

BAY AREA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

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For Immediate Release

Clowns Galore at CIRCUS SUMMER, a Benefit for Bay Area Children's Theatre

*Oakland...*Children, parents, and grandparents alike will thrill to the skill and chortle at the antics of master clown Jeff Raz of Cirque du Soleil and his multi-talented circus pals at *CIRCUS SUMMER*, a benefit performance for [Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (BACT) at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage on Sunday, August 15, at 2 p.m.

Proceeds from the performance will help BACT match a \$5,000 Challenge Grant from the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF).

In addition to Raz, female clown troupe Circus Finelli, trombonist-juggler Johannes Mager, contortionist Nobutaka Mochimaru, and the Kemin Trio with clowns Tristan, David and Keith will perform in a multi-faceted display of circus art. Audience members are invited to a dessert reception after the show.

October 15 Deadline to Raise \$5,000

To fulfill the goal of the EBCF Challenge Grant, BACT must raise \$5,000 from the community by October 15.

BACT will use the grant for a new production bringing together circus artists--jugglers, acrobats, clowns, aerial artists, and unicyclists—to create a unified piece of theatre around the theme of fairytales. This new theatrical experience blending circus arts and the joy of story will be developed in collaboration with and directed by Raz, who most recently collaborated with BACT when he created and directed *Wonderland: A Circus Adaptation of Alice in Wonderland*.

Raz has explored the intersection of circus, theatre and music for more than 30 years, as a clown, actor, teacher, director and playwright. His distinguished career has taken him from remote Alaskan villages to Broadway, across the continental United States, and to Europe and Japan. Jeff founded the Clown Conservatory in San Francisco, the only comprehensive professional clown training program in the United States, now in its 10th year. He is also the Bay Area casting partner for Cirque du Soleil and the associate producer of Circus Flora.

((For high-res jpeg of Jeff Raz, please contact Vivian Auslander, (510) 524-2941 or vivian@vivianauslander.com))

[Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (BACT) was founded in 2004 as Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences to bring high quality theatre to family audiences in the Bay Area. BACT specializes in literary adaptations of great children's books. Through exciting productions that emphasize artistic excellence, BACT seeks to engage a new generation of theatergoers and inspire young people to

open their imaginations to new worlds. BACT performances feature gifted professional adult performers, designers and directors who bring vibrant, creative worlds to life and who understand how to make theatre accessible for young audiences. BACT's programs include main stage productions in Berkeley, San Ramon, San Francisco and Saratoga; educational drama classes; touring productions; and pre-kindergarten special productions of books that the youngest readers enjoy with their parents.

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Calendar Listing

WHO: [Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (formerly Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences)

WHAT: **CIRCUS SUMMER**

Benefit performance featuring master clown Jeff Raz of Cirque du Soleil, female clown troupe Circus Finelli, trombonist-juggler Johannes Mager, contortionist Nobutaka Mochimaru, and the Kemin Trio with clowns Tristan, David and Keith. Proceeds will help the Bay Area Children's Theatre match a \$5,000 Challenge Grant from the East Bay Community Foundation. Dessert reception after the show.

WHEN: Sunday, August 15, 2 p.m.

WHERE: Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley

TICKETS: \$25 adults, \$5 children

BOX OFFICE: <http://www.bactheatre.org/> and (510) 296-4433