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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acrosports presents City Circus in

ECHO'S REACH

An urban fairy tale about a little girl named Echo, a circus, bboys, and the art of magical transformation.

Original story and direction by Tim Barsky
Choreography by Shannon Gaines of the Vau de Vire Society
Music by Kevin Carnes and Brandi Brandes
Production devised and performed by City Circus

April 30 – May 30, 2010
Fridays– Saturdays @ 8pm; and Saturdays – Sundays @ 4pm
Brava Theater Center (2781-24th Street, San Francisco, CA)

(San Francisco, CA – April 13, 2010) City Circus returns to Brava with an electrifying, thought-provoking original production by Tim Barsky and friends about the adventures of love, magical elements, and the circus.

This spring City Circus premieres ECHO'S REACH, an imaginative new production by Tim Barsky that reunites him with circus performers from City Circus/AcroSports and a top-notch group of collaborators in urban music, hip-hop dance, and aerial acrobats. The production deepens Barsky's vision of a new, hybrid performance style called Urban Circus Arts – a genre unique to City Circus. Urban Circus Arts crosses traditional circus arts (acrobatics, aerial acts, and contortion) with contemporary city-born forms (breakdancing, parkour, beat boxing, and hip-hop theatre). The result is an energetic and ground-breaking juxtaposition of art forms that is at once accessible and thrilling.

ECHO'S REACH is a thoughtful, urban fairytale with mythic overtones and historical references. Echo is a little girl who lives with a circus inside of a prison. Her desire for freedom sends her on a journey through the prison. On the journey, she follows bboy revolutionaries on the Underground Railroad to encounter a magical world populated by acrobats, aerialists, jugglers, contortionists, and musicians. On the journey, Echo learns to grow up, come to terms with her struggle for freedom and love. The central theme of ECHO'S REACH explores how systems transform us, and how, in the words of Tim Barsky "our culture builds a lot of walls on a lot of levels; and we build emotional and physical walls to keep things away."

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ECHO'S REACH is written and directed by Tim Barsky (most recently seen in the successful revival of THE BRIGHT RIVER: A HIP-HOP RETELLING OF DANTE'S INFERNO). Many of his collaborators worked on prior shows AND IF WE SHADOWS (2008) and KAMIKAZE HEART (2009). For ECHO'S REACH (2010) Barsky re-teamed with choreographer Shannon Gaines (VaudeVire Society); performance breakdancers Iron Monkey and B-boy Black (Renegades Rockers), parkour acrobat Neal Cordova (Marin Parkour), beatboxer Carlos Aguirre (Felonious), hip-hop artist Delina Brooks, stunt juggler Jan Damm (Circus Bella), and the talented students and apprentices in AcroSport's City Circus. A house band will perform live an original soundscore by Kevin Carnes (Broun Fellinis) and Brandi Brandes (Climate).

City Circus's ECHO'S REACH will open on April 30 and run through May 30 at the Brava Theater in San Francisco's Mission district. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; and matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 4pm.

[CITY CIRCUS](#) is a three-generation strong professional circus ensemble & training program based in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is the performance arm of AcroSports, a physical and circus arts gym, founded by Bay Area resident, Dorrie Huntington, and performers from the Moscow Circus. San Francisco and Montreal are the two primary training centers for circus arts in North America. Frederick Street, located in the Haight Ashbury, represents a powerhouse for US circus, with two out of five professional circus schools in the U.S. on the same block in San Francisco.

In 2007, AcroSports appointed Tim Barsky to the position of Artistic Director of City Circus. Since his appointment, City Circus has gained a reputation as the world's foremost training and performance program that specializes in Urban Circus Arts – a cross-platform performance discipline that unites traditional circus arts (acrobatics, aerial acts, and contortion) with 20th century urban art forms (breakdancing, parkour, and hip-hop in all its expressive forms). Urban Circus Arts has come to represent a major stylistic movement within the history of circus. Over the past couple of years, the movement has been blossoming in the 'indie circus' world. There has been an explosion of new styles appearing on underground stages, and AcroSports/City Circus rapidly became established as the foremost training and performance program that specialized in Urban Circus Arts. This multi-ethnic ensemble, which ranges in age from 14-34, is a product of the vibrant circus and hip-hop communities fostered by the Bay Area, and draws strongly from both traditions.

The emeritus list of Acrosports production team, alumni and coaches reads like a Who's Who of Bay Area circus performers. As in the old world tradition, teen apprentices study and perform alongside acknowledged master performers. Participants in the program have gone on to perform with troupes including 7 Fingers, Cirque Du Soleil, Ringling Bros, & the Ecole Nationale DuCirque in Montreal. This past year, AcroSports established the New Urban Circus Artist Residencies program - the only one of its kind in USA. This replicates the National Endowment for the Arts Folk Apprenticeship program structure in that it provides residencies for master circus artists, stipends for low-income apprentices, and youth circus ensembles that study and perform with master artists.

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CALENDAR INFORMATION

WHO: **City Circus**

WHAT: **ECHO'S REACH**

An original Urban Circus Arts production by **Tim Barsky**

Choreographer **Shannon Gaines**

Live music by **Kevin Carnes** and **Brandi Brandes**

Beatboxing by **Carlos Aguirre**

Performers: **Iron Monkey** and **B-boy Black** (breakdancers), **Neal Cordova** (parkour acrobat), **Delina Brooks** (hip-hop artist), **Jan Damm** stunt juggler, and the talented students and apprentices in Acrosport's **City Circus**

DATES: April 30 – May 30, 2010

TIMES: Fridays – Saturdays @ 8pm
Matinees: Saturdays – Sundays @ 4pm

VENUE: Brava Theater Center (2781-24th Street @ York, San Francisco, CA)

TICKETS: \$14 – 35

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: (415) 665-2276 and citycircus.org

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