

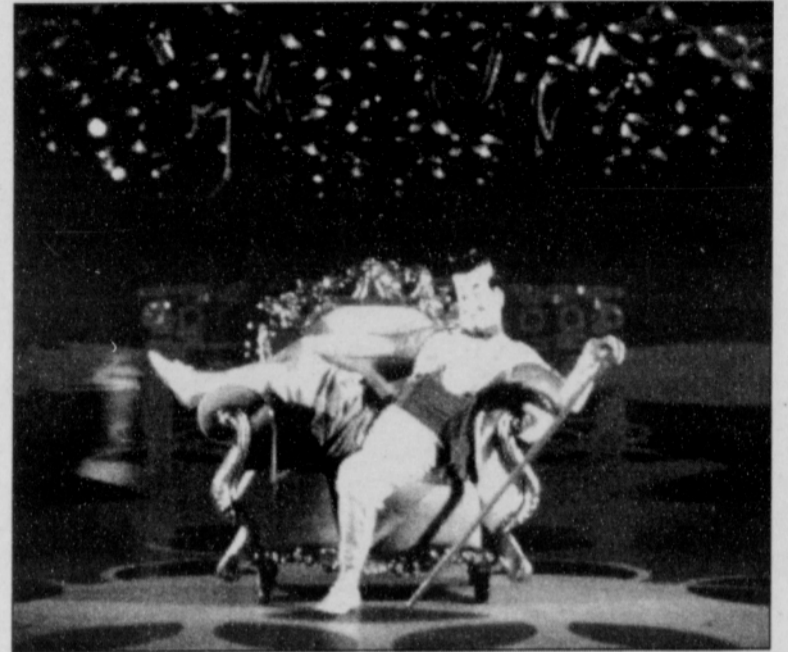
Theatre

The Cirque de Soleil Proudly Presents Saltimbanco

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Applauded by more than 4.5 million

spectators worldwide, *Saltimbanco* premieres in Portland on May 11, 2000 and Seattle on July 6, 2000, marking the launch of its tour in the Pacific Northwest. The engagement is part of a three-year tour that encompasses Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Portland, Seattle and Japan when, for the first time, *Saltimbanco* is restaged under a new, white, \$15 million Grand Chapiteau (Big Top). *Saltimbanco* has been experienced by fans across four continents since it started touring in 1992. It has played a 19-month North American tour encompassing Montreal, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica, Costa Mesa, New York, Toronto, Chicago, Boston, Washington and Atlanta in 1992-1993. It has also played a six-month run in Tokyo in 1994, two months in Montreal followed by a two-year European tour from 1995-1996. The Asia Pacific tour began with a 10-month, five-city stint in Australia. Described by Time Magazine as "the greatest show on earth", *Saltimbanco* is a 2 1/2-hour show staged beneath the Grand Chapiteau, a white state-of-the-art big top. With climate control and a seating capacity of approximately 2,500, this architectural endeavour will



take center stage from May 11 in Portland for a limited season. *Saltimbanco*, an arcane 16th century Italian word meaning "skilled street performers," refers to the medieval street troupers and wandering minstrels whom often improvised a stage by seizing a bench. Expanding on this theme of impromptu spectacle and urbane adventure, *Saltimbanco* celebrates life! Created as an antidote to the chaos and despair present in this day and age, it proposes a new vision of urbanity, overflowing with optimism and happiness. Bringing together a cast of 53 artists

from 13 nations, *Saltimbanco* presents a melange of awe-inspiring acts and characters, celebrating the vitality of the human spirit promising an extravaganza of superior acrobatics and theatrical artistry. The Grand Chapiteau will be located at 2750 SW Moody Ave. (south of Marquam Bridge) in Portland. Tickets for *Saltimbanco* are at \$60, \$42 and \$29.50 and \$20.75 for children. Tickets are available online at www.admission.com or by calling 1-800-678-5440. For corporate VIP bookings, call Gilbert Cadieux at 1-800-450-1480, ext.

6116 or email gadieux@americacirquesoleil.com. The show is staged everyday except Mondays.

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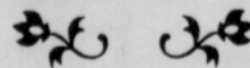
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