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Hellzapoppin Circus Sideshow dares audiences to “Face Your Fears”

The rock ‘n roll circus will bring their death-defying freakshow to U.S. cities.

OLD TOWN (14 June 2022): When the world was freaking out with fear over the last two years, the **Hellzapoppin Circus Sideshow** heeded the call like **Batman** responding to the Gotham City bat signal. The tatted and pierced rock ‘n roll circus donned their greasepaint and costumes and headed back out on the road as the first live production to return to touring last year, leading the way by

mounting their “**Face Your Fears**” tour throughout America. The world’s largest and last remaining troupe of sideshow freaks and circus performers will bring their mind-blowing brand of entertainment to U.S. cities beginning July 14 in Birmingham, Alabama.

A Hellzapoppin’s show is an extreme sensory experience cranked up to maximum volume. Pushing the body and mind beyond the possible with unimaginable death-defying feats, the “Face Your Fears” production is part fantasy, part vaudeville, part freakshow and all rock ‘n roll. Risk-taking acrobats perform without safety nets or wires and stuntpeople swallow swords, eat and breathe fire, hand balance, juggle, unicycle, walk on broken glass, and perform magic and illusions set to raucous rock music by **Motorhead, Motley Crue, Nine Inch Nails, Avatar, In This Moment, Texas Hippie Coalition, Highly Suspect, Saliva, Apocalyptica, Skillet** and others. This is definitely not the circus you grew up watching.

“Hellzapoppin takes more of a modern approach to the circus with a rock ‘n roll vibe. When I put together a show, I seek out performers who are among the only if not the only people in the world who can do what they do. Our artists have performed on ‘Ellen,’ appeared in the **Guinness World Records**, and have been featured on ‘**Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!**’ and AMC’s ‘**Freakshow**,” said Hellzapoppin creator, producer and director **Bryce “The Govna” Graves** who also serves as the circus’s ringleader.

Accompanying Graves on tour will be all three-foot-three half-man daredevil **Short E. Dangerously**, who walks on his hands through broken glass while lit on fire; the tantalizing **Willow Lauren**, one of the few women in the world who swallow swords and regurgitate razor blades; magician and sideshow stuntman **Eric Ross** who performs daring mind over matter feats, including the ancient art of Fakir, which is poking steel skewers through various body parts like biceps, forearm, hand and jaw with virtually no blood or pain; and juggler, unicyclist and comedian **Lucian Fuller**.

As soon as pandemic restrictions eased in February 2021, Hellzapoppin hit the road determined to entertain and alleviate the fear gripping the collective consciousness.

“Hellzapoppin desperately wants to inspire the world not to live in fear. As performing artists, the group feels the burning desire to be on stage now more than ever to give people an opportunity to escape the pain and struggle they have endured over the past few years. Live entertainment provides a platform for people to come together, to forget, and most importantly, to let go and have fun. Hellzapoppin’s performers have an obligation to try to bridge the gap and bring people back together,” said Graves.

While Hellzapoppin performers conquer their fears every time they take the stage, they made fear the central theme of the current touring production knowing how much fear has impacted the world in recent years.

“‘Face Your Fears’ was meant to be more or less a metaphor of what we do as circus performers and the things we put our bodies through to entertain people. We tied it together with everything that has been going on in the world in the last few years. During previous pandemics and economic depressions, circus performers were the stars much like movie stars are today. Circus performers were the ones who brought hope to the hopeless. They put themselves at risk to entertain during those tough times just as our show does now,” said Graves.

“In the beginning of our ‘Face Your Fears’ tour, you could literally see the fear on the audiences’ faces, and in their demeanors and attitudes. But once the show started, all that fear disappeared. We gave people hope during the toughest times of their lives. The show allowed people to forget their fears, even if only for a brief time. We took on this challenge, one town after another, and we are slowly seeing things get back to what used to be normal.”

