. Her work seeks to provide a platform for underrepresented communities and to create a space for the voices and experiences of women of color to be heard and seen. AhSa-Ti Nu uses her performances to challenge racism, misogyny, misrepresentation, and centuries of oppression. The content of her presentations are deeply rooted in the rich sounds of African-American music through jazz, blues, R&B, gospel, reggae, and rock as she seeks to engage in mutual teaching and learning with community members.

AUDREY CRABTREE – CLOWN
Audrey Crabtree is thrilled to join you and her fellow clown partners from Circus Flora’s own Clowns on Call in the Big Top. Her collaborative theatrical work has won a Drama Desk Award, a New York Innovative Theater Award, a Hola award, and two Downtown Clown Golden Noses. At the Cirque Du Soleil/Club Med Collaboration “Creactive,” she directed and was the lead clown. Audrey co-founded the NY Clown Theatre Festival and worked with Big Apple Circus Clown Care, toured with Clowns Without Borders, and now works regularly with the Laughter League. To find out more about performances and workshops, see www.audrey-crabtree.com.
**CElia ShAckettA - cляn**

Born & raised a Kansan, Celia moved to St. Louis in 2001 to make friends through music. With live performances in a variety of bands & acts, music lessons, and Circus Flora’s Clowns on Call, Celia gets to do just that. For more about Celia, please visit [www.celiaisrock.com](http://www.celiaisrock.com) and [www.youtube.com/c/celialater](http://www.youtube.com/c/celialater)!

**Chauncey Kroner - Hoop Diver**

My name is Chauncey Kroner and I’m 23 years old. I started circus at the age of 12. I’ve performed in both Chicago and New York City. My specialties are Hoop Diving, Diabolo, and Acrobatics. I chose to do circus because I love entertaining people and being able to show off my amazing skills and abilities to the world. I’ve always aspired to be a part of Cirque du Soleil, 7 Fingers, and many other amazing circus shows. In December of 2019, I was hired to perform with one of Cirque du Soleil’s company Cirque events and hope to perform with them soon.

**Chloe ShouLders - dEvelopment and SAles cOOrdinAtor**

Chloe joined the Circus Flora staff in a full-time capacity in January of 2021. She has worked her way up to this point, having initially volunteered with Circus Flora during the “Pastime” production in 2016 and working various positions during multiple show seasons since then. In August of 2020 she entered Circus Flora’s administrative realm for the first time as a Development Associate before achieving her current position. Chloe is a recent graduate of Truman State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Science, a B.A. in History, and a minor in Anthropology. She has worked in development for the past five years.

**Circus Harmony’s St. Louis Arches - Acrobatics**

The St. Louis Arches are the premier youth performance troupe from Circus Harmony, St. Louis’ social circus school. The Arches are under the direction of Circus Harmony’s Artistic and Executive Director, Jessica Hentoff. She has been teaching and performing circus arts for over 46 years. She’s been using circus arts to help children defy gravity and other limitations since establishing the St. Louis Arches in 1989. Jessica created Circus Harmony in 2001 to expand circus opportunities for St. Louis youth. Circus Harmony uses the teaching and performing of circus arts to motivate social change. The Arches are currently comprised of young people 10 to 18 years old from throughout the St. Louis area. These acclaimed and accomplished flying children appear year-round in their “home ring” at City Museum as well as at events throughout St. Louis and beyond. The Arches perform a wide variety of circus arts including acrobatic, aerial, juggling, and balancing feats of skill and daring. They are also trained as circus teachers. This year the Arches will be starting a new cornerstone project, Architecture and Acrobats, where they will tell the stories of historically significant architectural sites in St. Louis through shows and videos. To learn more, book the Arches, or sign up for circus classes, visit [www.circusharmony.org](http://www.circusharmony.org).
ELLIANA GRACE – HULA HOOPS

Elliana Grace has been in the circus since before she could even walk. Her first entry into a circus ring was right here at Circus Flora at just 2 weeks old. Raised in St. Louis as a member of Circus Harmony’s élite youth troupe - the St. Louis Arches - with additional education at the École de Cirque de Québec, she has performed and taught in Montreal, Israel, Dubai, and all across America. She has extensive experience in such disciplines as lyra (solo and duo), static trapeze, tumbling, hula hoops, bareback horse riding, upside-down loop walking, and more. In 2013, she toured as Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey’s youngest-ever female human cannonball. Currently she is the lead coach at Circus Harmony here in St. Louis. Follow her on Instagram: @_elliana_grace_!

