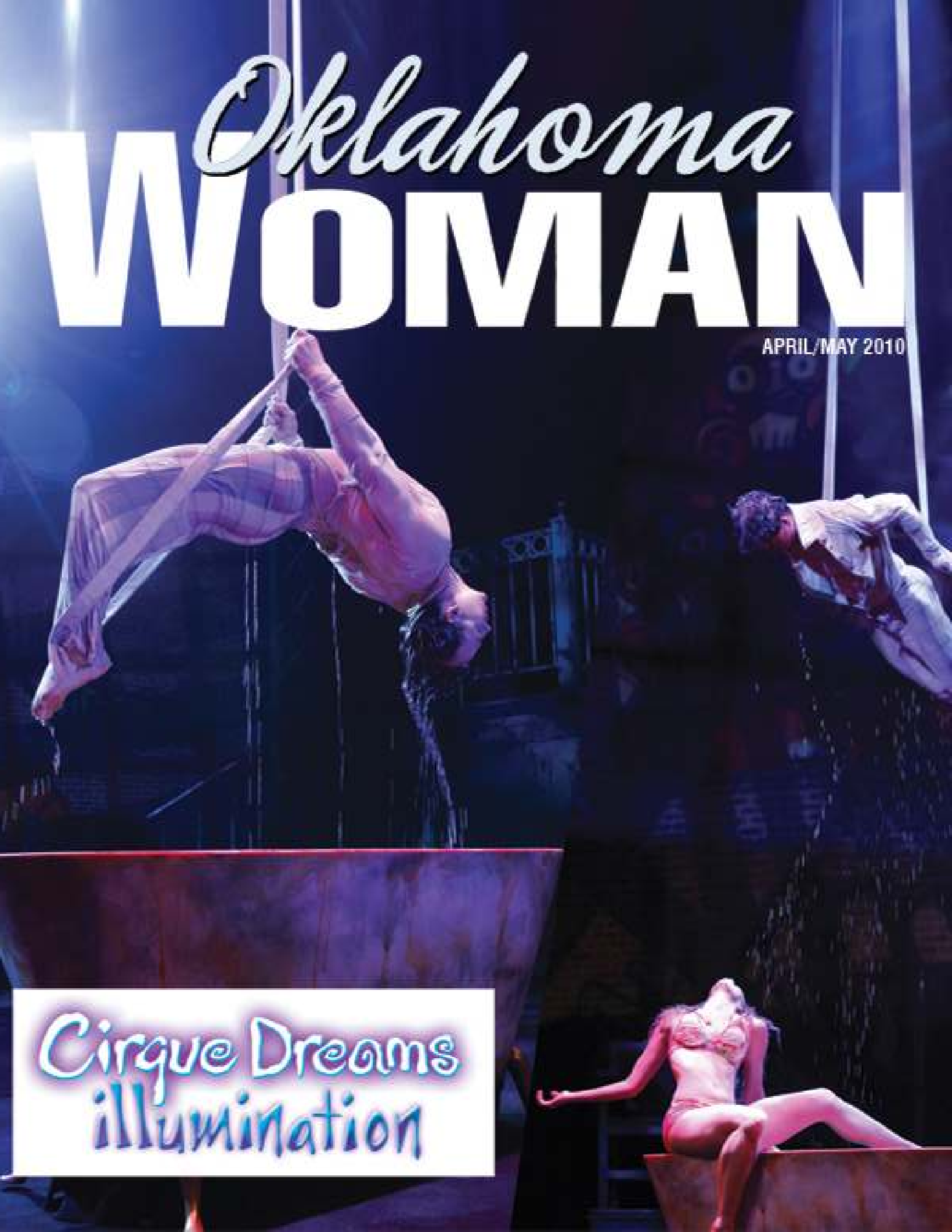


Oklahoma WOMAN

APRIL/MAY 2010



Cirque Dreams
illumination

Cirque Dreams illumination

Lights Up Oklahoma City

By Lonnie Moore



Save the date! An incredible adventure is coming to the Civic Center Music Hall. The enormously successful CIRQUE DREAMS series continues with CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION, coming to Oklahoma City May 4th for 6 days. This "jaw-dropping, family-friendly spectacle" is drawing rave reviews everywhere.

Andrey Moraru, a native of Kiev, Ukraine, is one of the amazing performers. Andrey and the show were in Houston when we caught up with him.

