

Family Friendly: ‘Circus in Progress’ shows off new thrills

There will be thrills, chills, music and a touch of magic when the Actors Gymnasium presents “Circus in Progress: An Evening of Daring New Work,” 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31 at Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston.

“Our Circus in Progress is always a real big hit. For over two years, we’ve sold out every performance,” said Kiana Harris Simon, director of marketing. “It’s a series of different acts. It’s a mixture of professionals from the Chicagoland circus performing arts community as well as advanced students from our classes.”

Audiences will see a wide range of circus skills, including trapeze, aerial silks, lyra (aerial hoop), Chinese pole, spring, hand-balancing and more. There will also be performances by magician Brett Schneider and the ETC Music School Ensemble.

“There’s definitely going to be some oohs and aahs, and some jaw-dropping stuff,” Simon said. “The point of ‘Circus in Progress’ is to show new works.”

For details, call (847) 328-2795 or go to www.actorgymnasium.org.

VERSE HOUR OF THE DAY

You and your toddler, ages 12-24 months, can socialize with other parents and kids at Romp & Rhyme, 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 31 at Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road. You’ll share rhymes, stories and songs with your new friends.

For details, call (847) 729-7500 or go to www.glenviewpl.org.

WHAT AN APPETITE!

It’s the 45th anniversary of Eric Carle’s “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and that critter’s appetite hasn’t diminished one bit. Celebrate the occasion at a special storytime, 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 4 at Barnes and Noble, 1630 Sherman Ave., Evanston.

For details, call (847) 424-0848 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

ORIENT YOUR KIDS

Using chopsticks, raking miniature dry gardens and making Japanese kites are a few of the activities your children will enjoy on Japanese Garden Family Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 1 and 15, July 6 and 20, Aug. 3, and Sept. 7 and 21 in the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Japanese Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Activities are free and vary each time.

For details, call (847) 835-6801 or go to chicagobotanic.org/forfamilies.

THE COLOR PURPLE

That will be your child’s favorite color after they have attended a storytime led by Northwestern’s Purple Crayon Players, 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 30 at Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. Parents should enjoy the event, too.

For details, call (847) 448-8600 or go to www.epl.org.

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