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## **CIRQUE LE MASQUE OPENS REICHHOLD CENTER'S FAMILY SERIES**

The Reichhold Center for the Arts opens its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with the first of three offerings in its expanded Family Series. Cirque Le Masque performs their spectacular show *Carnivale* on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 4 and 7 p.m.

*Carnivale*, a whimsical, magical adventure, and European-style circus performance, is fantasy come alive. It is a one-of-a-kind family show, featuring colorful costumes, dazzling lights and daring acts.

"We are excited to bring Cirque Le Masque's *Carnivale* to the Virgin Islands," says Pamela Toussaint, Co-Director for Reichhold Center for the Arts. "This being our 30<sup>th</sup> season, the Center wanted to include all ages during our Anniversary Week. The entire family can enjoy Cirque Le Masque's breathtaking performance."

Adding to *Carnivale's* great appeal is its wonderful storyline. It is the journey of a young artist with big city dreams. The performer wants to join the Cirque in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of the liveliest cities in the world. Through various trapeze and high-flying acts, aerial twirling and feats of strength, the story evolves.

The internationally acclaimed troupe debuted *Carnivale* in Athens in 2006, and has been touring the world with the production ever since. According to their website, Cirque Le Masque "combines the refinement of acrobatics, trapeze, contortion, aerial art, and comedy with an avant-garde concept for costuming, choreography, and creative lighting."

Says the San Juan Star: "Cirque Le Masque is not your typical everyday circus. There are no animals, red-nosed clowns, and no tents. It is more of a theatre circus and a thrill a minute."

Dennis and Bernie Schussel founded Cirque Le Masque in 1993. However, the company's beginnings go back to 1980 when the Schussels entered the theatrical entertainment business.

Dedicated to bringing the best and most innovative approach to live theatre, Cirque Le Masque started touring with *Fire and Ice*. The show received rave reviews for its stunning combination of artistry and entertainment.

Since taking *Carnivale* on the road, Cirque Le Masque has reached more and diverse audiences around the world in places such as Europe, Asia and the Middle East. They have also performed in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

Cirque Le Masque's *Carnivale* and other performances during Reichhold Center's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Week are sponsored by Theodore Tunnick and Company.

Reichhold Center's 2008-2009 season sponsors: First Bank, First Insurance, Marriott Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Resort, and the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts. Other sponsors include Innovative Cable TV and the V.I. Department of Education.

Tickets are \$18, \$25 and \$35. Tickets are available at Modern Music, UVI Bookstore, V.I. Bridal & Tuxedo, Urban Threadz, Essentric Shoe Boutique, Island Video (Nisky), Home Again (Red Hook) and the Reichhold Center Box Office at 693-1559.

The Reichhold Family Series includes: Mario (Feb. 7, 2009) and The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley (April 11, 2009). Purchase all three shows for \$69 or \$97.