ENTERTAINMENT
Technique • Friday, April 2, 2004

Cirque delivers awe-inspiring Alegria

By C. Jason Mabry
Senior Staff Writer

Cirque du Soleil’s Alegria is a spectacle not to be missed. This amazing performance combines feats of unbelievable contortion, ridiculous fire handling and incredible acrobatics, not to mention quite entertaining clown acts, gorgeous costumes and inspiring singing. Alegria focuses on a woman’s journey to this corner of the world and one unlikely to be seen in many other places.

Director Franco Dragone has created a visual masterpiece that is enough to make anyone want to join the trapeze and travel the world. And world travelers these performers are. The 59 performers hail from 16 countries and add to the vibrant and energetic mix inherent in the show. From the set design to the over-the-top costumes, every detail of the show appears at once precisely engineered and wonderfully free-flowing, making for a truly amazing evening.

Cirque du Soleil is two-and-a-half hours of pure, high-energy entertainment. It is not possible to become bored with the spectacle, as the ante is always upped and the show continually Improves upon itself. The choreography and synchronicity with which the show is performed combines a very serious aesthetic with a calculation approach by any engineering student.

Don’t waste time seeking flaws in the production; rather, take time to marvel at the ingenuity with which the performers have created a show so amazing as to warrant every minute of the lengthy standing ovation it deservedly received.

Most visitors will walk away from the show marveling most about the contortionists who appear to have been born without numerous important skeletal features, such as a spine or hip bones. These performers inspire awe and pain in the audience, working through their fluid and unique routines.

Equally as striking is a hand-balancing act in which the performer supports the full weight of his body on one hand while holding himself horizontal and spinning in circles, among various other maneuvers. The fire knife dance surely leaves many wondering how much flame retardant the specialist was wearing, as he holds his torches against the flames and awakes in a false Soviet era recuperating from injuries before the fall of Lenin.

Cirque du Soleil features a multitude of breathtaking acts ranging from the mustache contortionists to the death-defying fire-knife act. This world class performance runs through April 25 at the Cobb Galleria just up I-75.

Ring in April with ATL Dogwood Fest

The Atlanta Dogwood Festival will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Piedmont Park. The festival is a collection of artists, vendors, food vendors with activities all weekend long. The event will take place Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday noon until 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, so enjoy the weather, the scenery and the dogs playing dogs.

Macbeth joins with Simpson family

Showing in the Ferst Center is MacHomer. This performance is a one-man spectacle in which Rick Miller re-enacts Macbeth through over 50 voices found within the classic cartoon The Simpsons. The show is both funny and an amazing spectacle to view. Tickets are on sale and can be had for $25-$35 for today’s performance.

Landmark offers special engagement

Landmark Theaters in Midtown will hold a one-week only showing of Good Bye Lenin starting this Friday. This spectacular German film follows a fragile woman who falls into a coma before the fall of Lenin and awakes in a false Soviet era. The movie is both funny and an amazing spectacle to view.

Punisher continues comic book movie string with little success

What do Captain America, Blade, The Hulk, X-Men, Batman, Spider-man and The Punisher have in common? Besides being superheroes, all of these comic books have been turned into a movie. The Punisher joins in as the latest attempt to make the perfect comic-to-film movie filled with big names stars, action sequences and media hype. Sadly, it fails to achieve its goal.

The Punisher is about an ex-FBI agent named Frank Castle, played by Thomas Jane (60*, Dreamcatcher, Original Sin), who turns into a vigilante after his entire family is killed before his eyes and is left for dead. Fuelled by the desire to punish the ones responsible for these crimes, Castle takes the law into his own hands. Normally, this plot line would be ideal for a mega blockbuster hit filled with insane stunts, spectacular special effects and memorable fight sequences. After all, it worked for movies like Blade and Blade 2.

However, the Punisher is one of the darkest, if not the darkest, superheroes ever created. He is constantly haunted by his past to the extent that it takes other characters like Batman and Daredevil to wake him up. The movie fails to capture this aspect. In trying to portray this darkness, nearly three quarters of the film is marked by the same emotions: self-loathing, gray and confusing. This makes the film seem long and tedious at times. The audience comes to the movies to see a wide range of emotions in a film, not the same type.

There is nothing extraordinary about the film, but there is certainly nothing wrong with it. It’s not the best film but it’s not terrible. It’s a decent attempt at a dark superhero.

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Students showcase films at Ferst Center

By Justin O’Neal Miller
Contributing Writer

Eager future filmmakers filled the Ferst Center Monday night for the Delta Campus Movie Fest. Various groups of students had been looking forward to the night for the majority of the semester.

The Movie Fest exhibited student films made for the 2004 competition, whose first prize treated each team member to a continental roundtrip plane ticket. Macintosh also sponsored the event and provided a platform for digital editing and two golden iPods as door prizes.

The films were made in only a handful hours of pure, high-energy entertainment. The quality of most films emphasized this urgency. While many were not any more exciting than films shot with your parents handheld camcorders in ninth and tenth grade, moments of visual composition emerged from some films. Editing and audio/video synchronizations seemed difficult to navigate, and there was an obvious but understandable hollow narrative structure in almost every film.

There is a specific, excited reaction to seeing your home and familiar faces on a movie screen. This is something that can only happen a few times in a lifetime. And, there is no better place to see these movies than the Delta campus movie fest.

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Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip

by Brian Lewis [gtg043f@mail.gatech.edu]

Hey Dad. I have a huge calculus exam tomorrow and could use some help.

