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Entertainment

The circus is always in town

By **KATIE HERDER**
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When you think of the circus, an image of tightropes, elephants, and a ringmaster all under a giant red and white striped tent probably comes to mind. The Actor's Gymnasium is transforming the typical circus with two upcoming shows, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, playing Oct. 23 and 24, and *A Circus in Progress* playing Nov. 6.

"A lot of the show will be acting and there will be some cool and unique circus elements," says sophomore and performer Rachel Karn.

The first show *Something Wicked This Way Comes* takes a new twist on the Ray Bradbury tale. When a strange, traveling carnival comes to a small town, two girls get caught up in the dark secrets behind its mystical carousel, which contains the power to change the age of its riders depending on the way it spins. As evil spreads throughout the town, the girls have to overcome the spell and put a stop to the carnival.

The performance, directed by the Actor's Gymnasium's Artistic Director of Circus Arts [Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi], features the talent of a range of students including Rachel, sophomore Lucy Bren-

nan, and junior Eleanor Goerss.

"This show has a combination of teens and younger children, and hopefully our audience ranges from smaller children to adults," adds Rachel.

The show will feature such circus elements as juggling, stilt walking, and aerial silk, which is when an artist performs acrobatics while suspended from a special fabric. On Nov. 6, the Actor's Gymnasium is offering another opportunity through *A Circus in Progress*.

"We do this show two times every year," explains DiStasi. "We invite performers from all over the Chicagoland and

students from the teen ensemble are also able to audition."

Be sure to check out both shows at the Actor's Gymnasium this fall. Both shows will be playing at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased through the Actor's Gymnasium website.

JUGGLING CIRCUS JARGON

ACROBAT:

performer whose works include jumps, balancing, and other displays involving strength.

AERIAL SILK:

a type of performance in which one or more artists perform acrobatics while hanging from a special fabric.

CONTORTION:

dramatic flexing and bending of the human body.

CRAFT ACROBAT:

strength-applying acrobat.