JACK MARSH – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jack Marsh has served in a variety of roles at Circus Flora, beginning in 1986 when he was just two years old: he rode a Clydesdale also named Jack. Marsh has since served the company through his juggling, acrobatics, and creative energy. After working as a corporate attorney in New York, Marsh ran away to re-join the circus, inspired to help Circus Flora create new and innovative productions. He also serves as the Executive Producer of the Big Apple Circus, out of New York City. Marsh holds a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

JOSEPH PINZON – SHOW DIRECTOR & GLORIFIED STAGE MANAGER

Joseph Pinzon is the founder and creative producer of Short Round Productions, the Los Angeles-based circus company that created the show Filament. With over 25 years of international performing experience, Joseph also holds an MS in Arts Leadership from USC, a BA in Psychology from UCLA, and is a graduate of the National Circus School in Montreal, where he specialized in aerial techniques. He has worked around the world with companies such as Cirque Éloize, Compagnia Finzi Pasca, Cirque du Soleil, Les 7 Doigts de la Main, Châmaleur Productions GmbH, and Wintergarten Varieté. In addition to serving as the Casting, Assistant, and Resident Director for Constellation Immersive, he is also a member of the Creative & Independent Producer Alliance and a founding board member of the American Circus Alliance.

KAREN SHOULDERS – MANAGING DIRECTOR

Karen joined the Circus Flora staff in May 2016, making the leap from Big Top volunteer to Development Director at the start of the “Pastime” production. She was promoted to Director of Operations & Development in 2018, then Managing Director in 2019. In addition to a love of circus, she brought 12+ years of experience in nonprofit Development and Community Engagement to the organization. Previously with the Arthritis Foundation, Karen honed her skills in fundraising campaigns & events, children's programming, advocacy and volunteer recruitment & engagement. In 2020, Karen became a founding board member of the American Circus Alliance.
ARTISTS AND CREATIVE TEAM

**KELLIN – HOST & JUGGLER**

Born and raised right here in St. Louis, Kellin has been performing under this very Big Top since he was a young child. Growing up as one of Circus Harmony's St. Louis Arches, he went from being thrown to doing the throwing. At the ripe age of 17, he moved to Montreal to attend circus college. After graduating, he had a fantastic two years entertaining crowds around the world. That was until around April of 2020, when he decided it was best to maybe just stay home for a little while. He’s now vaccinated and back in action, ready for any possible bookings.

**KINETIC TAPESTRY – DUO DANCE TRAPEZE**

Kinetic Tapestry was founded in 2009 by the husband-and-wife team of Jaime and Vanessa, and ever since then the company has been thrilling audiences across the country and the globe at festivals, circuses, corporate events, schools, churches, and more. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Jaime has well over two decades of professional experience in live theater, television, and film. His training in mime, clowning, and even trapeze make him a natural for entertaining audiences and training others. Vanessa is a native of St. Louis. She has a background in theater, dance and music. Vanessa has performed professionally with numerous theater and dance companies. Combining her 20-plus years’ dance and theatre experience with circus training, she now excels at aerial silks, lyra, and other apparatus. Very near to Kinetic Tapestry, her heart is with community involvement, both locally and around the world. Jaime and Vanessa have traveled to Mexico, Honduras, Scotland, England, Spain, Nicaragua, Switzerland, and Egypt to provide free workshops and performances for refugees and arts professionals. In 2017, they brought joy to families in the towns of Puerto Rico through relief shows in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Here at home, Kinetic Tapestry partners with organizations like Freedom Arts and Education, First Steps Back Home, Oasis International, and DASA to bring circus training and performances into the community. With a combined 35 years of teaching experience, they offer classes and workshops, for both adults and children, at their Circus Barn in St. Louis in a wide array of artistic expressions, from trapeze to theatre, tumbling to juggling, silks to clowning. "Captivating audiences, equipping artists" isn't just a tagline – it’s the heartbeat of Kinetic Tapestry.

