

June 9, 2008

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AUSTRALIA'S STRANGE FRUIT BRING THEIR UNIQUE BLEND OF THEATER, DANCE AND CIRCUS PERCHED ATOP 14' HIGH POLES

**July 10-14 Outdoors in Millennium Park's Chase Promenade
Part of the Family Fun Festival**

Coming to Millennium Park this summer for five days as part of the Family Fun Festival is **Australia's Strange Fruit**, the Melbourne-based performing arts company that fuses dance, circus and spectacle theater in their work. Perched atop fourteen-foot flexible poles that bend and sway in the air, **Australia's Strange Fruit** can be found outdoors in the Chase Promenade Central from July 10-14, 2008.

Originally based on the image of a field of wheat swaying in the breeze, the poles' extreme strength and flexibility allow the performers to bow to impossible angles, swaying back and forth, as the audience looks up in wonder. The company will perform *Swoon!*, a quartet for two male and two female daredevils that tells the story of love, loss, joy, and freedom up on high.

"We are so pleased to bring Australia's Strange Fruit to Millennium Park this summer, as part of the Family Fun Festival," said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. "We can't wait to see these whimsical characters, along with the enchanted faces of young and old that will delight in the universal story that they tell—all reflected in the surface of Cloud Gate."

Australia's Strange Fruit will perform 14 times throughout their stay and hold a free workshop on July 12 at 5 p.m. in Millennium Park's Wrigley Square. The performance schedule on the Chase Promenade is as follows:

July 10	1:00, 3:00, 5:00
July 11	1:00, 3:00, 5:00
July 12	3:00, 7:00
July 13	1:00, 3:00, 5:00
July 14	11:00, 1:00, 3:00

With a world-renowned repertoire that celebrates a wide variety of themes and stories, **Australia's Strange Fruit** has achieved near-cult status in almost every continent across the globe. Since 1994, they have performed for over 250 international festivals and events in more than 35 countries in Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America and Australia. With nearly 30 return engagement festival invitations, the company has

performed for over one million people. They have been awarded the national (Australian) Myer Performing Arts Award, the Silver Trophy at the Daidogei World Cup, Japan in 1999 and 2000, and the 2003 Premio Del Publico, in Valladolid, Spain. Their Millennium Park engagement is the beginning of a United States tour.

The free Family Fun Festival, sponsored by Target and presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Millennium Park, takes place June 3 through September 1, 2008, and is full of interactive activities, a performance stage, a reading circle and musical games for kids of all ages, in addition to three concerts on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion (Chicago Children's Choir on June 12; Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players on July 20; and a summer concert extravaganza on September 1).

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance to Millennium Park.

Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 12 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about **Millennium Park**, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

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