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***Sawdust: Fame. Fortune. Glitz. Grit. A tale of two young men chasing a dream during the golden era of traveling circuses***

**July 29 - August 15**

Circus Juventas Big Top

1270 Montreal Avenue, Saint Paul

Tickets: All reserved seating \$12.50-\$25

Box Office: 612-343-3390 or online [www.ticketworks.com](http://www.ticketworks.com) or Circus Juventas 651-699-8229

More information: 651-699-8229 or [www.circusjuventas.org](http://www.circusjuventas.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Circus Juventas' annual summer spectacular *Sawdust* steps back to the Golden Age of the Traveling Circus  
July 29 through August 15, 2010**

Saint Paul, MN – July 8, 2010 -- [Circus Juventas](http://www.circusjuventas.org), North America's largest youth performing arts circus, will present an all-new production this summer. ***Sawdust*** will feature performances by advanced level students who will be joined by legendary circus stars **Willie Edelston** (age 87) and **Tony Steele** (age 74). A salute to the origins of the modern-day circus, *Sawdust* is an action packed ride filled with comic characters and breathtaking performances that will take you back to the golden age of the Big Top. Willie and Tony narrate their heartwarming coming-of-age tale and join the students in a story that is filled with big dreams, conflict and adventure, new friends and unexpected alliances, first love and a last, lingering look back.

***Sawdust*** will highlight traditional circus acts including teeterboard, acrobatics, breathtaking swinging trapeze and slapstick clowning mentored by the former Ringling icon Bello Nock the clown! The most amazing high wire act, the popular Russian swing and the most exciting and exhilarating of all—the flying trapeze-- return this summer. Plus, there are two thrilling new additions: the heart-stopping Wheel of Steel – Circus Juventas is the only amateur circus in the world performing this exhilarating act; and an active menagerie of life-size circus animal puppets built by Circus Juventas students under the direction of Puppet Farm Arts Artistic Director Christopher Lutter-Gardella who will then teach the students how to manipulate the fully-performable life-size animal puppets which include an enormous elephant, a vicious tiger, an acrobatic bear and a long-necked giraffe. These magnificent animals will delight children of all ages!

The world-renowned fiddler and mandolinist Peter Ostroushko and his band are back this year with exciting new and memorable music he created for Sawdust.

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual summer extravaganza produced by Circus Juventas will be performed July 29 through August 15 in its award-winning, air conditioned Big Top building, 1270 Montreal Avenue in Saint Paul. Patrons will enjoy the comfortable new state of the art seating system that was installed in March.

All tickets for Sawdust are reserved and will be on sale now through Ticketworks at [www.ticketworks.com](http://www.ticketworks.com) or 612-343-3390 or by calling the Circus Juventas box office: 651-699-8229. Adult tickets are \$15 to \$25; tickets for Children up to age 10 and Seniors over 65 are \$12.50 to \$25. Family 4 Pack Saturdays for the matinee performances on July 31, August 7 and 14 are \$50 for two children's and two adult tickets in the \$15 zone.

Circus Juventas' summer shows, featuring advanced level performers, are elaborate spectacles in the tradition of Cirque du Soleil. Circus Juventas productions represent the best of contemporary circus arts, combining evocative music, extraordinary sets and costumes, and stunning theatricality, dance and athletic artistry with a global flair. This year's show is sponsored by Cirque du Soleil, Clear Channel Outdoor, Minnesota State Arts Board, Target, Norris Foundation, Star Tribune, Starbucks, Huss Foundation, McCarthy/Bjorklund Foundation, and Ruehling Associates.

### **SAWDUST PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Thursday, July 29 @ 1pm – *(pre-sold)*  
Friday, July 30 @ 7pm – OPENING NIGHT  
Saturday, July 31 @ 1pm & 7pm  
Sunday, August 1 @ 1pm  
Wednesday, August 4 @ 1pm *(pre-sold)*  
Thursday, August 5 @ 1pm *(pre-sold)*  
Thursday, August 5 @ 7pm  
Friday, August 6 @ 1 p.m. SENIOR MATINEE  
Friday, August 6 @ 7pm  
Saturday, August 7 @ 1pm & 7pm  
Sunday, August 8 @ 1pm  
Wednesday, August 11 @ 1pm *(pre-sold)*  
Thursday, August 12 @ 7pm  
Friday, August 13 @ 7pm  
Saturday, August 14 @ 1pm & 7pm  
Sunday, August 15 @ 1pm & 7pm – CLOSING PERFORMANCE

### **About Circus Juventas**

Circus Juventas, celebrating its 16th anniversary this year, is a non-profit youth performing arts circus based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Circus Juventas offers an array of circus arts training and performance opportunities to children and youth up to age 21. Its mission is to inspire artistry and self-confidence through a multi-cultural circus arts experience. Students learn acrobatics, balance, aerial techniques, juggling and theatrical skills in a safe and noncompetitive environment. The focus is on discipline, hard work, and mentor and peer relationships.