



MONTREAL'S CIRCUS TROUPE, THE 7 FINGERS, BRINGS *CUISINE & CONFESSIONS* TO JORGENSEN

Sat, Mar 25, 2017, 8 pm / Sun Matinee, Mar 26, 2017, 3 pm

The internationally acclaimed Montreal-based circus troupe, The 7 Fingers, will invite Storrs audiences into their fully-functional on-stage kitchen for a scrumptious smorgasbord of acrobatics, dance, story-telling, music, juggling, improvisation, and audience-interactive cooking when their presentation of *Cuisine & Confessions* comes to UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th. The highly imaginative, family-friendly theatrical production not only incorporates circus thrills, audience participation, and lots of laughs, but the ensemble's performers and acrobats also touch emotions as they share sometimes humorous, sometimes heart-wrenching stories from their pasts while preparing meals or while sipping late night glasses of wine around the set's candle-lit kitchen table. The show reminds us that each individual is composed of a unique set of ingredients and that the kitchen is an iconic meeting point that spans generations and countries throughout the world.

For the March 25th performance, doors open at 7:30 pm and performance begins at 8:00 pm. For the March 26th matinee performance, doors open at 2:30 pm and show begins at 3:00 pm.

"I remembered a book my grandmother wrote called *Young and Hungry*. It was a memoir and a cookbook, marrying recipes from her childhood with accompanying anecdotes. I thought this could be an interesting approach for our show," says The 7 Finger's co-founder and *Cuisine & Confessions* co-creator, Shana Carroll. "So often, our shows have these strong autobiographical angles, as it's a big part of the vision of our company to humanize the acrobatics, to ensure the audience really gets to know the performers and care about them. So, we thought of this notion of food memories: combining confession-like moments of storytelling, both physical and verbal, with childhood recipes."

Carroll says that when she and husband, Sébastien Soldevila, created the show they began with intense storytelling sessions with the cast.

"They went up, one by one, took the microphone and told extensive biographies of their parents, grandparents, linking them to food memories, etcetera. It just happened, with this particular cast, there were so many really tragic stories. Many of them had lost one or more of their parents; had grown up in harsh environments. We really wanted to share these intense stories, but at one moment I thought: My God! This show is going to be a downer! Partly for that reason we put a lot of effort on also capturing the joy and beauty and humor and love that also characterize our kitchen memories and our joy and love of food and cooking. In the end, I find the overall tone of the show is quite light; joyful; playful. But embedded within are these very deep, intense stories that sometimes catch you off guard, and, without revealing too much, make you contemplate some more pertinent social and political issues."

"Also, I'd add that circus is by nature celebratory, empowering, and even triumphant. By its very nature we are attempting to do seemingly impossible 'tricks,' and then, hopefully, succeeding. So that as well is inevitably a factor and theme: the *life-affirming power of circus*."

Quick Reference

Cirque Event

Cuisine & Confessions
by The 7 Fingers

Date

Sat, Mar 25, 8 pm
Sun, Mar 26, 3 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$40, \$37, \$34

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

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CUISINE & CONFESSIONS, continued

ABOUT THE 7 FINGERS

In 2002, 7 circus artists came together and became The 7 Fingers. Over the course of 15 years, the collective has grown. Every year, projects have given way to new projects, as diverse as the very artists themselves: original productions, Broadway shows, artistic collaborations, project direction, custom designed events, performances for Olympic ceremonies, televised creations, immersive performance experiences and much more. Every one of these projects carries The 7 Fingers' unmistakable mark. Ambassadors of diversity, the artists have consistently spread their horizons, mixing genres to better tell their stories. Fascinated by the human condition, the 7 Fingers create performances that speak about our world and our time. Their works reach audiences across nations, with over 500 shows a year. In 2017, The 7 Fingers will inaugurate their Centre of Creation and Production. Situated in the heart of the Quartier des Spectacles in Montreal, the new center will house all of the company's activities, departments and dreams under one roof.

This year Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the *Hartford Courant's* CTNow, as well as *Connecticut Magazine's* Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Floor seats - \$40; Mezzanine - \$37; Balcony - \$34; Students & Youth under 18 - all seats \$15.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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