

International Circus Festival of Italy, 25th edition

Latina, October 17 – 21, 2024

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A production of the
GIULIO MONTICO
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

with the contribution of the
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

under the patronage of the
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF LAZIO
PROVINCE OF LATINA



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Production note n. 3 – Monday, July 1st, 2024

The 25th edition of the *International Circus Festival of Italy* will take place in Latina from October 17th to 21st, 2024.

Getting right down to business with the 25th edition, today we announce the names of the first four numbers that will be competing at the Festival.

The competing performers will alternate with our *special guests*, who will be representing the Italian Circus families who created our history.

The production offices of the Festival, in line with our tradition of releasing the names of the cast of the upcoming 25th edition of the Festival a few at a time, can today announce our first four acts, with performers coming from Ukraine, the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Peru, and the Czech Republic to represent their countries of origin in the Circus ring at Latina. Further cast members will be announced in our upcoming production notes along with other exciting news.

1. STRAKHOV FAMILY

Ukraine – Hand to hand



FIVE YEARS AFTER THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE, THE RETURN OF THE STRAKHOV FAMILY FROM UKRAINE

The Strakhov family are part of the history of Ukrainian Circus: the Strakhovs are acrobats as well as being tiger trainers. Danylo, a performer for over 40 years, is very much involved in the training of new generations of performers: in 2019 he competed at the twentieth edition of the Festival with his son Oskar. Five years later their act is enriched by the addition of Danylo's younger daughter, Karolina. The Strakhovs are presenting a *hand to hand* number, a discipline which requires careful coordination between performers; what could be better than a father who passes down his skill, knowledge, and love of Circus to his two children? In a number lasting seven minutes, we'll see two different styles alternating, with Oskar, who is now 15, playing the gangster, while his sister Karolina, 8, is the dancer.

2. LAN SHI XIONG

People's Republic of China – Slack wire



THE ANCIENT ARTISTIC TRADITIONS OF CHINA RETURN TO THE ITALIAN FESTIVAL

The People's Republic of China has a long and rich Circus history: the artistic schools of China have preserved the traditions of an ancient and demanding culture, whilst adding innovations and sumptuous productions. Lan Shi Xiong has been in acrobatics since the year 2000; having studied at the *Guangxi Arts School*, over the last ten years he has specialised in the *slack wire*, one of the variants of tightrope walking, along with the high wire and the low wire: the *slack wire* is distinguished by the lack of tension of the apparatus. The professional career of Lan Shi Xiong is already stellar: Years passed in Las Vegas and Europe have made him a world-level performer, underlined by an important award last year in Kazakhstan.

3. TROUPE AZIZOV

Kazakhstan – Russian bar



SPECTACULAR, DANGEROUS, AND AN AUDIENCE FAVOURITE: RUSSIAN BAR IN COMPETITION

Troupe Azizov is a group of performers from Kazakhstan. They are presenting a Russian bar number, one of the most complex and dangerous disciplines of the Circus. The rebound effect of the barre and the skill and strength of the *catchers* provide the impetus for the airborne feats of the *flyers*: The Russian bar as performed by Troupe Azizov involves gravity-defying somersaults, and spectacular forward and back twists and flips in this dynamic performance. Working together since 2015, this troupe has performed in numerous European and Asian countries, winning many awards along the way.

4. TROUPE ORTIZ

Colombia, Peru, Czech Republic – High wire



DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES OF THE TROUPE ORTIZ SHOW THE MULTICULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE CIRCUS

Troupe Ortiz is the union of seven young performers with three different nationalities: Colombia, Peru and the Czech Republic. Their leader, Colombian Diego Alexander Ortiz, learnt his *high wire* skills from his father, and has been performing for over twenty years. It is a beloved Circus tradition, associating metaphoric meanings to the image of an artiste walking along a high wire. But when a solo performer is replaced by a large troupe, the sensations of fear and audacity are multiplied, especially with the legendary human pyramid of seven people presented by Troupe Ortiz in a 12-minute performance at the height of the big top.

<p>ADVANCE TICKET SALES</p> <p>Tickets can already be purchased for all performances of the Festival. They can be bought by writing to: prenotazione@festivalcircolatina.com.</p> <p>This will allow you to choose your seats now, without having to queue at the box office. Details are available on the Facebook page of the <i>International Circus Festival of Italy</i>: www.facebook.com/festivalcircoitalia/</p>	<p>Ticket Office: prenotazione@festivalcircolatina.com</p> <p>Production Office: info@festivalcircoitalia.com</p> <p>Press: press@festivalcircolatina.com</p> <p>Telephone: + 39 0773 328857</p>	<p>Website: www.festivalcircoitalia.com</p> <p>Facebook: International Circus Festival of Italy</p> <p>Instagram: @festivalcircoitalia</p>
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