Named after a 1930s Broadway musical that inspired a 1941 film of the same name, Hellzapoppin’s first ever show was opening for **Marilyn Manson** in 2009 followed by a US tour with hardcore metal groups **Mudvayne**, **Static-X**, **Black Label Society**, **Suicide Silence** and **Bury Your Dead**. The troupe has since toured with more than a dozen rock bands and played at major music festivals, performing thousands of shows in more than sixteen countries. Unlike traditional circuses and sideshows that set up in one location for a series of shows, Hellzapoppin purposely adheres to the rock band touring model that has them performing in a different city night after night.

While Hellzapoppin shows are created to entertain, Lauren says that this circus also has a greater purpose.

“We want our audiences to leave a Hellzapoppin show feeling inspired. We want to shatter what people see as being impossible, not just on our stage, but what you see as being impossible in your lives. The only limitations we have in life are the ones we place on ourselves. What if we took just a fraction of that belief that we so freely give to others and we put it into ourselves? Think of the impact that would have on our lives as well as in the lives of every person we come in contact with. We tend to play small with our lives and think that great things are meant for other people. That is only true if we allow that to become our reality. Within every single one of us is the ability to accomplish our wildest dreams. If we can think it, we can believe it and if we can believe it, we can achieve it. Sometimes, all it takes is a change in perspective. When you have the ability to change the way you look at things, often the things you look at change.”

The itinerary for Hellzapoppin Circus Sideshow's "Face Your Fears" tour is (dates may be added):

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| July 14 | Birmingham, AL | Ghost Train Brewing Company |
| July 16 | Indianapolis, IN | Emerson Theater |
| July 17 | St. Louis, MO | Red Flag |
| July 20 | Fort Wayne, IN | Piere's Entertainment Center |
| July 21 | Westland, MI | The Token Lounge |
| July 22 | Flint, MI | The Machine Shop |
| July 23 | Battle Creek, MI | The Music Factory |
| July 24 | Chesterfield, MI | Diesel Concert Lounge |
| July 26 | Hobart, IN | The Hobart Art Theater |
| July 27 | St. Charles, IL | Arcada Theatre |
| July 28 | Des Plaines, IL | The Des Plaines Theatre |
| July 29 | Joliet, IL | The Forge |
| July 30 | Green Bay, WI | EPIC Event Center |
| July 31 | Sturtevant, WI | Route 20 |
| August 3 | Kansasville, WI | 1175 Sports Park & Eatery |
| August 4 | Belvidere, IL | Apollo A.C. |
| August 5 | Marshalltown, IA | Impala Ballroom |
| August 6 | Wichita, KS | TempleLive at Scottish Rite Center |
| August 7 | Lawrence, KS | The Granada |
| August 10 | Tulsa, OK | Venue Shrine |
| August 11 | Little Rock, AR | The Rev Room |
| August 12 | Fort Smith, AR | Temple Live |
| August 13 | Fayetteville, AR | George's Majestic Lounge |
| August 14 | Memphis, TN | Lafayette's Music Room |
| September 7 | New Orleans, LA | The Howlin' Wolf |
| September 8 | Springfield, MO | The Outland |
| September 9 | Bloomington, IL | Castle Theatre |
| September 10 | Iowa City, IA | Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon |
| September 11 | Lincoln NE | The Bourbon |
| September 13 | Sioux City, IA | The Marquee |
| September 14 | Sioux Falls, SD | Bigs Bar |
| September 15 | Minden, NE | Other Side |
| September 17 | Greeley, CO | Moxi Theater |
| September 19 | Lubbock, TX | Jake's Sports Café |
| September 20 | Wichita Falls, TX | Stick's Place Bar |
| September 21 | Fort Worth, TX | The Rail Club Live |
| September 23 | Corpus Christi, TX | Boozers Rock Bar |

September 24 Tyler, TX
September 25 Houston, TX

Country River Club Tyler
Rise Rooftop

For more information, please visit <https://hellzapoppin.com>.

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