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GIREN world of imagination story By Joey Jeanette Schlueter story By Joey Jeanette Schlueter Now where ightrope www. Short only Short only



bark on a 30-week premiere tour across the United States beginning Aug. 12 in Dallas.

Cirque Ingenieux reveals a child's imagination with acrobatics and sounds.

The story is about Sarah, a young girl who, after watching an accomplished trapeze artist perform at a circus, wishes to be in the circus.

Later that night, Sarah tries to grab the trapeze ring, but falls and begins to dream. Her dream consists of great 'cirque' performers, and she wakes up at the end of the fall.

The 27-member cast includes dancers, contortionists, aerialists, gymnasts and vocalists.

Neil Goldberg, creator of Cirque Ingenieux, said the name of the company means "ingenious or artful circus." Goldberg said his creation combines the circus and theater.

"Cirque Ingenieux expresses what I have dreamed of all my life," Goldberg said. "This is my life. If you have a vision, then you have to follow it

Goldberg said the Rec Center fits the needs of his company. "There's nothing else like it in the U.S.," he said. "If I could, I would want my company to work out of here every day."

Goldberg has developed productions for two Super Bowls, two Miss Universe Pageants, the Walt Disney World Company and other events and companies.

Producer Kenneth Gentry said he looked around the world for a place to produce the show.

When I saw the A&M campus, I knew," Gentry said. Gentry has produced more than 35 national tours including Kiss of the Spider Woman and The Sound of Music. His next project, he said, is the musical Damn Yankees, which will open this fall.

Joe Leonardo, director of Cirque Ingenieux, said his job is to incorporate acting with acrobat talent.

'We took a great gamble on the cast's acting ability," Leonardo said, "and they have filled our expectations and beyond.

Leonardo, who also is the director of theater at Temple University, said he has enjoyed working with the cast.

> Leonardo will leave the tour in August to direct Damn Yankees for Gentry. One of the star performers

of Moscow. aerial ballet and portrays Sarah's broth-Streltsov

said he has trained for seven years on the straps (his aerial apparatus) and has had to develop new tricks for this production.

Streltsov previ-ously attended the University of Georgia in Athens, where he studied English. He said he likes the A&M campus, but the weather in Texas is too

hot. Streltsov

said he looks for-

ward to the tour, but he misses his home in Moscow.

Another performer is Colleen Ryan. Ryan is the vocalist for Cirque Ingenieux.

Ryan, who starred in Kiss of the Spider Woman, said this production is different than any other because it brings out her instincts. "The notes may stay the same," Ryan said, "but I sing from my

heart, how I feel. The story is powerful.

Ryan joined Cirque Ingenieux after an improvisational audition with the directors.

"This is what I love to do," she said. "For the rest of my life, I will always sing.

Anne Black, MSC OPAS director, said she loves the idea of having Cirque Ingenieux members in residence at A&M.

"It is absolutely the most exciting thing that I've ever experienced," Black said. "To be able to watch these people bring this all together is just phenomenal.

Black said she believes the show will be successful in the years to come.

She said it is the "Nutcracker of the 90s." Cirque Ingenieux has offers to perform in

other countries next year. On Aug. 7-8 the cast will give a sneak preview performance

in Rudder Auditorium. The group will then return on Dec. 6 for two perforis Sasha Streltsov, an 18- mances during their reg-



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Anna Shvetsova, a 10-year-old contortionist from Russia, performs a handstand.

Dariusz Wronski and Jaroslaw Marciniak practice the 'strong man' routine.

Natalie Herbert and Veronique Thibeault perform a stationary trapeze act.

Director Joe Leonardo and Alexander Streitsov discuss the finale.

