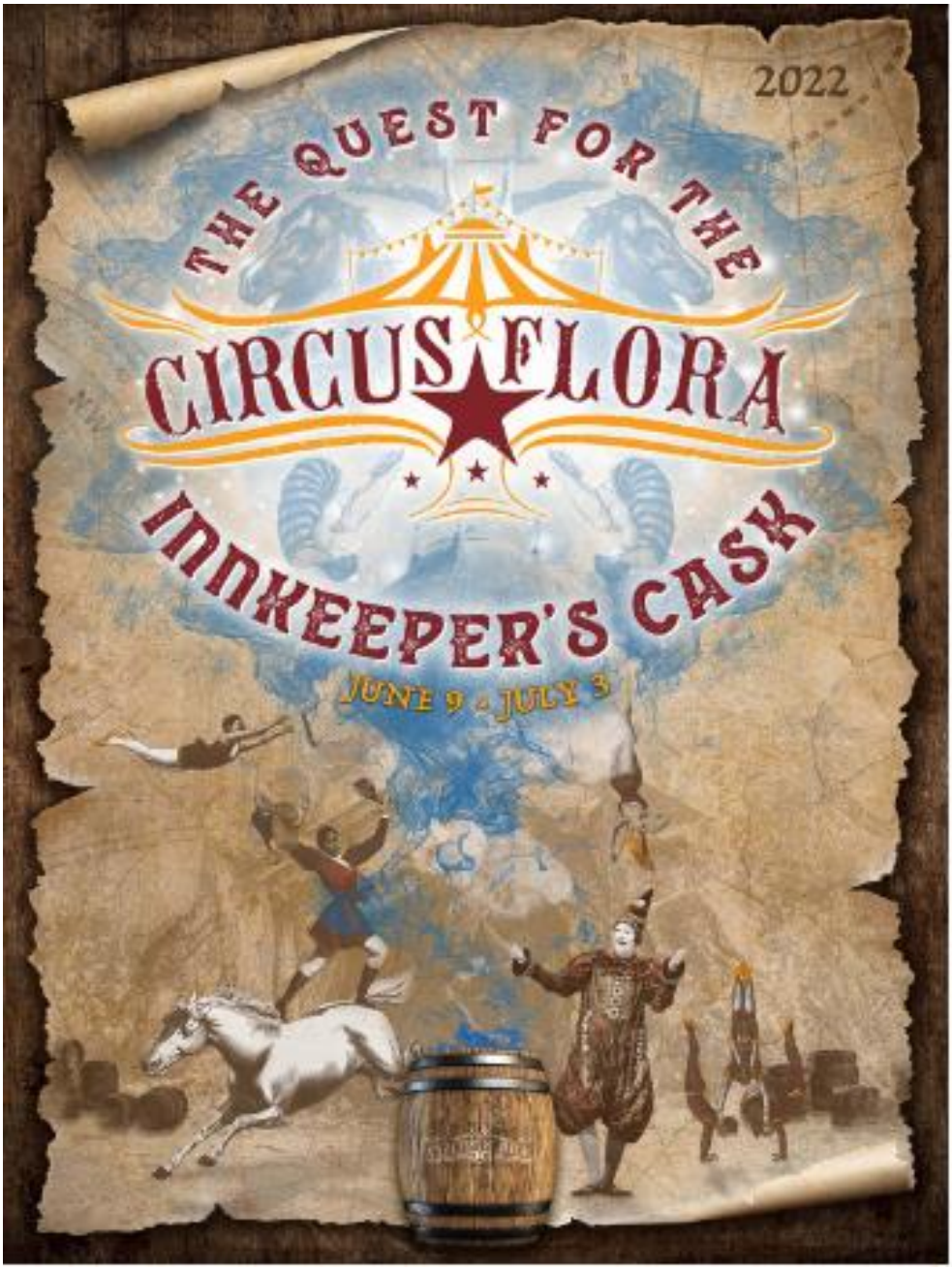
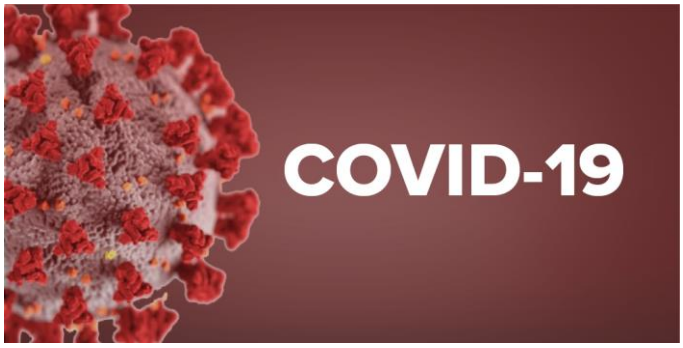
A Trip To



