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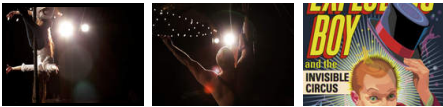
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## Family Friendly: Silliness, music and acrobatics at the ‘Invisible Circus’

By: Myrna Petlicki | For Sun-Times Media



Kids will be awestruck by the acrobatics, music and fun of “The Magical Exploding Boy and the Invisible Circus” starring Chicago clown Dean Evans at the Actors Gymnasium’s Winter Circus.

Imaginations will run wild at Actors Gymnasium’s Winter Circus. That’s because Dean Evans stars in “The Magical Exploding Boy and the Invisible Circus.”

“It’s a show based around some clown pieces created by Dean Evans,” said co-artistic director Larry DiStasi, who directs the show. “Dean creates these amazing imaginative pieces. He’s a brilliant mind and a hilarious clown.”

Evans plays, “sort of a Chaplinesque kind of innocent clown — vulnerable, childlike — who is having trouble functioning in the modern world,” DiStasi related.

The show features acrobatics, dance, original live music and a cast of five professional performers, five young artists and sixteen teen ensemble members.

DiStasi concluded that, “The show is about being yourself and if you can’t fit into the world, then make the world fit you.”

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 15-March 23, at Noyes Cultural Art Center, 927 Noyes St. Tickets are \$15-\$20.

For details, call (847) 328-2795 or go to [www.actorgymnasium.com](http://www.actorgymnasium.com) (<http://www.actorgymnasium.com>).

### **FOOD FIGHT**

Flint Lockwood has a battle on his hands in “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.” There will be two showings of the animated PG film on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave. Snacks will be served at a 2 p.m. showing. Children with special needs, with an adult, can attend a sensory-friendly screening at 10:30 a.m. No snacks will be served.

For details, call (847) 256-5025 or go to [www.wilmette.lib.il.us](http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us) (<http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us>).

### **MERRIMENT AT THE MALL**

Your family can munch delicious snacks, take a carriage ride and explore the world of science — all for free — at WinterFest, noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at Cube Park in Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie Blvd. and Old Orchard Road, Skokie. There will be free s’mores and hot chocolate and a DJ.

For details, call (847) 673-6800 or go to [www.westfield.com/oldorchard](http://www.westfield.com/oldorchard) (<http://www.westfield.com/oldorchard>).

### **PUPPY LOVE**

Young actors, in first through third grade, will star in the Wilmette Children’s Theatre’s production of, “101 Dalmatians Kids,” 7 p.m. Fridays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 14-23 at the Community Recreation Center Auditorium, 3000 Glenview Road. Tickets are \$8.50.

For details, call (847) 256-9686 or go to [www.wilmettepark.org](http://www.wilmettepark.org) (<http://www.wilmettepark.org>).

### **THEY’VE GOT RHYTHM**

Kids ages 3-8, and their families, will hear a performance by Brazilian percussion virtuoso Dede Sampaio and friends at a Kids Fare event, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at Pick Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Tickets are \$6, \$4 for children.

For details, call (847) 467-4000 or go to [www.pickstaiger.org](http://www.pickstaiger.org) (<http://www.pickstaiger.org>).

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