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Pets Lifeline Announces The Black Cat Cabaret

A Benefit for Sonoma Valley's Only Animal Shelter Featuring Special Performances Donated by Internationally-acclaimed Aerialists and Acrobats

Sonoma, California: July 24, 2009 – Experience magical performances by international aerialists, acrobats and musicians in support of a good cause at ***The Black Cat Cabaret***, a first-of-its-kind benefit on Friday, the 11th of September at 7:00 pm at Artefact Design & Salvage in Sonoma's Cornerstone Gardens. This intimate fundraising event will support the programs and services offered by Pets Lifeline, Sonoma Valley's only animal shelter. It will be an authentic cabaret-style experience with fabulous wines, preshow entertainment, live auction of extremely original items, and a spectacular theatre show for lucky attendees.

Internationally renowned artistic director, former Cirque du Soleil performer and Cavalia choreographer, Alain Gauthier, will stage the event. Artefact Design & Salvage will be transformed into a cabaret theatre with acrobatics and aerial acts combined with a live auction of extremely original items making this an unforgettable event.

Desiree Stinson, current Pets Lifeline executive director and a former Cirque du Soleil employee, has called upon her many friends and colleagues, including Alain Gauthier, to bring Las Vegas quality entertainment to Sonoma Valley in support of Pets Lifeline.

"I first discovered the California wine country in 1987 when Francis Ford Coppola and his family hosted the entire Cirque company at his home for wine and calzones. That experience began a personal journey for me that included running away from the circus, getting married in Sonoma and finally moving here. I feel, in some ways, that my life has come full circle to have my generous friends from around the globe coming to share their performance talents with my local community and support my most passionate endeavor – Pets Lifeline."

The Circus Comes to Town

Gauthier joined Le Cirque du Soleil in 1986 as a stage artist and performed 1600 times with the troupe. He was instrumental to the acrobatic movement research team that helped le Cirque du Soleil achieve the style of performance that they present today. Alain has also been a teacher at the famous National Circus School in Montreal, influencing performers that are seen by audiences all over the world.

Gauthier is also a passionate dancer and actor who has worked with world renowned choreographer, Debra Brown, prolific director Robert Lepage, and Franco Dragone. Since 2000, Gauthier's primary focus has been on choreography, staging and designing. His most recent work in the US has been as the assistant artistic director of the equestrian show Cavalia, in which he combined his choreographic art with horses in the biggest touring production in the world.

Among his well know creative achievements are The Millenium Dome show (London 2000, Peter Gabriel), Zulu time (Robert Lepage), Zumanity (Cirque du Soleil), Crescendo (Cirque d'Hiver, Paris), La Damnation de Faust (Opera de Paris, Metropolitan Opera), Ice from Russia (Las Vegas), and more recently NBC's Celebrity Circus and the Olympic Gymnastics Superstars tour.

Sponsorship available

Opportunities to sponsor this imaginative special event are available now. Businesses and individuals that would like to join inaugural sponsors, Artefact Design & Salvage and the Sonoma Index-Tribune should contact Mary Catherine Cutcliffe at mc@petslifeline.org.

“The concept for the Black Cat Cabaret is simple,” said Stinson, “To create an intimate and inspired event which promises not only to expand Pets Lifeline supporter base but also to bring added benefit and valuable exposure to the City of Sonoma, participating community organizations, businesses and our sponsors.”

Tickets are limited

The intimate venue means that tickets to the event are limited. Ticket prices range from:

- Cool Cats \$150.00 per person
- Top Dogs \$250.00 per person

Tickets go on sale to the general public on August 4th. All proceeds will benefit the Shelter's rescue efforts and community outreach programs. For more information on the event please visit our web site at www.petslifeline.org or call 707-996-4577, ext. 102.

Pets Lifeline

Pets Lifeline, the only animal shelter located in Sonoma Valley, serves a population of nearly 30,000 and spans 166 square miles. Pets Lifeline is dependent on donations and memberships and does not receive government funds or support from national organizations. Our mission is to protect and care for stray and abandoned dogs and cats in the Sonoma Valley while working to reduce pet homelessness through shelter, rehabilitation, community education and public service.

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Editor's note: This is NOT an official Cirque du Soleil performance. Cirque do Soleil is a trademarked name and should not be used in reference to this fundraising event. These are individual artists donating their personal time and talents.

Photo of Alain Gauthier and the official Black Cat graphic attached.