ACROBATS, BLACK BELTS AND DERBIES

Join the Mad Rollin' Dolls on April 2 for their fifth roller derby of the season “Wig-Out Mustache Bash” and on April 23 for the semi-finals “Crash of the Titans” in Veterans Memorial Coliseum. More information on these exciting bouts is available at www.madrollindolls.com.

April 8 brings popular artist Bassnectar to Exhibition Hall for a show that has no hesitation in fusing the familiar with the strange or the classic with the cutting edge. By combining sound and force with weight, the Bassnectar experience engulfs the senses. To find out more about the show visit www.bassnectar.net.

Exhibition Hall will host the annual Kicks Unlimited Black Belt Competition on April 9 for many talented athletes. Kicks Unlimited members will compete in their respective classes at this exciting event. For more information visit www.kicksunlimited.com.

Willow Island hosts Madfest on April 23 as a place for college students to convene at the first outdoor spring festival of 2011. Fusing the 3000 year-old tradition of Chinese acrobatic arts with the multidisciplinary approach, Cirque du Soleil-Dralion will excite audience members on April 26-27 in Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The show draws its inspiration from Eastern philosophy and its never-ending quest for harmony between humans and nature. More information on the show is available at www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/dralion. (see page 2).

On April 29 “The World's Largest Paint Party” DAYGLOW comes to Exhibition Hall for a one-of-a-kind experience. This spectacular show fuses high-energy music, art, dance, and paint into one mind blowing combination. For more info visit www.dayglowtour.com.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Be apart of the exclusive women's re-sale event on April 7-9 in Exhibition Hall for Combine and Consign Resale. Shop thousands of items of women's clothing, shoes and accessories including one-of-a-kind designer and boutique labels all in one location.

More information on this unique event is available at www.combineandconsign.com.

Many nationally recognized people in the fields of health care, adult literacy and health care policy gather in Exhibition Hall on April 12-13 for the Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit. To find out more go to www.wisconsinliteracy.org.

STARGRAZING AND ANIMAL MAGNETISM

The Wisconsin Deer and Turkey Expo returns to Exhibition Hall on April 1-3 with new seminars, activities, contests and booths. Get your gear, deer and turkey questions answered by nationally-recognized experts. Enjoy shooting ranges, bow tryout areas, and Puppies & Kids Sunday, a new area that will be fun for everyone in the family. For more information visit www.deerinfo.com.

On April 7-8 the Midwest Select Draft Horse Sale sets up in the Arena Building. Several Purebred Draft Horse Auctions will take place with Percheron, Belgian or Clydesdale Mares, Stallions & Geldings horses. More information is available at www.midwestselectsale.com.

Come Stargazing on April 15-17 at Midwest Horse Fair created on the Alliant Energy Center grounds. Providing quality educational and entertainment opportunities for both horse owners and those who simply love them, the annual event is sure to please the whole family in its 32nd year. More information on this horse lovers event is available at www.midwesthorsefair.com.

Another outstanding herd of alpacas come to Veterans Memorial Coliseum on April 30-May1 for the Great Midwest Alpaca Festival. Seminars, fiber demonstrations, various shows, auctions and more will all be available for breeders, alpaca lovers and anyone interested in learning more about these unique animals. Visit www.gmaf.info/index.html.
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ACROBATS FLY, DANCE AND AMAZE AUDIENCES

Bearing the unmistakable signature of Cirque du Soleil, 50 international acrobats, gymnasts, musicians and singers will be featured on April 26 and 27 in Veterans Memorial Coliseum for the world-renowned show: Cirque du Soleil-Dralion.

The show’s name is derived from its two emblematic creatures: the dragon symbolizing the East, and the lion, symbolizing the West. In the world of Dralion, cultures blend, Man and Nature are one, and balance is achieved.

Cirque du Soleil-Dralion features the 3000 year-old tradition of Chinese acrobatic arts and draws its inspiration from Eastern philosophy and its never-ending quest for harmony between humans and nature.

Be ready to be enticed at the dramatic costumes, characters and creative acts including:

Aerial Hoop-Hibana: An awe-inspiring creation of strength and agility, this exotic aerial ballet captures the passion and energy of its signature element, “fire” while suspended from a hoop high above the stage.

Aerial Pas de Deux: Pas de Deux is a languorous aerial dance; a couple, intertwined, flies over the stage in a long band of blue cloth. Within the cloth, they perform various acrobatic figures that demand great feats of strength and flexibility.

Bamboo Poles: A traditional act of the Chinese acrobatic art, the performers keep the poles ‘in flight’ overhead while performing acrobatics on the ground.

Chairs: The artist delicately stacks chairs to create a tower on which they perform a balancing act that displays the human body at the very peak of condition and muscular control.

Dralions: In a dynamic and energetic tumbling sequence, the artists perform acrobatic moves while balancing on large wooden balls as the Dralion characters surround them with a spirited dance.

Hoop Diving: This act takes on a tribal flavor from the African-influenced music to which it is performed. Ten male artists dive and throw themselves like arrows through small wooden hoops.

Juggling: The artist incorporates a fast-paced performance with hints of modern dance. His incredible precision and mastery of his art are evident as he juggles up to seven balls simultaneously.

Medusa: The artists execute graceful and nimble movements, which emphasize their extreme flexibility and balance.

Single Handbalancing: During this act, the artist balances on canes of various heights, slowly executing a series of astounding figures while maintaining a delicate equilibrium.

Skipping Ropes: As the artists keep time with the long skipping ropes, they perform flips, make pyramids and even form a human column.

Trampoline: Defying the rules of gravity, fearless aerialists bounce off trampolines using the futuristic backdrop both as a diving board and landing pad.

Tickets for the show are currently on sale. Tickets can be purchased at the Coliseum Box Office (Monday-Friday, 10am – 5pm), www.ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Advanced Reserved Ticket Prices: $92, $72, $52, and $32. The show starts at 7:30 pm on both days. More information is available at www.cirquedusoleil.com.