

# World-class circus featured Englewood performers

By **ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH**  
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

By only using his feet, Fabio Anastasini flipped his brother Giuliano around 32 times in just 30 seconds.

Judges counted as Giuliano was sent 360 degrees into the air by Fabio's foot maneuvers. The pair hold the title for having the most Risley flips in 30 seconds during the Guinness World Records Day 2017 at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

The ninth-generation extreme gymnast performers also earned the grand prize at the Dagodei World Cup competition in Japan in 2010.

The Anastasini Brothers and other famous family members worked for Ringling Brothers, Circus Vargas, Circus Merano and Circus Krone, many other circuses and the Harlem Globetrotters. They performed at the White House for President George H.W. Bush. They've been on television many times and worked in giant arenas.

PHOTO PROVIDED

**The España family of high-flying artists and stunt performers were inducted into the Ring of Fame in Sarasota's St. Armand's Circle on Jan. 13. Ivan España lived in Englewood since 1982. The family once worked for Ringling Brothers and doing trapeze acts as the Flying Españas. They wintered in Venice. Some family members moved to Englewood.**



While they are known worldwide, many don't know they live in Englewood. The pair are spotted on local beaches practicing flips and other acrobatic routines between tours.

They showcased their talents here at home this past weekend under the beige boutique-style tent at Pioneer Park at 349 W. Dearborn St.

The Anastasini Brothers are among other award-winning performers in the cast of "The Great Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium."

## What is a traveling peculiarium?

It's a 90-minute performance filled with comedy, acrobatics and old-time amusement, inspired by the circuses of eras past. The acts were co-written by performer Allison Blei, and her husband Ivan España, a fifth-generation circus performer. Their children are in the show as well.

The couple owns

Salto Entertainment of Englewood. They are donating a portion of the proceeds to the Kiwanis Club of Englewood-Cape Haze.

Mr. B.S. Swindler, AKA Mr. Swindle, was the host of the show. He is played by España, 49, whose family was inducted into the Ring of Fame at St. Armand's Circle in Sarasota last week.

"It's sentimental for us to do a show in Englewood," Blei said. "We have such an amazing caliber of circus performers that you wouldn't see come together in larger venues — all here for a show in Englewood. This is something you just don't see every day."

Blei describes the show as wacky characters from the past who invite the audience into the topsy-turvy world of imagination. Characters go back to the 1850s.

"We have a lot of different characters like the Medicine Man, acrobats and comedians," she said. "The Medicine Man is the co-host who does his own six-minute mini show.

"The nephews of Mr. Swindler are talented. They are Steve and Ryan," she said. "They are insanely talented. There are other Englewood-based performers including Todd Zimmerman and Dulce Vital, who plays Princess Texcocan. There's Zore España, who is a spinologist. She's performed in China, the Sydney Opera House and Dubai and many other places.

"Sian España performed on the gravitational wheel. He plays the accordion, too. He has also performed at the Sydney Opera House and Canada and just about every state in the U.S."

Email: [eallen@sun-herald.com](mailto:eallen@sun-herald.com)