



## Wildlife Rescue Sanctuary Presents a *Circus with a Purpose* Highlighting Animal-Free Performances

**The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)** will debut an original, live-action, animal-free circus at Hollywood's historic Avalon Theatre on Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30, 2012. Dubbed "Circus PAWS", this unique circus benefits the 28-year-old wildlife rescue organization's animals, and will feature an original script with performances by members of Nathalie Gauthier's Le Petit Cirque, a troupe of young performers, ages 7-14, whose mastery of performance skills will thrill and amaze guests. Tickets for the three performances are available online at [www.circuspaws.com](http://www.circuspaws.com).

Based in Northern California, PAWS is an internationally recognized leader in animal welfare. Among its greatest concerns is the treatment of animals in traveling shows. PAWS maintains it is not *anti-circus*, but rather *anti-circus with live animal performers*.

"Human circus performers choose to work tirelessly to perfect their skills, and devote their lives to their art; animal performers cannot make that choice," states PAWS founder and director, Pat Derby. "The use of live animals actually detracts from the talent and artistry of the human performers, as everyone who attends Circus PAWS will soon discover."

Life for a circus animal means enduring the stress of chains and confinement, harsh travel conditions, as well as being subjected to the inhumane methods used to train and control the animals. Circus PAWS will demonstrate how exciting a circus without animals can be, all the while heightening public awareness to the issue.

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### ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

**Le PeTiT CiRqUe** is a professional troupe of performers, ages 6-13, who rank among the top in the world in aerial arts, juggling, trapeze, hoops, silks, acrobatics, stilts, skateboards, contortionists, and martial arts. They have mesmerized audiences worldwide - selling out shows, wowing audiences, and making the impossible look easy. . . a pint-sized version of "Cirque du Soleil meets Marcel Marceau."

Guest artists for Circus PAWS include:

- Julian Pavone, *Guinness Book's youngest professional drummer*
- Kaelyn Whaley, *8-time World Champion Martial Artist*

- Rio Mangini, musical child prodigy who has played Carnegie Hall twice
- Luminario Ballet

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## PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT LE PETIT CIRQUE

“Le PeTiT CiRqUe is magical and entertaining – further proof that a circus needs no animal performers to be spectacular.” – *Bob Barker, Emmy Award-winning game show host and humanitarian*

"Le PeTiT CiRqUe provides something completely outside of the box, a vibrant circus that stokes the fires of creativity and enthusiasm." – *Stewart Copeland, drummer for the band The Police*

"Are you kidding me? These are CHILDREN! This is the greatest thing I've ever seen!" – *Jamie Lee Curtis, actress and author*

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## ABOUT PAWS

**The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)** captive wildlife sanctuaries are places where abandoned, abused, or retired performing animals, and victims of the exotic animal trade, live in peace and dignity.

Founded in 1984, by former Hollywood animal trainer and author, Pat Derby, and her partner, Ed Stewart, PAWS is an internationally recognized leader in animal welfare. Among PAWS greatest concerns are the treatment of animals in traveling shows, animal acts, television and movies, captive breeding, the exotic animal trade and inadequate standards of care for all captive wildlife.

PAWS has always been at the forefront of efforts to rescue and provide appropriate, humane sanctuary for animals who have been the victims of the exotic and performing animal trades. PAWS investigates reports of abused performing and exotic animals, documents cruelty, and assists in investigations and prosecutions by regulatory agencies to alleviate the suffering of captive wildlife.

PAWS' was the first elephant sanctuary in the United States and the only sanctuary able to house bull elephants. Pat Derby and Ed Stewart pioneered a method of elephant handling that uses NO bull hooks, weapons or aversive training techniques. PAWS was the first facility to use this “non-dominance” technique successfully, and since 1985, the work of Derby and Stewart has been a model for elephant handlers around the world.

PAWS also protects wild species and their habitat with international programs established in India, Mexico, Africa and Cambodia to diminish human/elephant conflict and to establish protected areas for wildlife. Pat and Ed serve as advisory board members for Elephant Haven, a European elephant sanctuary.

PAWS is a proud member of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and is listed as a 4-star charity with Charity Navigator.

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## PAWS CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

The original **PAWS SANCTUARY**, comprised of 30 acres in Galt, California, is a haven of treasured memories and senior residents enjoying their golden years, oblivious to the passing of time.

The **AMANDA BLAKE MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**, 100 acres in Herald, California, established in Ms. Blake's (Miss Kitty from "Gunsmoke") memory, provides refuge for emu, fallow deer, an eland, and a herd of scimitar-horned oryx. Through this sanctuary, PAWS continues Amanda's commitment to the protection of animals in captivity as well as in the wild.

**ARK 2000**, 2,300 acres of pristine, natural habitat in San Andreas, California. ARK 2000 is currently home to elephants, lions, bears and tigers, and is the only sanctuary in the United States offering sanctuary to bull elephants.

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## H.R. 3359 — The Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act (TEAPA)

**Introduced on November 2, 2011, in Washington, D.C., by PAWS**, Congressman Jim Moran, Animal Defenders International, and animal protection spokespersons Bob Barker and Jorja Fox, TEAPA will restrict the use of exotic and non-domesticated animals in traveling circuses and exhibitions.

Based upon publically-available research, and video and photographic evidence, it is clear that traveling circuses cannot provide the proper living conditions for these exotic animals. That is why this legislation is intended to target just the most egregious circumstances involving exotic and wild animals in traveling circuses. It is not intended to affect zoos, aquariums, horse racing, rodeos, or permanent facilities where animals travel out for film, television or advertising work.

Keeping elephants in chains, confining wild animals like lions and tigers in small cages, and forcing them to perform unnatural tricks for the sole purpose of human amusement, is increasingly difficult to justify the more we learn about these intelligent, social creatures.

**This is the first bill to comprehensively tackle the use of all wild animals in circuses ever to be launched in the U.S.**

The Bill will end the keeping of animals for extended periods in temporary facilities, the cruel training and control methods employed by circuses and it addresses public safety issues. It will not impact zoos or other static facilities with captive wildlife.

Philanthropist and TV host of "The Price Is Right", Bob Barker, said: "There will be a time when people will be shocked that we ever allowed the suffering of these animals in the name of entertainment to continue so long. Elephants living in chains and being beaten; lions and tigers in small cages on trucks, being whipped to perform tricks; it's the dark ages. This Bill helps bring us out of the dark ages."