



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Theatre Presents Autism-Friendly Performances Big Apple Circus: BAC Embraces Autism! November 8, 2015 at Crossroads Theatre

Ticket Office: 732-246-SHOW (7469)

New Brunswick, NJ (October 20, 2015)—The State Theatre is proud to announce a new series of performances especially for families and groups with children on the autism spectrum. The series debuts on **Sunday, November 8 with New York's Big Apple Circus**. Created by the troupe as part of their BAC Embraces Autism initiative, the performance features world-class artists and acts, with incredible feats of juggling, balancing, plate spinning, and aerials.

At these autism-friendly events, both the performances and the theater environment are designed to create a safe, welcoming experience. During the performance, the audience is free to talk and vocalize, and leave and re-enter the seating area as needed. Audience members who need to take a break can visit the calming room, equipped with coloring pages and fidget toys, and staffed by autism specialists. Downloadable social narratives will be available to help audience members become familiar with the show and the theater space in advance.

“We are thrilled to provide the autism community with opportunities to experience high-quality live performances in an environment that is sensitive to their special needs,” said **Lian Farrer, State Theatre Vice President of Education**. “This new initiative reflects the State Theatre’s ongoing commitment to making our programs accessible to the entire community.” She adds, “We are extremely grateful to The Karma Foundation for its generous support in helping us bring this project to fruition. We also wish to thank our program partner, Eden Autism Services for sharing their invaluable expertise and resources.”

“We are privileged to help provide families and school groups the opportunity to experience a live performance in an environment that makes it enjoyable for all,” said **Sharon Karmazin, President of The Karma Foundation**.

“Breaking down barriers is a goal that the arts and autism communities share. We are proud to partner with the State Theatre on this program to make the thrill of live theater accessible for individuals with autism,” said **Melinda McAleer, Chief Development Officer at Eden Autism Services**.

All the Autism-Friendly Performances take place at Crossroads Theatre (7 Livingston Ave), two doors down from the State Theatre.

Autism-Friendly Performances for 2015-2016:

Big Apple Circus

BAC Embraces Autism!

Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 2pm & 5pm

Ladies and gentlemen! Step right up and see the greatest, most amazing show in town! Created by New York's Big Apple Circus especially for audiences on the autism spectrum, this crowd-pleasing performance features world-class artists and acts, with incredible feats of juggling, balancing, plate spinning, and aerials... and—of course—the Ringmaster!

Galumph

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 2pm & 5pm

Galumph is a "human jungle gym" featuring three fearless performers who combine acrobatic movement, physical comedy, and inventive choreography in gravity-defying poses and spectacular feats of physical strength. Utilizing skillful balance, trust, and collaboration, the dancers demonstrate what real teamwork is all about as they create a sensory feast of images ranging from the ridiculous to the awe-inspiring.

Brady Rymer & The Little Band That Could

"Love Me for Who I Am"

Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 2pm & 5pm

Join two-time Grammy® Award nominee Brady Rymer and his band for a rockin' and rollin' show featuring songs that celebrate children of all abilities. Dance and sing along with the group that National Public Radio has called "the best-sounding band in children's music." This upbeat concert will include music from "Love Me for Who I Am," Brady's joyful album inspired by and dedicated to kids on the autism spectrum.

The State Theatre will also present school-day performances of these Autism-Friendly shows. For more information on **Autism-Friendly Performances for Schools**, call 732-246-7469, ext. 545 or visit www.StateTheatreNJ.org/autism_program.

For more information, call the State Theatre ticket office at 732-246-SHOW (7469), or visit us online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org. The State Theatre ticket office, located at 15 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick NJ, is open Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm; and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified. Some additional ticket and transaction fees may apply.

State Theatre, a premier nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment. The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through education. The State Theatre's programs are made possible, in part, by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. The Heldrich is the official hotel of the State Theatre. Magic 98.3 is the official radio station of the State Theatre. The Star-Ledger is the official newspaper of the State Theatre. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.

STATE THEATRE

15 Livingston Ave
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ticket Office - 732-246-SHOW (7469)

Online - www.StateTheatreNJ.org

Information in this release is current as of October 20, 2015.
Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org.

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