

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL UNVEILS

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

## *Wintuk*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICHARD BLACKBURN

PRESENTED BY DELTA AIRLINES

CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE WAMU THEATER AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

NOVEMBER 7, 2007 – JANUARY 6, 2008

**New York, November 7, 2007** – Cirque du Soleil, MSG Entertainment and BASE Entertainment present the world premiere of the latest Cirque du Soleil seasonal show *Wintuk*, running exclusively at the WaMu Theater at Madison Square Garden from November 1, 2007 to January 6, 2008. The first-ever show specifically created for a family audience, *Wintuk* is the 21<sup>st</sup> Cirque du Soleil production and joins the 14 others currently running throughout the world.

### **The Name**

The name *Wintuk* refers to an imaginary country – the Land of the North – where the characters of the show will journey.

### **About *Wintuk***

*Wintuk* is an enchanting winter tale about a young boy, Jamie, and his quest to find snow. The boy lives in a city where the arrival of winter has brought long shadows and intense cold – but no snow! He interacts with a cast of high-energy urban street characters, including acrobats, dancers and giant marionettes. But as the snow fails to come, he embarks on a journey to an imaginary Nordic world called *Wintuk* with three companions—a female Shaman who’s lost in the city, a timid young man called Wimpy destined to discover his courage, and the shadow of a young girl—to find the snow and bring it back to where it belongs.

## Cast and Acts

The show is playful, musical, and bursting with the energy of the city and the broad sweep of nature. A cast of 50 performers and puppeteers weaves thrilling circus arts, breathtaking theatrical effects and memorable songs into a meaningful seasonal story that resonates with the whole family.

*Wintuk's* dynamic acts include an original skateboarding act in a discipline never before seen at Cirque, Trial bicycle riders, slack wire, a variation of the classic Russian bars with horizontal jumps instead of vertical. The performing artists come from France, Canada, the USA, Portugal, Belarus, Russia, Estonia and Mexico among others.

## Marionettes and Set

With *Wintuk*, Cirque once again pushes the creative boundaries with imaginative puppetry and set design. Much of *Wintuk's* action involves huge marionettes: Oversize lampposts that come to life, six amazing dogs that weigh up to 80 lbs and take two puppeteers to manipulate, birds with hundreds of feathers and massive 12-ft ice giants. There are holes and hidden trenches in the set that permit the puppeteers to work on stage without being seen by the audience.

The dimensions of the WaMu Theater, with its low 20-ft ceiling and its 100-ft-wide stage, influenced the layout of the set, leading to a "wide-screen" perspective. Transparent curtains, snow banks and huge blocks of "ice" interact with the innovative lighting to create a wintry setting that dazzles from close up and at the same time plays to the entire theater. Projections are an integral element of the set and have been designed to be especially appealing to children by using a whimsical winter light palette predominantly made up of pinks and blues.

## The Creators

The show brings together the following team of 15 Creators, several of whom are working with Cirque for the first time.

Fernand Rainville	Director of Creation
Richard Blackburn	Director and Writer
François Barbeau	Costume and Puppet Visual Designer
Patricia Ruel	Set, Props and Puppet Visual Designer
Simon Carpentier	Composer and Musical Director
Francis Laporte	Projection Designer
Catherine Archambault	Choreographer
Guy St-Amour	Acrobatic Equipment and Rigging Designer
Daniel Cola	Acrobatic Performance Designer
Jonathan Deans	Sound Designer
Leon Rothenberg	Sound Designer
Yves Aucoin	Lighting Designer
René Charbonneau	Puppetry Designer
Eleni Uranis	Makeup Designer
Jim Corcoran	Lyrics

### **Ticket information**

Cirque du Soleil's *Wintuk* will thrill audiences this holiday season, playing for a limited 10-week run from November 1, 2007 – January 6, 2008 only at the WaMu Theater at Madison Square. Tickets for *Wintuk* are available through [cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com), [thegarden.com](http://thegarden.com) and [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or by calling at 212.307.1000. Prices range from \$30 - \$99.

### **Presenting Sponsor**

Delta Air Lines, one of the world's leading international airlines, is proud to be the presenting sponsor of *Wintuk*. The new 4-year partnership further establishes Delta's long-term, worldwide partnership with Cirque du Soleil which began in 2006 when the airline served as presenting sponsor of *Corteo in Atlanta, Ga.*

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### **Cirque du Soleil**

From a group of 20 street performers at its beginnings in 1984, Cirque du Soleil is now a major Quebec-based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. The company has over 3,800 employees from over 40 different countries, including 1,000 artists.

Cirque du Soleil has brought wonder and delight to more than 70 million spectators in over 100 cities on four continents. In 2007, Cirque du Soleil will present 15 shows simultaneously throughout the world. The company has received such prestigious awards as the Emmy, Drama Desk, Bambi, ACE, Gémeaux, Félix, and Rose d'Or de Montreux. Cirque du Soleil International Headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.

For more information about Cirque du Soleil, visit [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com).

### **MSG Entertainment**

MSG Entertainment (MSGE), the live entertainment arm of Cablevision Systems Corporation, is a worldwide entertainment company recognized for its signature event production. In addition to the nearly 700 entertainment concerts and events that take place each year at Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, The Theater at Madison Square Garden, Beacon Theater and the Expo Center at MSG, MSGE produces shows across America. MSG Entertainment's live events include The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, as well as seven productions of The Christmas Spectacular outside of New York.

Additional information about MSG Entertainment is available on the Web at [www.thegarden.com](http://www.thegarden.com) and [www.radiocity.com](http://www.radiocity.com). Madison Square Garden, L.P. is owned by Cablevision Systems Corporation, and includes the New York Knicks (NBA); the New York Rangers (NHL); the New York Liberty (WNBA); the Hartford Wolfpack (American Hockey League); MSG Entertainment; MSG Media, which is comprised of MSG and FSN New York; and the Madison Square Garden arena complex, located in the heart of the New York metropolitan area.

### **BASE Entertainment**

BASE Entertainment is an intellectual property based operating company and live entertainment studio with offices in New York, Las Vegas, and Houston. BASE develops, produces and manages intellectual properties which reach audiences through various platforms, including live, digital, broadcast and licensing.

BASE Entertainment partners include Brian Becker, Scott Zeiger, and Clarity Partners. Co-founders Brian Becker and Scott Zeiger have 45 years combined experience in the live entertainment industry. Becker previously served as Chairman and CEO of Clear Channel Entertainment (CCE), the world's leading producer and promoter of live entertainment events. Zeiger previously served as Chairman and CEO of CCE's North American Theatrical division and the CCE Productions Group. Clarity Partners, L.P. is a private equity firm focused exclusively on investments in media, communications, and business services. Clarity's current portfolio includes Vue Entertainment, Oxygen Media, Crescent Entertainment/Village Roadshow Pictures, Liberation Entertainment, and ImpreMedia.

*BASE Entertainment's current projects include Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular, Gordie Brown and Wayne Brady "Making It Up" at the Venetian, STOMP OUT LOUD at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, the Planet Hollywood Theater for the Performing Arts and the recent Broadway hit Martin Short – Fame Becomes Me.*

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