

FORT WORTH

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SECOND
REVIEW

Circus juggles crowd-pleasers

WHAT: Extravaganza – Le Cirque, a European-style, single-ring circus with clowns, acrobats, jugglers and a dog act.

WHERE: The Scottish Rite Cathedral in downtown Dallas.

WHAT'S TO LIKE?: Everything. Pack up the kids (and the neighbors' kids, for that matter) and see this show. You won't find better family entertainment anywhere in the Metroplex.

This little-cirque-that-could features an incredible cast of international performers who have obviously been performing these various illusions, feats of daring and dazzling tricks since shortly before their births.

The 5-year-old unicyclist's claim that he has been practicing "for 10 years" seems completely credible. Producer-director Fanny Kerwich, a French-Canadian with a long family

history in the circus who now calls Dallas home, has done a fabulous job of assembling talent and putting together a seamlessly flowing and continuously captivating show.

All the acts are great, from the juggling clown to the cutest collection of canines that have ever been rescued from the pound (14, count 'em, 14 talented mutts!). But the glue that holds it all together is the clown team of Monday and Slappy, a couple

of well-credentialed slapstick artists who are also known as Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley.

WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?: Nothing. Some of the acts probably date back to Ancient Rome, but they are so well done that you don't mind the familiarity at all. This show, played in the facility's cozy, 500-seat auditorium, is like having a world-class circus drop out of the sky and into your living room.

Extravaganza – Le Cirque

A+ ■ 8 tonight, and 2 at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ Scottish Rite Auditorium, 500 S. Harwood St., Dallas

■ \$40-\$60
■ (972) 647-5700 and (214) 373-8000