**LAURA LIPPERT – HAIR HANG**

Laura is a St. Louis native and graduate of Central Visual and Performing Arts High School. She has been performing on stage since the age of 4 and has been working around the world as a professional circus and variety performer for over 13 years. She has trained with top coaches in Chicago, Montreal, and Stockholm. In addition to live performances, she has done a commercial for Pantene in Madrid, Spain and, most recently, was a part of “Stage 54 Bar Tricks” on The Late Late Show with James Corden. She has happily settled back home here in St. Louis after living abroad for years, working at Circus Harmony in addition to working on some projects of her own. Stay tuned at lauralippet.com! Laura is performing to “Are You Alone” by an old friend and local musician, Natalie Huggins, nataliehuggins.com.
LUCY SCHROEDER – LIGHTS & SOUND DESIGNER

As a St. Louis native, Lucy is thrilled to be returning to her hometown circus for this special show. This will be her tenth show over nine years with Circus Flora. In addition to working with Circus Flora, Lucy can be found doing lighting around St. Louis and working as a Stage Supervisor at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL. Lucy can also be seen onstage, performing with the Lunar Fusion dance troupe and as a solo artist.

MARIEL A LA MODE – TRAPEZE ARTIST & SINGER

Mariel a la Mode grew up traveling with Carson & Barnes and Franzen Bros. Circus with her third-generation family of musicians. She began her performance career as an aerialist in her family’s show, The Reynolds Family Circus. On her off-seasons, she trained classically on harp, violin, oboe, and voice. Her formative years were spent alternately as a St. Louis University theatre student, and living as an expat – singing in jazz clubs and studying at Ecole du Cirque Menival in Lyon, France. Afterwards, she went on to circus "graduate school" at San Francisco's Circus Center, where she studied aerial arts and Mongolian contortion. The past decade has taken her across the country and back, as an aerialist in The Zoppé Family Circus, in a Super Bowl commercial with the cast of Glee, opening for Willie Nelson, and as a singer in Teatro ZinZanni. She moved back to the Midwest with her family, where she continues creating and collaborating on works that feature multiple disciplines and fabulous costumes. Look out for her this summer as the Associate Director/Performer in On The Fly Productions’ premiere of The Peter Pan Effect and future projects at www.marielalamode.com! Mariel is performing and singing live to an arrangement of “Carmen Suite No. 2: Habanera” remixed by Darian Wigfall.

MOSTLY TAP – TAP DANCE

moSTLy TAP is a professional tap dance ensemble, committed to sharing their respect and enthusiasm for the art of tap dance in the St. Louis area. The moSTLy TAP performance ensemble is part of nonprofit performing arts education organization, STL Rhythm Collaborative. The Collaborative connects individuals of all ages by presenting a variety of public events, offers growing education programs in music, dance, & wellness, and inspires audiences through exceptional performances of moSTLy TAP & moSTLy JAZZ.

Dancers for June 4th: Amy Gammon, Maria Majors, Megan Mayer
Dancers for June 5th: Maria Majors, Tommy Wasiuta
Dancers for June 6th: Maria Majors, Megan Mayer
Rhythm Collaborative: www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org
Facebook & Instagram: @stlrhythmcollaborative
ARTISTS AND CREATIVE TEAM

PURINA INCREDIBLE DOG TEAM

The Purina Incredible Dog Team is headed by trainers Deb Mardin and Apryl Lea Venner. Deb has been performing with her dogs for over 10 years with a concentration in flying disc and other dog sports. She joined the Purina Incredible Dog Team in 2020 as the Senior Dog Trainer. Apryl has been performing with her dogs for over 20 years with a concentration in flying disc and service dogs. She is the newest member to the Purina Incredible Dog Team, just starting in May of 2021.

THOM WALL – JUGGLER

Thom is the founder of Modern Vaudeville Press, an independent publishing company that produces original writings about the circus. After completing a five-year tour, juggling for Cirque du Soleil’s Totem, Wall now resides in Philadelphia where he researches circus history, consults for area nonprofits, and coaches at Circadium: School of Contemporary Circus. He holds a Masters’ of Science in Nonprofit Arts Administration from Drexel University (2015), and was awarded La Medalla Crotalus Scholalis by the Mesoamerican University in Puebla, Mexico for his work revitalizing forgotten juggling disciplines.

