

State Circus of the German Democratic Republic

General Director Otto Netzker

CIRCUS BEROLINA · Director Hans Bernsdorf

Hessische Strasse 11-12 · DDR-1040 Berlin

PRESS-INFORMATIONS

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have the honour to inform you about the guest performance of Circus Berolina, dates: August, 10. until October, 30. in Tesseloniki and in Athens.

Circus Berolina is the first unit of GDR State Circus to give a show in Greece.

Within the State Circus of the GDR there are three circuses: AEROS, BEROLINA and BUSCH. In the GDR the circus season starts at the end of march and ends at November. Each of the three circuses has a staff of 150 people; they travel with 120 caravans and equipment wagons and twenty motor-vehicles.

Social welfare for the staff is being stressed; part of the circus is a nursery school, a four-grade school, a medical centre, a wagon for social gatherings, a canteen for the staff and other services.

In winter-time the circuses have a permanent residence which is located not far from the city of Berlin and which ranks among the most modern installations of that type in Europe. Technical preparation for the next season ist being done in workshops. In the rehearsal rings the artists and the animal trainers have the chance to work on their acts. In addition, there is a large compound of dwellings and social buildings.

Circus in the GDR honours the traditions of the German Circus, which were originated from such important representatives as Christoph de Bach and Ernst Jacob Renz. Circus art has been improved according to modern requirements. Since the establishment of the GDR State Circus in 1960 a proper circus tradition of the GDR has evolved.

In Circus Berolina's schedule you will be able to see a number of acts representing the high standards of the GDR's Circus art.

In the following we would like to brief you about the various acts:

THE POLAR BEARS – Ursula Boettcher, assisted by Manfred Horn

You rarely see acts with polar bears on the international scene, for polar bears are being very dangerous wild animals. The act presented is unique because of its dimension. The act with polar bears is extremely hazardous as these animals do not have any mimics and never show their changing moods; so at any time an attack on the animal trainer is to be expected.

The weight of each polar bear is 600 kilograms, in upright position the tallest of them has a height of 3,30 meters. The lady-trainer Ursula Boettcher has been working with these animals since 1964. Circus audiences saw her performances in many European countries and for six years in the USA. For her good results the performer received several prizes: the National Prize of the GDR, the Art Prize of the GDR, as well as the Circus Oscar in Spain.

THE ELEPHANTS – Gerhard Quaiser

Elephants are very popular circus animals all over the world. Our animal trainer presents with his group of five elephants a very interesting act which is full of tricks.

Top performances of international style: three elephants walking on globes and the female elephant Dina riding on a bicycle.

The performer, Gerhard Quaiser, received the National Prize of the GDR and the Art Prize of the GDR.

THE HORSES – Hasso and Monika Mettin

Horses always belong to the circus, and the Mettins demonstrate this perfectly in the traditional Liberty Horses Act. The horses are presented in very impressive combinations: black horses, white ponies and Pinzgau dappled horses. You see various versions of the Liberty Horses Act.

The Mettins also present a few horses in individual acts.

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THE POODLES – Hasso and Monika Mettin

One usually sees performances with dogs only in the variety theatres; but the Mettins elaborated an act that uses perfectly the conditions of the ring.

Most interesting feature: the animal's keen interest in taking part in the game which is cleverly used by the presenters.

CROCODILES AND BOAS – Duo Bokai

You rarely see crocodiles in the ring. The crocodile from Cuba, presented in this show, which belongs to the most dangerous of all crocodile species, so far was never shown in such a contact act.

The animal trainer, Folker Triebsees, achieved because of his patient endeavours over several years a situation in which the crocodiles tolerate the human touch and perform in the ring. The number is completed with the presentation of boas.

TRICK RIDING – The Musketiery

The novel written by Alexandre Dumas, gives the background for the trick riding performance of our six artists. Youthfulness, speed, daring voltiges are the characteristics of this act.

THE FLYING TRAPEZE – The Glorias

Excitement is anticipated by the onlookers from the flying men under the big top.

The Glorias will not deceive them. The highlight of their presentation is the triple pirouettesalto. So far only the Glorias master it.

Petra Gloria's original trick: a jump from the top into the arms of her partner.

VERTICAL AND SWINGING ROPE COMBINATION – Two Majaros

The Two Majaros show grace, elegance and feat in an interesting combination of the vertical and swinging rope. Aesthetics play the main role at the vertical rope act, whereas at the swinging rope, a rarely shown act, you are impressed by the rapid sequence of tricks.

ACROBATICS AT THE HORIZONTAL BARS – The Rectons

Rapid performance at the horizontal square bars, unique in its form in Europe, is presented by the Rectons. The numerous difficult tricks, especially salti in their various forms, are being completed by the comic performances of one of the troupe members.

By the way the troupe leader, Torsten Malmström, belongs to an artists family having a history of more than 200 years of circus tradition.

PARTERRE ACROBATICS – The Samarra-Troupe

With jumps and pyramids acrobatic fireworks come into the ring. Their very rapid act is the beginning of the performance. Highpoint of their act: the pyramid consisting of seven artists „on two legs“.

SOLO TRAPEZE – Brigitta

A fine adagio performance at the trapeze is shown by Brigitta. Hanging at her neck, falling down to her ankles and other tricks require a very impressive mastership of ones body.

ACROBATICS AT THE TEETERBOARD – The Rialtos

A combination of teeterboard and trampoline show this young artists who perfectly master their difficult act: triple salto and five-men-high are the climax of their act.

COMIC ACROBATS – The Hobby-Hoppers

Humour will not be missing thanks to the Hobby-Hoppers who will as a comic gym squad perform amazing jumps at the box horse. Laughter and pleasure of the audience is always sure.

THE CLOWNS – Mico und Pepe

Clowns represent one of the main pillars of the Circus, as well as the animal trainers and the acrobats. They bring fun in the ring. The two performers, Mico and Pepe, a married couple, decided – after working as acrobats for a few years – to become clowns, a task, which required a good deal of personal engagement.

Musical accompaniment of the performance by circus Berolina's Orchestre under the leader Hansi Rienecker, Production by Gabor Dorsch, Choreography by Peter Erdmann.

It may be of interest for you, ladies and gentlemen, to learn that most of the artists whom you are going to see in our show were trained at the State School for Artists in Berlin. The training period at the school is three and a half years. After graduating the young artists will be employed by the GDR State Circus.

The animal trainers are being trained by the GDR State Circus itself. They begin as animal hands and become later assistant of an experienced animal-trainer.

All the acts you are going to see in our show are of international renown in Europe and Overseas.

In case you would like to make any interviews, please, get in touch with the Director of Circus Berolina: Mr. Bernsdorf. Photographic material is available and to be asked for from Mr. Bernsdorf.

We shall be glad if these informations on our show would be helpful.

We would be glad if you send us two copies of your publications to the address mentioned on page one, thank you in advance.

Thank you for your interest in our show. We want you much pleasure in visiting our circus.