OW: What in the world causes someone to get involved in such outrageous high-risk activities?

AM: I always had a lot of energy and need to express myself somehow; first I was interested in pursuing music or artist career, like a painter. None of them satisfied me enough so I got into circus. You know, as a child you watch movies or read stories about the circus and people from those stories

look joyful to you. I saw what they were doing. It was so amazing that I decided for myself that was what I was going to do if I had the opportunity and, luckily, I did have.

We had a small circus school in my hometown but it was like for beginners. I trained there for 4 years then attended a professional circus college Kiev. I worked in several circuses in Kiev until I turned 18 and was invited to perform in a big production show in Las Vegas. That is how I came to the United States for the first time. I worked there for 3 years then I got with Cirque Dreams.

OW: Do you like it here?

AM: Oh, yes! Definitely! No place is perfect but I don't think I could live in my country again after I've spent a few years here. I know the way things are here; I know the language and there are ways to make more money. And, the places! I've been in Las

Vegas, Los Angeles, and New York. I feel like this could be my home now.

OW: You certainly speak great English. How did you learn?

AM: I spoke a little English when I came here but we had only 2 Russian speaking people in the show in Las Vegas. Everyone else spoke English so I had no choice; I had to learn.

OW: That hand balancing is so incredible. Whatever made you decide to do that?

AM: When I saw somebody doing hand balancing and some of the shape these bodies were taking – it totally amazed me. Part of it was my artist self; I thought 'wow, that's beautiful. That is what I want to do'.

OW: You talk of yourself as an artist but what you do seems very athletic.

AM: You develop yourself. I started training very young. I was out there trying to do back flips and back hand springs and all kinds of acrobatic things at home, in my back yard. Then I decided I should train professionally, in a place where people would direct me in the right way. I was just kind of developing in a lot of different ways.

OW: How do you avoid injuries?

AM: Everything is so extreme but it is all about looking out for yourself and

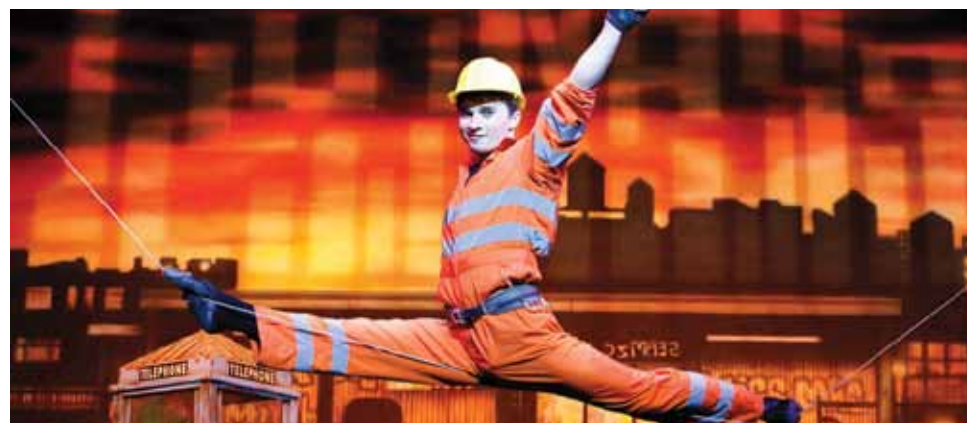
being careful. But, sometimes you just can't avoid injury. You just do whatever you can to avoid it and if injury happens you do whatever you can to recover and keep going.

CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION comes to Oklahoma City's Civic Center Music May 4 – 9 for eight performances only. Tickets go on sale April 12 and may be purchased via phone (800) 869-1451, online at www.CelebrityAttractions.com or in person at the CCMH Box Office. Groups of 20 or more may call (800) 869-1451 ext. 220 for a discount.

The Oklahoma City engagement of CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION is presented by Celebrity Attractions, and continues the 2009-2010 Broadway Season which will conclude with CATS April 8-10 and RAIN A Tribute to The Beatles June 8-13. Celebrity Attractions is proud to have American Airlines, Magic 104.1 FM and The Oklahoman as sponsors for this spectacular season.

See you at the circus, uh show!

Audience Recommendation: Celebrity Attractions recommends CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION for audiences of all ages. This is only to be used as a suggestion for you and your child. Every child is different and attending this show should be decided by the parent or guardian.





**Cirque Dreams
illumination**

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MAY 4-9

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