



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lititz, Pennsylvania, September 19, 2008

Commonwealth Speaker Benjamin Sota Presents “How the Circus Helped Folks During the Great Depression” at St. John’s Herr Estate

St. John’s Herr Estate, 200 Luther Lane, Columbia, PA is hosting the Commonwealth Speaker and Executive Director of the Zany Umbrella Circus presentation “How the Circus Helped Folks During the Great Depression” in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on Wednesday, September 24 at 2:00 pm. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Circus and vaudeville theatre inspired folks to imagine and laugh during the hard times of the 1930s. Dressed in a '30s newsboy cap and a pair of burlap sack pants, like many folks wore, Benjamin Sota will discuss America's rich history of circus and vaudeville. Sota's performance of circus acts like slack rope walking and juggling and old footage will help transport audience members to the theatre halls of yester year. The presentation also talks about what made Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton icons in their time and looks at how theatre and circus performances have changed over time.

Mr. Sota is the Executive Director of the Zany Umbrella Circus, a Pennsylvania Artist in Residency, a member of the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour and an outreach performer with the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. His main interest lies in using Circus Arts as a vehicle for social change and has performed for audiences from the White House to Kabul, Afghanistan.

This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a private, non-profit organization that represents Pennsylvania in the Federal-State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council inspires

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individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning. In addition to the Commonwealth Speakers program, PHC offers grants which support humanities programs centered in the arts, history, literature and other humanities fields. PHC's packaged book discussion program for public libraries, "Read About It!" also serves as a resource for residents in Pennsylvania. For more information visit www.pahumanities.org.

LutherCare, a social ministry organization affiliated with the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Services in America is a leading provider of residential, assisted living, and skilled care residences in Lancaster and Lebanon County. LutherCare operates Luther Acres, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Lititz, PA, Spang Crest Manor, a skilled nursing, rehabilitation center, assisted living and adult day services in Lebanon, PA and St. John's Herr Estate, a residential and assisted living community in Columbia, PA. In addition, LutherCare also operates five childcare centers in Lebanon, Annville, Reamstown, Lancaster and Columbia.

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