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Flying Karamazov Brothers

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Governors State University

Presents

The Flying

Karamazov Brothers

2000/2001 Season sponsored in part by a grant from the:

Illinois ARTS COUNCIL
THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS

The Flying Karamazov Brothers got their start on the streets twenty-seven years ago. Since then they have gone on to bring their unique brand of theater to prestigious venues around the world with their highly successful productions, Juggling and Cheap Theatrics, Juggle & Hyde, Club, Theatre of the Air, Club Sandwich and Sharps, Flats and Accidentals. Tours in past years have included international appearances in Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Bermuda, Israel, Germany and The Netherlands. They’ve enjoyed six successful and critically acclaimed runs on Broadway. In 1987, for their third Broadway appearance, the Brothers starred in their adaptation of Shakespeare’s “The Comedy Of Errors” – a highly acclaimed production at New York’s Lincoln Center. They also created their own version of Stravinsky’s “L’Histoire du Soldat” for the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival. They wrote and starred in a musical comedy modernization of “The Brothers Karamazov,” directed by Daniel Sullivan for the Seattle Repertory Theatre and the Arena Stage in Washington D.C. They even brought to life, “Le Petomane” – a French cabaret performer at the turn of the century. “Le Petomane” was directed by Robert Woodruff for the La Jolla Playhouse in California and for A Contemporary Theater in Seattle, Washington.

The Brothers co-starred with Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner, and Danny De Vito in the hit movie, The Jewel of the Nile. They have appeared on an episode of Seinfeld and, as themselves, on Ellen and the PBS shows, Bill Nye, the Science Guy and Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood. In 1997 they appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Other television credits include: Public Television’s Great Performances, Live from Lincoln Center, several Smothers Brothers shows, numerous appearances on such shows as NBC’s Today Show, ABC’s Good Morning America, CBS’s This Morning, TNN’s Crook & Chase, Home, Regis and Kathie Lee, The Pat Sajak Show, The Late Show with Joan Rivers, Dolly with Dolly Patron, Comedy Tonight, CBS’ Happy New Year America, and the Disney Channel Special The New Vaudevillians.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers have consistently proven to be highly original and thoroughly exciting. They are truly without peer in the world of entertainment.

THE UNIVERSE IS A VERY COMPLICATED PLACE
FINALLY, SOMEBODY EXPLAINS IT ALL!

The Flying Karamazov Brothers, the OBIE award winning comedy/theatre/juggling troupe, are thrilled to present their latest show, L’Universe. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab in Boston, the Brothers have put together an all new, multi-media, high tech extravaganza. This show premiered in January, 2000 at A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, Washington and is now touring the world.

What happens when the worlds of science, juggling, music and comedy collide? What happens when the most brilliant minds in science meet the world’s most insane entertainers? If you’ve ever asked yourself these questions (and we know you have), at last you will get some answers. In their last show, Sharps, Flat & Accidentals, the Brothers examined the world of music and rhythm and how it related to juggling and other disciplines. L’Universe (or as we like to call it Looneyverse) continues this theme of exploration by looking into the cosmology of the universe, with live-on-stage consultations from such experts as Aristotle, Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. The Brothers step into the realm of “virtual juggling” (of both balls and planets), as well as juggling clubs that change colors as they fly through the air. They offer up a haunting melody while weaving through giant swinging pendulum bells hung from the top of the stage. They also create many never-before-seen variations on their single most significant contribution to the world of juggling, the electrifying improvisational club passing called “Ja%£’-

In one of the highlights of the show, the Brothers sport sonar transducers and accelerometers which, by measuring the position of the juggler on the floor, allow them to play and “shape” music with their bodies. The backdrop of the set is a large screen on which many enlightening, entertaining and downright silly video images are projected throughout the performance. The screen establishes a multi-media experience, allowing the performers to interact with their own virtual images and with the audience. This show breaks new ground and uses technology never before exploited on the stage. The combination of The Karamazovs’ unique physical, musical, theatrical and comedic skills with the new, twenty-first century technologies created by the MIT Media Lab create nothing short of a “Big Bang”.

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**BIOGRAPHIES**

**PAUL MAGID** (Dmitri) I think that everyone should know that my bio includes a degree in English Literature earned 11 years after graduation from a college without grades. That I pay for the upkeep and registration of a '69 Citroen sedan I don’t own. That my dog is a border collie who flunked sheep herding school. That I own many volumes of books about mythology, angels, King Arthur and WWII. That my office is a mess. That I keep clothes that I wouldn’t be caught dead in. That I have a '46 Chevy school bus, with a VW van riveted on top and vegetables painted on the hood, parked right next to the house. That I adore my wife Becca and my daughter Pesha. That the newest little Chace/Magid, Rebecca (who was born on June 19, 1997 and is adorable), shares her birthday with FKB Company Manager, Rhonda Sable, baseball legend Lou Gehrig, comic genius Moe Howard and Fred Waring, the inventor of the blender.

**HOWARD JAY PATTERSON** (Ivan) is not what he appears. Yes he is. For the first half of his life he (and those around him) believed he would evolve into a member of the zoological priesthood (or perhaps rabbinate), delving into the ineluctable mysteries of the ecosystem; the second half has on the contrary found him as the co-founder and musical director of the FKB. He suspects his mother has forgiven him at last, ever since he played the euphonium accompanied by the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center. He, along with his wife, artist/counselor Seiza de Tarr; and his sons, actor Jasper (16) and polymath Gavriel (12), is in the process of migrating from his rural Washingtonian stomping grounds of the past decade-plus to a new urban existence of plentiful goods and accessible services in that enlightened metropolis, Portland Oregon, taking up residence with the rest of his molecular family, the de la Rochas. The future lies ahead.

**MARK ETTINGER** (Alexei) Jongleur and warrior of music in the service of humanity, M. Ettinger is rumored to be descended from dogs that flew spaceships. His mystery twitches safely muzzled in the mist, yet retorts of his illustrious lineage have hounded him since he was caught mounting the steppes of Central Eastern Europe on a moonlit jaunt over the Great Wall of Belgium, on a Royal Quest to sniff out Chocolates locked in the Classic Struggle between Dark and Light, and liberate them from impending absorption into the Teutonic Masses, and all without tags. Ironically, confusion over his Universal Friendship for humans by his interrogator, one S. Freund, sent a howling Ettinger catapulting to the stars. Upon landing in the Gnu World, he crawled out of the rocket and onto the stage. In his copious spare time Mr. Ettinger indulges his passion for music: composing, teaching (decomposing), conducting and performing on a dozen instruments; and his passion for his wife Jennifer Collins, Madame la Reine DuCaniveaux, and their two princesses, Caroline and Kate. They live happily ever after.

**RODERICK KIMBALL** (Pavel) was born in BC. That makes him either ridiculously old, or simply Canadian. He was raised in northern Maine, which leaves a kid with truckloads of spare time. At age 17, he started juggling, and he hasn’t stopped since (and, boy, are his arms tired!). Roderick went to college twice. The first time for art. The second time for Physics. He left both times for the same reason — to combine art and physics by juggling. Since 1991, he has been performing and teaching juggling and related forms in Portland, ME and Washington, D.C. In the fall of '98, he and dancer Emily Crews directed a show of juggling, dance and music in Washington, D.C. Roderick is the latest addition to The Flying Karamazov Brothers, hence the moniker, “Baby K”. You can call him that if you want.