Story prepared by:

easterseals Midwest

Please note that MindsEye is also partnering with Circus Flora to offer accommodations to those individuals with visual impairments. MindsEye's Audio Description means that every person who attends a theatre production, regardless of visual impairment, has the chance to experience a rewarding performance. The attendee borrows a headset, free of charge with a ticket, and listens as the audio describer explains costumes, sets, and on-stage action. Feel free to take part in this service if needed.



Before leaving home, please keep in mind the following COVID guidelines:

- Circus Flora will no longer be requiring proof of vaccination or negative test
- While not required, wearing a mask is encouraged
- Check the website for updates to these guidelines as they are subject to change https://circusflora.org/covid-19/

When you go to Circus Flora, there will be lots of things to see and experience. Keep in mind, the circus has moved to its permanent home in Grand Center but still takes place in a big, red tent.

When you arrive, you will line up next to the Box Office, which is a white trailer, to show your ticket. The first tent you will enter has food and items to buy. You can buy food before the show or during intermission. You are allowed to bring in some snacks if you are on a special diet or aren't a fan of the food they provide. There are also merchandise booths where you can buy toys and circus-themed items. These will be available for purchase after the show as well. You might have to wait in line for all of these choices.

If you go out the left side of the concession stand, you will be able to follow it to one entrance to the big top. If you need to use the restroom, there will be portable bathrooms as well as one indoor bathroom and handwashing stations are also on the left side of the concessions tent.

There are accessible restrooms available if you need it. Because the toilets have to use chemicals to keep clean, they can have a strong smell.

Also on the left side of the Big Top is a face painting station and, during intermission, there might be a pig near the Box Office that you can look at and pet, for a small fee.

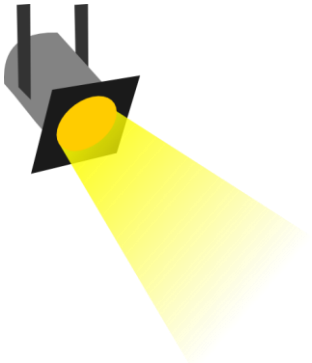
If you leave from the right side of the concession stand, there will be several things to do and see. You might see someone playing a guitar and singing. During intermission, the ponies from the show will be here and you can pay to ride them. There might be quite a few people surrounding these performers, so it may get a bit crowded, plus the people watching the acts will cheer and clap.

The hospitality tent is also on this side. If you need a quiet place to relax before, during or after the performance, this might be a good spot for you. They will also have water and sodas available.

When it's time to enter the big top, you might have to wait in line again while people make their way inside. Once you enter the big top an usher, usually wearing a red apron, will offer to help you find your seat. When you enter, you'll hear music playing. Some of the sides of the tent are being kept open, so it could be warm or cool depending on the temperature outside.

Inside, you will notice that the circus tent is in the shape of a circle, and all of the seats surround a central ring. No matter where you sit, you will have a good view of what will be happening in the circus ring. You will notice equipment in the ring, and wires and poles reaching up to the top of the tent. Throughout the show, workers wearing blue Hawaiian shirts will use the equipment for different acts and performances.

There will be lights all throughout the tent, and they will shine brighter and darker at different times throughout the show. There also will be spotlights that will shine occasionally. These lights are meant to direct your attention to different parts of the performance as the action changes location. Depending on where you are sitting, sometimes a very bright light may shine in your eyes. If this bothers you, you can either close your eyes or look away for a moment. The spotlight won't last long.



