



## **TANDY BEAL & COMPANY RETURNS WITH DAZZLING EXTRAVAGANZA**

### **JOY!**

#### **A HOLIDAY SHOW WITH CIRCUS, DANCE, and LIVE MUSIC**

**Featuring a cappella stars SoVoSó and  
Cirque du Soleil soloists Jeff Raz and Diane Wasnak**

**Santa Cruz (Nov. 24 – 26) and San Jose (Dec. 1 – 3)**

SAN JOSE, CA (4 October 2017) — The holiday season kicks off with the return of Tandy Beal & Company, presenting another dazzling extravaganza for the whole family, *JOY!, A Holiday Show with Circus, Dance, and Live Music*, featuring the reunion of Pickle Family Circus stars Pino and Razz – also known as Cirque du Soleil soloists Jeff Raz and Diane Wasnak. This new show, which follows up on last year's critically acclaimed *Nutz RE-Mixed!*, is set to the live music of award-winning a cappella group *SoVoSó*, performing original Candy Land flavored tunes and other seasonal favorites accompanying a magical madcap holiday circus featuring world-class acrobats, dancers, and circus artists in a zany holiday spectacular. *JOY! A Holiday Show with Circus, Dance, and Live Music* will play November 24 – 26 at the Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St., Santa Cruz, and December 1 – 3 at the Hammer Theatre, 101 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose. For tickets (\$9.75 - \$50) and more information visit [www.holiday-joy.com](http://www.holiday-joy.com).

This exuberant, family-friendly mix of brilliant visuals, rib-tickling circus comedy, and stunning acrobatics, will find audiences oohing over astonishing Mongolian backbending contortionists, and aahing over the amazing feats of hoop magic by Natasha Kaluza, along with swirling and twirling dancers, plus much more. The evening will be hosted by the mighty Razz and the tiny Pino, the memorable headliners of The Pickle Family Circus. Razz (Jeff Raz) and Pino (Diane Wasnak) have both achieved international fame as soloists with Cirque du Soleil tours and are reuniting for this engagement of pure holiday *JOY!*

Beal's riotous vision of circus and dance offers a joyous multi-colored treat, packed with laughs, expert high-energy tumbling, and the company's trademark breathtaking visuals, creating an excellent outing for the whole family. Last year's production by Beal, *Nutz RE-Mixed!*, received rapturous reviews from critics, including the *San Jose Mercury News* which declared, "to say it is a hit is an understatement." The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* called it, "astonishing and gorgeous staged spectacle... the ideal holiday experience."

**Tandy Beal & Company** has been producing art for more than 40 years – dance, music, media, circus and theatre – creating innovative concerts, classes, and community events. Its award-winning director, Tandy Beal, has helmed acclaimed productions on four continents. Her astonishing list of accomplishments includes directing the Moscow Circus in Tokyo, a show for Carl Sagan's SETI conference, entertainment for Monday Night Football for the San Francisco 49ers, corporate events for Pixar, Oracle, and LucasFilms, creating choreography for Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, as well as many of Bobby McFerrin's world tours, acting as Artistic Director of the Pickle Family Circus for 10 years, and bringing to life 65 life-sized puppets for Frank Zappa.

**Jeff Raz** has performed nationally and internationally for decades, starring in circuses (Cirque du Soleil, Pickle Family Circus, and more) and plays, including *La Bête* at TheatreWorks and *Comedy of Errors* on Broadway. He is a graduate of Dell'Arte International, has written 17 plays, and has directed dozens of circus and theater productions. He cofounded Vaudeville Nouveau in 1982, the S.F. New Vaudeville Festival in 1985, The Clown Conservatory in 2000 and the Medical Clown Project in 2010. His first book, "The Secret Life of Clowns: A backstage tour of Cirque du Soleil and The Clown Conservatory" was launched nationally at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2017 in Washington D.C.

**Diane Wasnak** (Pino) toured for ten years as a clown and acrobat with San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus and its successor, The New Pickle Circus. She has performed internationally with numerous theatrical groups, was featured in Cirque du Soleil's "Mystere," and was stunt-double for Jada Pinkett Smith in the "Matrix" series. Among her stage performances, Wasnak received acclaim for her portrayals of "Puck" in Marin Shakespeare Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and as the first woman ever cast in *A Tuna Christmas* (Actor's Theatre of Louisville), in which she played 11 characters. Wasnak and her dog, Bonzer, made their Broadway debuts in *Busker Alley* starring Glenn Close. Her career spans three decades, during which she has made frequent appearances on stage, film and in television.

The imaginative a cappella vocal group *SoVoSó* sings a compelling blend of rhythm and blues, world-jazz, pop, gospel, improvisational music – and an unforgettable, world beat re-mix of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. The six-voice 'band,' which is based in Oakland, features skilled soloists and composers, trained in varying musical genres. Artists in *SoVoSó* include: Joey Blake and David Worm (of Bobby McFerrin's a cappella ensemble, *Voicestra*), Sunshine Becker (*Further*), Brian Dyer and Ashling Cole (*Graham Central Station*), Vernon Bush (Glide Soloist).

### **For Calendar Editors**

**WHAT:** The holiday season kicks off with the return of Tandy Beal & Company, presenting another dazzling extravaganza for the whole family, ***JOY!, A Holiday Show with Circus, Dance, and Live Music***, featuring the reunion of Pickle Family Circus stars Pino and Razz – also known as Cirque du Soleil soloists Jeff Raz and Diane Wasnak. The show, which follows up on last year's critically acclaimed *Nutz RE-Mixed!*, is set to the live music of award-winning a cappella group *SoVoSó*, performing original Candy Land flavored tunes and other seasonal favorites, accompanying a magical madcap holiday circus featuring world-class acrobats, dancers, and circus artists in a zany holiday spectacular.

### **WHEN/WHERE:**

**Nov. 24 – 26:**

Friday 2pm & 7pm, Saturday 2pm & 7pm, Sunday 2pm  
Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz

**Dec. 1 – 3:**

Friday 7pm, Saturday 2pm & 7pm, Sunday 2pm

Hammer Theatre Center, 101 Paseo De San Antonio Walk, San Jose

**TICKETS:** For Santa Cruz tickets (\$9.75 - \$50, plus box office fees), visit **holiday-joy.com** or call **(831) 420-5260**.  
For San Jose tickets (\$20-\$45, plus box office fees), visit **holiday-joy.com** or call **(408) 924-8501**.  
Group discounts available.

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