



**THE PERFORMING ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (PAWS) PRESENTS:**

CIRCUS PAWS

An animal-free live performance

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Press: <http://CircusPAWS.org>

Tickets: <http://CircusPAWS.com>

Hot New Boy Band To Open Circus PAWS VIP Show Celebs Line-up to Participate in Animal Welfare Benefit Shows

IM5, the exciting new boy-band founded by "American Idol" creator, Simon Fuller, media icon, Perez Hilton, and acclaimed tour director Jamie King, has agreed to open the special VIP performance of Circus PAWS at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, at Avalon Hollywood. The band will feature a live set of their original tunes. This multi-talented quintet fuses hook-driven Pop and R&B melodies with sensational vocal harmonies and dance. "They'll make an exciting addition to this very special occasion," said Robert Gelman, Circus PAWS producer. Info on the band is available at www.im5band.com.

Also featured in this VIP show will be actress and singer Katharine Kramer. The shows, a benefit for rescued and retired performing animals living at the Performing Animal Welfare Society's (PAWS) three Northern California sanctuaries, will be based on an original script with performances by members of Nathalie Gauthier's Le Petit Cirque, a troupe of young professionals, ages 7-14, whose mastery of performance skills always thrills and amazes audiences.

Tickets and information for all three performances of Circus PAWS, September 29-30, Avalon Hollywood, are available at www.circuspaws.com.

Opposed to the use of animals in entertainment, PAWS has consistently maintained that circus can be great entertainment without the use of live animals, and this show will demonstrate how it can be done, all the while allowing the 28-year-old non-profit animal welfare organization to gain wider awareness from the public.

Individuals who have seen this performance troupe have remarked at how exceptional they are for a variety of reasons:

"(This show) Le PeTiT CiRqUe is magical and entertaining – further proof that a circus needs no animal performers to be spectacular." –*Bob Barker*

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

Additional special guest artists include:

- Julian Pavone, *Guinness Book's youngest professional drummer*
- Kaelyn Whaley, *8-time World Karate Champion*
- Rio Mangini, *Carnegie Hall protégé pianist*
- Luminario Ballet
- Kevin Axtell, *master juggler and fire artist*

Also highlighted in the show is the pending legislation in Congress labeled HR 3359, the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act (TEAPA). Introduced on November 2, 2011, in Washington, D.C., by PAWS, Animal Defenders International, Bob Barker and CSI's Jorja Fox, this measure will help end the use of animals in traveling circuses in the United States.

ABOUT PAWS

Founded in 1984, by former Hollywood animal trainer and author, Pat Derby, and her partner, Ed Stewart, PAWS maintains three sanctuaries for captive wildlife in Northern California.

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. As preparations continue with construction of new animal habitats and the relocation of the remaining animals from the Galt facility to the expanded 2,300-acre ARK 2000 sanctuary in San Andreas, PAWS hosted its final Galt Sanctuary open house in May, 2011.

The **AMANDA BLAKE MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**, 100 acres in Herald, California, established in Ms. Blake's (Miss Kitty from "Gunsmoke") memory, provides refuge for fallow deer, eland, Muntjack deer 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.

The story of PAWS began when co-founder, Pat Derby, worked with exotic animals as a trainer on the set of many popular television shows in the 1970s ("Flipper", "Daktari", "Gunsmoke", "Lassie", "Gentle Ben") and other animal films. She was also the trainer and spokesperson for famed Lincoln Mercury "Sign of the Cat" car commercial cougars - Chauncey and Christopher. In the process of developing her own training methods based on

trust and love, instead of fear, Pat was shocked to discover a profession rampant with neglect and abuse. Her autobiography, "The Lady and Her Tiger" (Dutton 1976), was the first exposé of the harsh training methods and minimal care which were standard in the entertainment industry.

It was during this time that Pat met Ed Stewart and retired her animals, but stories of abusive training on movie and television sets prompted them to advocate for legislation which would mandate better standards of care and handling for captive wildlife.

Pat Derby has appeared on "Entertainment Tonight", "The Crusaders", "Inside Edition", "Nightline", "Inside America's Courts", "The World's Most Dangerous Animals", "Dateline", "20/20", "Animal Planet", "The Leeza Show", "Montel Williams", "The Today Show", "CBS Evening News", "The Fine Living Network", "Animal Planet", "PBS Television" and other local and national television news and radio programs educating the public on the need to protect wildlife habitat and to control captive breeding of exotic animal species.

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 is internationally recognized as a leader in animal welfare; among PAWS' greatest concerns is 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 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 Derby and Ed Stewart are 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.

