



A Big Top Souvenir

THE MAGICAL MYSTERY

by Robert W. Cabell
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OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

It is time for the child in all of us to run away... to escape to the realm of Cirque du Soleil. *Quidam* (pronounced key-dahm), the newest offering of the Montreal-based creative consortium, marks the return of the internationally-acclaimed theatrical circus to New York for the first time in three years. This mystically stylish production has the look and feel of the whimsical fantasies painted by Magritte. Jugglers, acrobats, contortionists, and dancing ropes that twist and swirl in the air spin the illusion of this magical child-like journey of innocence and youth through a space-age wonderland. Without an animal in sight, the traveling tribe of 50 international troubadours provides unforgettable magic, mystery, and mayhem — what Barnum & Bailey can only dream of. In fact, from the moment you enter the indigo blue and sunflower colored big

top, you know you are in for an uncommon adventure. What you see is awe-inspiring: a 29,000 square foot stage consisting of aluminum panels that were custom drilled, folded, and covered with urethane; a turntable 34 feet in diameter that swirls in both directions and supports up to 50 people. The 164 dimmers, 13 adjusting superscan projectors, 26 color faders, 54 strobes, 200 conventional household bulbs, 125 leko projectors, and 24 globes, similar to those used on aircraft runways, not only illuminate the performers but also accent the dreamlike quality of the costumes.

