

LE CIRQUE ESPRIT

PARENT/CAREGIVER GUIDE

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Use this guide to jump-start a conversation with your child about the performance they saw recently – not only will you get to learn about what your child experienced, but it will also help them to process and reflect upon the onstage material.



MUSICAL UNDERSCORE

Choose a fairy tale or familiar story, and tell the story from memory. This time, tell them you are going to play music while they tell the story, and ask them to try to tell the story with the same mood or feeling as the music. Begin with a happy, upbeat piece of music. When the story is complete, ask what changed about the telling and how did this change impact the story. Do this once more with an intense, darker piece of music and another volunteer. Reflect as a class how this telling felt different.

Discuss generally how music can impact the feel of a story and change our understanding of the story. How did the music used in the performance create different moods within the piece? Identify parts of the performance where the music helped them understand what was happening.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND

In February, 2005, Richard Grimes and cordis embarked on a creative exploration into sight and sound with the award-winning production, Kaleidoscopika. The first generation of their foray into a multi-disciplinary event saw cordis' extensive live show combined with the complimentary aesthetic of Lehrer Dance Company out of Buffalo, NY; initially Angela Buccini augmented that show as a circus soloist. The combination of stunning aerial work and cordis' dramatic soundscapes quickly demanded the inception of an equally stellar technical production – one which focused specifically on the resonant and dissonant relationships that lurk between the worlds of circus and sound. In 2012, just such a world was created when Technical Director, Matthew Cowan, came onboard to co-produce Kaleidoscopika: The Art of Unfolding for Meridith Hankenson and The ACTS Agency.

In 2017, after a decade of artistic exploration and evolution, cordis and Matt Cowan aligned creative forces with the famed Boston Circus Guild, and Le Cirque Esprit was born. This powerful new production has quickly established a unique identity in American circus by framing the pioneering contemporary music of cordis under The Boston Circus Guild's spectacular tapestry of lights, acrobatics, and aerial work. The result is a one-of-a-kind event Billboard Magazine describes as “sparkling moments that defy classification.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the performance about? (Did it connect to history? To something else you've seen?)
- What did the performance make you think about? (Did it spark any new thoughts or give you any new understanding?)
- How did you connect ideas in the performance to ideas or realities in your own life? In the rest of the world?
- Can you remember something about the performance that you particularly liked or disliked? If so, what was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Did you have a favorite moment in the performance? Tell me about it.
- Watch for how the acrobats and performers work together. How do they support each other? How do they communicate? How important do you think teamwork skills are in order to put on a performance and be part of a company like this?