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Big Apple Circus Brings the Big Top to Alpharetta January 2018 *Verizon Amphitheatre selected as first stop on National Tour, Celebrating 40th Anniversary*

ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA (November 21, 2017) — **BigTop Works**, the new producers of ***BIG APPLE CIRCUS***, have announced Alpharetta's Verizon Amphitheatre as the opening stop on the National Tour during its historic and critically acclaimed 40th anniversary season. The full lineup of global artists and acts including 10-time world record-holding high wire artist **Nik Wallenda**, and fan favorite **Grandma the Clown** will dazzle and entertain circus goers January 26 – February 25, 2018, for a total of 48 shows over the almost five-week run. Alpharetta is the only stop currently scheduled on this National Tour in the southeast.



Photo provided by BigTop Works

World renowned for its one-ring, intimate & artistic style, where no seat is more than 50 feet from the performers, ***BIG APPLE CIRCUS*** is passionate about revitalizing the circus for modern-day audiences with unique and astounding human feats, innovative design and technology. The 40th anniversary season program features the famous seven-person pyramid on the high wire with **Nik Wallenda** and **The Fabulous Wallendas**

and the daring quadruple somersault attempted on the trapeze by **The Flying Tunizianis** – the first time in circus history that both legendary feats are performed under the same big top. The record-setting acts are joined by *BIG APPLE* fan favorite Grandma the Clown and her comedic sidekick **Joel Jeske**, as well as **Dandino & Luciana**, a dynamic duo who combine speed, acrobatics and daredevil grace on roller skates; award-winning contortionist **Elayne Kramer**; master juggler **Gamal Garcia**; **Jan Damm** on the Rola Bola; acclaimed Risley acrobats **The Anastasini Brothers** (who broke the World Record for Most Flips on November 9, 2017); Ringmaster **Ty McFarlan**; and circus trainer & presenter **Jenny Vidbel**, who performs in the ring with 16 horses and ponies, as well as six rescue dogs.



Photo provided by BigTop Works

“We are very excited to bring this spectacular event to Alpharetta where nationally recognized performers will entertain and delight fans of all ages” says Janet Rodgers, President and CEO of the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Our city is proud to have the quality venues that can host events of this caliber. This is a benchmark event that will provide a great opportunity for visitors to come to Alpharetta, and residents to invite family and friends to enjoy the show.”

Outside of the ring, *BIG APPLE CIRCUS* continues to honor the essential & iconic characteristics that have set them apart for the past four decades with multiple community outreach programs and a vital no-wild-animals policy. **Circus of the Senses** offers special enhanced experiences for audiences with visual and auditory challenges. The special performances include ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices with live audio commentary, pre- & post-show touch therapy experiences, and a Braille program book. Sensory-friendly performances for Autistic audience members will feature lowered light and sound levels, a descriptive picture book showing the different areas and acts involved with the circus, and a “calming center” that can be accessed at any point during the show.

Tickets are now available with special ‘early bird’ pricing for purchases prior to December 15, 2017. We want to encourage you to buy tickets in advance and make plans to spend the weekend in Alpharetta. With five unique shopping districts, more than 200 restaurants and one-of-a-kind attractions, it is easy to hit the high rope with a weekend getaway to the *Big Apple Circus*. To create a complete weekend

experience, visit www.awesomealpharetta.com. Book your rooms directly through our website, with many Alpharetta hotels are offering special rates for events.

TICKET INFORMATION:

Tickets for the Alpharetta, GA performances are now on-sale at www.BigAppleCircus.com and range in price from \$25 Individual tickets – \$109 VIP Ringside tickets.

- Performances run Friday, January 26 – Sunday, February 25, 2018
- Verizon Amphitheatre, Parking Lot A located at: 1775 Founders Parkway – Alpharetta, GA 30009
- For tickets online visit BigAppleCircus.com or Ticketmaster.com
- For tickets via phone call (800) 745-3000 (Ticketmaster)
- Early Bird Pricing through December 15, 2017
- For Groups of 10 or More – (212) 257-2330, groupsales@bigapplecircus.com
- Circus of the Senses Performance will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m.
- Embracing Autism Performance will be held on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m.

HI-RES PRODUCTION PHOTOS: <http://bit.ly/2zOD5yT>

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About the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the official destination marketing organization for the city of Alpharetta, promoting tourism and attracting visitors to all 23+ of Alpharetta’s upscale and modern hotels. Visit awesomealpharetta.com for more information.