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Clowns in 'Kooza.' (Photo courtesy Cirque du Soleil)

Cirque du Soleil takes trip to circuses past

By **MIKE FLEMING**
JAN. 9, 2009

The age-old excitement when we hear the phrase "when the circus comes to town" may double when the troupe is Cirque du Soleil. Atlanta seems to buzz even before the performances open, when freeway drivers first see the blue and yellow stripes of the big-top go up, and word spreads quickly.

The latest touring Cirque show, "Kooza," runs now through Feb. 22 at Atlantic Station. It not only brings up old feelings for some visitors, but this show in particular also brings a distinct nod to two longtime circus traditions.

"Kooza" combines the acrobatic performances the troupe is known for with a focus on clowning. It promises an emphasis on bold, colorful, slapstick humor.

"The show highlights the physical demands of human performance in all its splendor and fragility," says Nicholas Wolover, an Atlanta spokesperson for Cirque du Soleil.

Sounds like the energy beneath the "Grand Chapiteau" ("big top" in Cirque-speak) apparently lives up to the vigor with which Atlanta anticipates each new incarnation of this distinctly different circus troupe.



More from this author
MIKE FLEMING

MORE INFO:

Cirque du Soleil: 'Kooza'
Through Feb. 22
Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sundays, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Atlantic Station
800-678-5440,
www.cirquedusoleil.com

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