There will be many different noises inside the tent. There will be people talking over a loud speaker, a real band will be playing musical instruments and one of the performers will often talk using a microphone. The band will be located to one side of the ring. This music will involve drums, horns and cymbals, and at times, it can be very loud. The band will be playing music in the background for the entire show as a way to help excite the audience and cue the circus performers for different acts. If the music gets too loud, you can cover your ears or use earplugs or headphones. If there are times when it is too loud and you need to take a break, you can walk slowly and quietly to the exit and go outside to the hospitality tent. It's a big, white tent.

During the show, one performer will serve as the main announcer and help narrate the story. You will notice that she wears a clown outfit with blue hair and has her face painted white. When the show is over and everyone has gone home, she will take her makeup off. There will also be several other actors called the St. Louis Super Sleuths, who will do several small acts throughout the show that often include interacting with the audience.

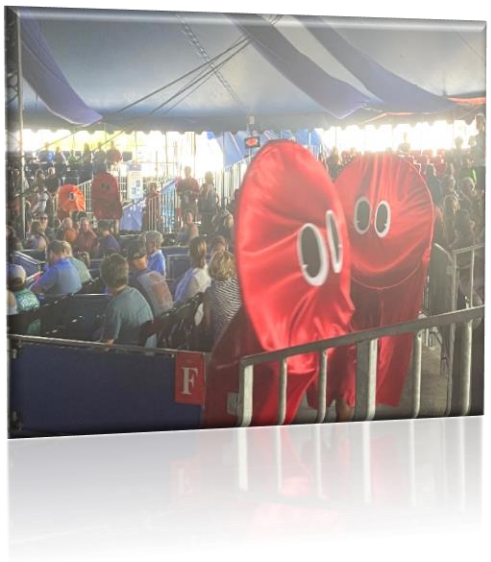
There will be many performers who do different kinds of wonderful acts. They train for hours and hours for years to be able to perform like they do. You should never try these kinds of stunts on your own or without lots of training. They can be very dangerous. Don't worry, though, what the performers will be doing may look very scary, but they will be safe.

Some of the performances you will see include a high wire act, hand balancing & foot juggling and acrobatics. There is another act that involves horses and ponies. At times, these horses will gallop around the ring while the riders do tricks.

The horses move very fast and kick up a bit of dust. At one point, they light a ring of fire for the horses to jump through. The final act is the Flying Trapeze, during which you might not be able to walk in the aisles. They will have wires coming across the main walkway. Cones will be up so you will know where you can't walk. If any of these acts make you nervous, you can close your eyes, turn around or ask to take a break.

Fun things will happen in between acts as the workers are setting up the ring. The St. Louis Super Sleuths will try to do small performances and will interact with the audience. They might ask for volunteers from the audience to help them. If they asks for your help, you can either go with them, say “No thanks” or even just shake your head no.

There will also be people dressed up as ghosts. Some are red and one is a REALLY tall lady. They might run through the aisles at different points during the show. They may come from behind you. The audience will be asked to yell “Ghost” when you see them. You don’t have to do this if you don’t want to.



In between acts, workers often will have to run very quickly into the circus ring to move equipment. Many times, performers and workers will use the aisles by your seat as a way to enter the circus ring. You may not notice them because they will come from behind you, and this can sometimes be startling.

The narrator and the performers love it when the audience claps and cheers them on. Sometimes, it can be really loud, but the louder it gets, the more the performers like it. The performers might even pause and wait for the audience to cheer them on before they will continue their act. Other performers might come over and make a comment to you or ask for a high five. You can give them a high five or say, “No thank you.”

At the end of the show, there will be lots of cheering and applauding, and all of the performers will come back out to get one last round of applause.

**Please keep in mind that you may be attending a shortened version of this show. If you are, the performance will last about one hour and will not have an intermission. In order to shorten the show, some of the acts will not occur.

Circus Flora's "The Quest for the Innkeeper’s Cask" is a wonderful performance, and we think you will love it. Please enjoy!

This special Sensory Friendly Performance is a collaboration between Circus Flora and Easterseals Midwest, which is dedicated to changing the way the world defines and views disability.

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