TOM EGGERS – CLOWN & RIGGER

After an extensive period of training, studying, and performing, Tom Eggers has established himself as one of St. Louis’ highly regarded comedic performers, appearing in a multitude of stage and variety productions. With a B.F.A. in Theatre and nearly 20 years of performance experience, Eggers specializes in theatricality, stage presence, and character development. In addition to being with Flora’s "Clowns on Call" program for over 6 years, Eggers’ professional career has included working with several world renowned performers; teaching aerial & circus arts; as well as implementing his technical rigging skills for many St. Louis theatres and aerialists – including Circus Flora. In 2008 he served as Ringmaster for Circus Zoppé, and since has contributed his talents to Circus Harmony, Vampire Circus, and local rock show El Monstero.
MISSION

The mission of Circus Flora is to bring joy, delight, and laughter to life through the magic of circus and community outreach.

Support our mission and DONATE HERE today!

HISTORY

Commissioned by famed Italian composer Gian Carlo Menotti for the Spoleto Festival in 1986, Circus Flora immediately set about creating productions unlike most Americans had seen before – productions that melded the best elements of traditional European circus with modern theater techniques and sensibilities. From the very beginning, every Circus Flora production has been an original performance, its storyline often rooted in history or literature. Through the narrative, individual acts are woven into a cohesive story, further developed and enhanced by live music composed specifically for the productions. Over the past 35 years, Circus Flora has become part of the cultural fabric of St. Louis — an anticipated event and harbinger of summer in the city.

Owing to its leading role in revitalizing circus as a professional performing art, Circus Flora has garnered national and international recognition, receiving many special performance invitations over its more than three-decade history. In 1997, Circus Flora’s big top tent was the first ever to be erected at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in 2002, the tent was raised at The Lincoln Center Festival in New York City. Additionally, the Circus has made an unprecedented six appearances at the prestigious Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, and five appearances on the Island of Nantucket.

Circus Flora showcases world-class talent by both new artists and venerable talent. Their performances represent the continuation and evolution of circus arts and ensure its future for generations to come.
In addition to Circus Flora’s main season production, the organization has increased its year-round presence through productions in partnership with a variety of cultural organizations, as well as several outreach programs. These programs share a guiding principle of making the art form accessible to all. Through Share the Circus, over 3,000 tickets are donated every year to children and families who would otherwise be unable to attend the performance owing to socio-economic barriers. Circus Flora’s Clowns on Call initiative, first piloted in 2011, provides year-round therapeutic clowning at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital. We are also pleased to offer two special engagements: our Peanut-Free Preview and Sensory-Friendly Performance.

CIRCUS FLORA ADMINISTRATION

Managing Director – Karen Shoulders
Artistic Director – Jack Marsh
Development and Sales Coordinator – Chloe Shoulders
Clowns on Call Coordinator – Audrey Crabtree

CIRCUS FLORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Ann Srenco – President
Andrew Srenco – Treasurer
Susan Barrett – Director
Jim Downey – Director
Chris Hansen – Director
Pam Krekeler – Director
Susan Werremeyer – Director

CONTRACTORS

Creative Services – Beau Shoulders, New Scar Design
Marketing – Brooke Foster & Janelle Messel, Novella
Accounting + Payroll – Melanie Wilson, Lopata, Flegel & Company, LLP

THANK YOU TO OUR IN-KIND DONORS!
Lawyers! Clerks! Procedural rules! Sound like the perfect family entertainment? Maybe not. But, with Circus Flora assigned to the case, the Big Top becomes the courtroom, acrobats the evidence, and you yourself the jury!

Join Circus Flora for “The Trial of the Century,” Circus Flora’s 34th annual show! As Circus Flora’s storytellers will describe, malfeasance and misconduct have occurred in the circus tent. But all the witnesses saw something different, and all the evidence points to contradictory conclusions.

The only certainty is that with Circus Flora in October 2021, you’ll be in for a wild ride of joy, laughter, beauty, and daring as we gather the best circus acts from around the world into the intimacy of the Big Top. Bring your family, bring your friends, bring a date, or bring your lawyer — you don’t want to miss Circus Flora’s “The Trial of the Century”!

We are looking forward to returning to the Big Top for a full show season. Please keep an eye on our website for more information in the coming weeks!