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Circus, Disney, country star at Germain



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Blue men, flying acrobats, Mickey Mouse and a country-music superstar — they're all coming to Germain Arena in early 2008.

The Estero arena has a varied lineup of shows and concerts between January and May, says event director Matt Blasy. And more acts will likely be added in the coming months.

Country star Martina McBride, best known for hit songs such as "My Baby Loves Me" and "Love's the Only House," will perform at Germain Arena in the upcoming year.

"I think we've got a nice balance," Blasy says of the upcoming shows. "We've got family shows with the Ringling Brothers circus and 'Playhouse Disney.' We've got Martina McBride for country fans. We've got Casting Crowns and The Gaither Homecoming for the religious audiences.

:: **If You Go**

- Ticket prices vary.
- To order tickets, call 948-7825 or get tickets from Ticketmaster by calling 334-3309, going to ticketmaster.com or visiting local Ticketmaster outlets.
- For more information, call the arena at 948-7825, go online to germainarena.com or visit the arena at 11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero.

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"There's something for everybody."

The fun starts Jan. 11-14 with "BOOM A RING," an action-packed circus show with white tigers, majestic Asian elephants and thrilling acrobats from around the world. Put together by The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the show also features an extreme crossbow demonstration and a gravity-defying acrobatic performance on the whirling "Wheel of Steel."

Then on Jan. 19, the world famous Lipizzaner Stallions return to the arena to perform more acrobatic maneuvers.

The white horses were developed for the Austrian royal family and the military aristocracy in the 16th century.

In the United States, the horses were made famous by a Disney movie, "The Miracle of the White Stallions."

Those two shows are just for starters. Audiences can also look forward to these events:

- "School Aid," a charity concert featuring B5 and other pop bands, plus former 98 Degrees singer Jeff Timmons, former New Kids on the Block member Danny Wood and former B2K member Raz-B.

The show was originally planned for October 2007 but got postponed (Jan. 20).

- The Gaither Homecoming, the Southern Gospel act that consistently sells out arenas (Jan. 25);
- Christian pop band Casting Crowns (Feb. 22);

- Basketball wizards The Harlem Globetrotters (Feb. 29);
- The figure-skating extravaganza "Smucker's Stars on Ice" (March 3);
- The percussion-loaded, face-painted "Blue Man Group" (March 13-14);
- Country singer Dierks Bentley (March 15)
- "Playhouse Disney Live," where Mickey plans a spectacular music party for all his friends (March 22);
- And country star Martina McBride, best known for hit songs such as "My Baby Loves Me" and "Love's the Only House."

Blasy says he's working on getting a few rock bands, too, but he won't say who until they're confirmed.

"They're going to be good, though," he says.

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