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**BOX OFFICE:** (612) 874-0400  
[childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org)

2400 Third Ave S, Minneapolis

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**  
Anne Schopen, (612) 872-5110,  
[aschopen@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:aschopen@childrenstheatre.org)

Kathy Graves, (612) 928-7003,  
[kathy@parenteaugraves.com](mailto:kathy@parenteaugraves.com)

**Delight and Whimsy Abound in “Circoluna” (Circus Moon),  
at Children’s Theatre Company  
March 31 – April 26**



MINNEAPOLIS – Fabrizio Montecchi and his internationally acclaimed theatre company, Teatro Gioco Vita, bring the American premiere of “Circoluna” (Circus Moon) to the Children’s Theatre Company (CTC). Teatro Gioco Vita is celebrated as the leading shadow puppet theatre company in the world today.

Opening Fri., April 3 at 10:30 am, (previews March 31 through April 2), “Circoluna” follows the delightful antics of Lucetta and Achilles, the show’s “ringmaster” and “shadow tamer,” as they lead the theatre’s youngest audiences in a colorful and enchanted experience, exploring the world of light and shadow. This whimsical production introduces a menagerie of animals and circus acts, which will delight children ages four years old and younger.

Created by **Fabrizio Montecchi** (direction and set design) and **Nicola Lusuardi** (script), “Circoluna” is based on “Cirkus Manen,” a collaborative production between Teatro Gioco Vita and the Swedish theatre company, Dockteatern Tittut. “Circoluna” dramatically melds live actors, puppets, shadow and light to create an experience unlike any other.

“Fabrizio’s work is so exhilarating, theatrical and joyful. It is my great pleasure to bring Teatro Gioco Vita and ‘Circoluna’ to CTC,” says Peter C. Brosius, artistic director for Children’s Theatre Company. “These are gifted, brilliant artists. Their productions overflow with creativity and an unimaginable ability to bring fantasy to life. ‘Circoluna’ will just dazzle young people and adults alike.”

Perhaps most appealing to CTC's youngest patrons is the invitation to join a world full of imaginary characters: codbikes, shadow eaters, Poettrombones and a mischievous little clown named Bullet, as they perform thrilling circus acts – all through the magic of shadow theatre.

“Capturing the imagination of our preschool audience is a core component of CTC's mission,” says Brosius. In the last four years, with major support from the Bush Foundation, CTC has continued to expand its production schedule and theatre arts training program for preschool students. The organization is working with child development experts and researchers from the University of Minnesota to incorporate contemporary early childhood development knowledge into its early childhood programming.

Recent examples of CTC's success in this area include the design and development of its “Ready for Life” Early Learners Project, which is intended to create new curricula and theatre experiences for preschool students. Next season, CTC will produce “The Biggest Little House in the Forest” for preschool children.

“Circoluna” opens Fri., April 3, at 10:30 am, (previews March 31 – April 2) on the Cargill Stage and runs through Sun., March 26. *(A full performance schedule follows on page 3).* The show is most enjoyed by ages 4 years old and younger. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$11 for children (17 & under), students and seniors and are available by calling (612) 874-0400 or visiting [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org).

Drawings and shadow puppet designs for “Circoluna” were created by **Nicoletta Garioni**. Costume design is by **Inkan Aigner**. Music is by **Leif Hultqvist** with lighting and sound by **Anna Adorno**. The cast includes **Elena Griseri**, as Lucetta the “ring master,” and **Tiziano Ferrari**, as Achilles the shadow tamer. Translation is provided by **Rosanna Staffa**.

### **About Teatro Gioco Vita**

Teatro Gioco Vita was established in 1971, in Piacenza, Italy, and has become a leader in the theatrical animation movement. Recognized for its distinct creative flair, Teatro Gioco Vita has received numerous awards and accolades for its work in shadow theatre and for its collaborative designs with prestigious international theatres such as the Teatro La Fenice of Venice, Royal Opera House Covent Garden of London, Teatro alla Scala of Milan and Arena of Verona.

## About Children's Theatre Company

The Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is the first theatre for young people to win the coveted Tony® Award for Outstanding Regional Theater (2003). Founded in 1965, CTC serves more than 300,000 people annually and is one of the 20 largest theater companies in the nation. The company is noted for defining worldwide standards for youth theatre with an innovative mix of classic tales, celebrated international productions and challenging new work.

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**"The nation's leading theatre for young audiences"** — *The New York Times*

*Full performance schedule follows.*

### The Children's Theatre Company "Circoluna" Performance Schedule

Tickets: (612) 874-0400 or [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

Tue March 31	10:30 am	preview
Wed April 1	10:30 am	preview
Thu April 2	10:30 am	preview
Fri April 3	10:30 am	opening
Sat April 4	10:00 am, 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm	
Sun April 5	12:00 pm, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm	

Tues April 7	10:30 am & 4:00 pm	
Wed April 8	10:30 am	
Thu April 9	10:30 am	
Fri April 10	10:30 am	
Sat April 11	10:00 am, 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm	
Sun April 12	2:00 pm & 4:00 pm	

Thurs April 16	10:30 am	
Fri April 17	10:30 am	
Sat April 18	10:00 am, 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm	
Sun April 19	10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm	

Tue April 21	10:30 am	
Wed April 22	10:30 am	
Sat April 25	10:00 am, 1:00 pm (ASL/AD performance) & 4:00 pm	
Sun April 26	10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm	

*Editor's Note: For sidebar copy, please consider including....*

### Children's Theatre Company Recommends

**If You Go....**For families planning to attend "Circoluna," Children's Theatre Company recommends the following stories to extend your acrobatic experience!

"Circus," by Lois Ehlert. Pair of leaping lizards, a bear on the high wire and other iridescent animals perform against a dramatic black backdrop in this colorful circus story.

"The Circus Alphabet," by Linda Bronson. Simple rhyming text and illustrations from A to Z designed with creatures made from clay, sequins, tissue paper, pipe cleaners and more. Take a peek at the long and impossibly thin lime-green contortionist!

"Harold's Circus: An Astounding, Colossal Purple Crayon Event," by Crockett Johnson. The infamous Harold goes for an adventurous walk through the circus – and finds himself on a tightrope created by his much adored purple crayon.

"Sidewalk Circus," by Paul Fleischman and Kevin Hawkes. In the dreamy morning sunlight and shadows, a young girl watches as ordinary activities are transformed into circus acts.