Oh sure, now you want to learn calculus? Remember when I tried to teach you? Do you, Mr. "No Dad, that's way too complex!" Mr. "I don't need partial differentiation for this!? Larry, I...

Dad, I was in the second grade and learning subtraction.

Technique meetings...tuesdays @7...room 137 flag building...free pizza
I’ve long suspected that Georgia Tech students are a special kind of weird that leaves us unprepared for real-world social events, and this past week has illustrated that point.

On Saturday, Two Bits Man actually got invited to a party hosted by GSU students. You know, normal people from elsewhere in Atlanta. I had long heard about these things called “parties” that are held both by normal people and Greeks—and yes, those are two distinct and non-intersecting groups.

Going to this party pointed out exactly how odd I have become at Tech. I met a cute gal, and we started chatting, but things quickly got awkward. At the beginning of the conversation, we actually had some common ground, you know, standard small talk, just like dating in a Meg Ryan film. But before long, all of the Meg Ryan qualities of our conversation had gone by the wayside. The conversation had (thanks to other people in the room) strayed to the philosophical underpinnings of Inspector Gadget.

Believe it or not, someone else brought the subject up, and before long, someone else was worrying about the whole issue of infection and how it would hurt to have a helicopter pop out of your head. Despite all the Inspector Gadget talk, I said the one thing that caused an awkward silence in the room, “I’m not big on having a helicopter pop out of my head, but I think that a gasoline-powered propeller beanie would rock.”

This is the ostracism that engineers have to face every day. I come up with an idea that engineers have to face every day. A gasoline-powered propeller beanie would rock.”

At any rate, I chatted with my mom a couple days after the party, and I told her the story of my engineering gaffe, and she would have nothing of it. “You’re not weird. No son of mine is weird. Get a good haircut, and you won’t look like a weirdo.”

I wish it were that simple. If getting a good haircut were all it took to offset being weird, then Georgia Tech would have the best damn haircuts on Earth. Forget Paris, forget New York and forget Hollywood; real stylists would move in droves to Atlanta as Tech became a world fashion center.

The weirdness-offsetting haircuts at Tech would lead a fashion revolution, and provided that we could avoid engineering references throughout a whole photo shoot, top fashion magazines would descend upon Tech, just to show off our styles.

But wait! There’s a philosophical paradox there. It’s widely believed that models are stupid, and becoming one will lessen your IQ. The weirdness-offsetting haircuts at Tech might lead a fashion revolution, and provided that we could avoid engineering references throughout a whole photo shoot, top fashion magazines would descend upon Tech, just to show off our styles.

So, if all of the students at Tech get incredible haircuts to offset their weirdness, and consequently get modeling gigs, their intelligence would disappear and the entire university would be like UGA, only worse.

We would lose accreditation, and ultimately become a party school, so everyone would be normal, and like normal people, we would all get $12 haircuts instead of haircuts that are good enough to offset our weirdness.

One by one, the stylists and fashion editors would leave Georgia Tech, and people would again start studying with their bad haircuts, and it’s all back to being weird.

It’s hard to say whether or not a good haircut will make me less weird, but one thing’s for sure: I’m weird, and I’ve got a bad haircut.

Until next week, this is the Two Bits Man reminding you that it’s okay to be weird, as long as you don’t mind being responsible for turmoil in the fashion industry.

**“Dialectic” for a one week project:**

...Two Bits

Need to revamp your look to fix your broken social life? Get a haircut.

**Entertainment**

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**Delta**

Project, it exhibited exceptional planning, production and execution... the editing was as good as any music video...
Thomas Jane stars in *The Punisher*, which opens today. The film joins the ranks of other favorite comic books that have not adapted well to the big screen.

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about the action sequences; almost every one of them is either seen in a previous film or is expected.

The entire movie is not a failure, though; in fact, there are some good aspects to the film. The performances given by Rebecca Romijn-Stamos (*X-Men, X2*) and Will Patton (*Remember the Titans, The Agency*) are commendable.

With most movies of this type the audience always wonders what exactly would happen to the main character if he or she was in fact not prepared to fight. It seems that no matter the adversary, the hero can always handle to confrontation.

But, in this movie during the fight scene with the Russian, the audience gets to see perhaps a more real-life scene. In addition, the drinking scenes poignantly show the sadness of the character.

Overall, *The Punisher* is another failed attempt to make a good comic book-based movie filled with choppy scenes, bad dialogue and media hype. *The Punisher* opens today.

Go Jackets! Beat the Cowboys!
The action is so fast, intense and colorful that often the audience is so distracted as to not know whom to watch or where to look next. Countering this show, the best clown act incorporated all of the audience in a most creative manner. After simultaneously playing a traveler and the significant other wishing him a moving farewell, the clown arrives at his destination where it begins to snow. The snow becomes fast, intense and colorful that often the audience is so distracted as to not know whom to watch or where to look next.

Perhaps the most under-appreciated aspect of the show, two competing ballerinas provide a vocal soundtrack throughout, setting the mood and providing well-received background soundtrack.

Partly setting Alegria apart from other shows, the entirety of the show’s music is performed live by smartly dressed musicians who are just as talented as the stage performers. The entire production is masterfully executed and lacks in very few areas. If nothing else is understood, let it be known that Cirque du Soleil leaves no one wanting in the visual department. The show will continue through April 25 at the Cobb Galleria. Head to www.cirquedusoleil.com for tick-