



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
Written and Directed by David Shiner

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL EXTENDS MELBOURNE SEASON OF 'KOOZA'

New and final shows on sale this Friday

****Season extended until March 26. No further extension possible! ****

Melbourne, VIC – January 11, 2017 – *Cirque du Soleil* arrives in Melbourne next week with the new production *KOOZA*, which will open under the famous blue-and-yellow Big Top at Flemington Racecourse on Friday January 20, 2017. Due to incredible demand, *Cirque du Soleil* is pleased to announce that the Melbourne season will be extended by two weeks until Sunday March 26 2017. No further extension will be possible.

Tickets for the final two weeks of the Melbourne season of *KOOZA* will go on sale this Friday 13 January at www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza or by phone on toll free 1800 036 685.

One of the most physically astonishing shows in the *Cirque du Soleil* stable, *KOOZA* is a colourful, sparkling homage to the traditions of circus, combining thrilling acrobatics with the art of clowning.

Cirque du Soleil's casting teams search the world for performers at the very top of their craft and this quest for the best is evident in *KOOZA*, which features breath-taking acts on a scale not regularly seen by local audiences. Some of these include:

The Double High Wire: Two high wires are suspended 5 metres and 8 metres above the stage. The artists are third and sixth generation circus performers and their expert ability allows them to perform feats in the air that most of us would find difficult to do on the ground.

Wheel of Death: *KOOZA's* 700 kilogram Wheel of Death rotates at heart-stopping speeds, powered only by the two artists who leap and counter-rotate in a death-defying display of fearless acrobatics and astonishing teamwork.

The Teeterboard: The Teeterboard is a giant see-saw that flings artists into the air, where they execute quintuple twisting somersaults—and that's just the prelude! The troupe of over 10 acrobats perform stunts of ever-increasing complexity including spinning 9 metres above the stage and landing with metal stilts strapped to their legs.

The stunning costumes, designed by Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt, have been inspired by the painter Klimt, the Mad Max movies, ancient designs from India and Eastern Europe, clock mechanisms, tin soldiers and more – together the overall look is Alice in Wonderland meets Baron Munchausen meets Wizard of Oz.

About *KOOZA*

The international cast of 50 acrobats, musicians, singers and actors present heart-stopping feats and laugh-out loud antics to a live soundtrack fusion of jazz, funk and Bollywood beats. With nods to Carnivale, the Day of the Dead, military fashion, rock and roll and 1920s cotton club glamour, *KOOZA* is a visual feast. We follow The Innocent as he takes a journey of self-discovery through a comic kingdom of eccentric characters, electrifying thrills and out-of-the-box surprises.

"This is Cirque du Soleil's pinnacle... so spectacular, so obviously death-defying, so totally insane that I found myself with my hands over my face. We all love Cirque du Soleil but this time they have outdone themselves. And I haven't laughed so much in ages."

The Courier Mail

"Spell-binding feats have you gasping... remarkable acrobatic and other physical skills wrapped up in a slick, lavish staging... the performers are exceptional."

The Sunday Telegraph

"KOOZA delivers in all areas...never fails to elicit gasps from the audience... packs a thrill of danger... the final scene is as touching as anything I've seen from this company."

Sydney Morning Herald

"tribute to the golden days of circus...joyous to behold... human beings doing bizarre things for the enjoyment of others and getting a huge kick out of it."

The Australian

"Super heroes don't exist in Marvel comics – they live, breathe and perform each night under the Grand Chapiteau. You simply have to buy a ticket."

Dance Hub Magazine

Stay connected with **KOOZA** on Twitter: @Cirque #KOOZA

Follow **KOOZA** and *Cirque du Soleil* on:

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [YouTube](#) / [Tumblr](#) / [Google +](#)

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - KOOZA – AUSTRALIAN TOUR

Melbourne - From January 20 to March 26 2017, Flemington Racecourse

Perth - From April 13 2017, Belmont Park Racecourse, Victoria Park Drive (off Farmer Freeway), Burswood

For more information and tickets, visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza

MAKE THE NIGHT VIP ROUGE

The ultimate *Cirque du Soleil* experience with the best seats and access to the intimate VIP suite one hour before the show and at intermission, including delectable wines and hors d'oeuvres.

Sponsors

Cirque du Soleil gratefully acknowledges Kirin as the official sponsor of the **KOOZA** Australian tour.

About *Cirque du Soleil*

From a group of 20 street performers at its beginnings in 1984, *Cirque du Soleil* is a major Québec-based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. The company has close to 4,000 employees, including 1,300 artists from more than 50 different countries. *Cirque du Soleil* has brought wonder and delight to more than 160 million spectators in more than 400 cities in over sixty countries on six continents.

KOOZA Broadcast Quality Downloadable Videos

B-Roll:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Chapiteaux/Kooza/Kooza_BRoll_NTSC.zip

HD Promo-Reel:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Chapiteaux/Kooza/KOOZA_Promo-Roll-NTSC-cut.zip

KOOZA Official Photos

https://s3.amazonaws.com/Chapiteaux/Kooza/Kooza_PR_Photo_Selection.zip

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