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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 2007

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

http://www.circozero.org/press/sol_niger/index.html

"a Fellini-like carnival exuberance...shimmers like a nimbus in a darkened sky." - SF Guardian (R. Avila)

Keith Hennessy's Circo Zero & Project Artaud Theatre present...

Back by Unprecedented Popular Demand...

Sol niger *

A new work of contemporary Circus and Performance

Conceived & Choreographed by Keith Hennessy

Created in collaboration with:

Brett Womack, Emily Leap, Max, Seth Eisen, and Sean Feit

A Return Two-Week Limited Engagement

Jan. 16 - 19 (Wed. - Sat.)

and Jan. 23 – 26, 2008 (Wed. - Sat.)

Project Artaud Theatre in SF - All shows 8:00 pm

** Sol niger is Latin for black sun and refers metaphorically to a solar eclipse.*

Keith Hennessy's Circo Zero & Project Artaud Theatre present...

Sol niger, a new work by **Keith Hennessy** and his award-winning contemporary circus / performance company **CIRCO ZERO** which debuted in SF in Sept. 2007, is **back by unprecedented popular demand**, [after playing for two weeks to sell-out houses & coming close to breaking box office records at Project Artaud theatre] for a **return two-week limited engagement Jan. 16 - 19 (Wed. - Sat.) and Jan. 23 - 26 (Wed. - Sat.)** at **Project Artaud Theatre** 450 Florida St. (at 17 St.) in SF. All performances are at 8:00 pm. For info please call: **415/ 255- 2500** Tickets \$25 except Wednesdays - "Pay what you can." CASH ONLY at the door.

Tix available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

To view a clip of Sol niger visit:

http://www.circozero.org/performances/solniger/videos_u.html

Sol niger, a new work presented by Hennessy and company creates an intimate spectacle - alternately ridiculous and mysterious - that investigates current political realities. The performance is a poetic hybrid of aerial circus, contemporary dance, music (live music for piano, prepared piano, and electronics) and visual design that includes text, projected video, and experimental performance. **Sol niger** filters contemporary political realities through alchemical metaphors of darkness and light, shadow and truth. **Sol niger suggests that some things are seen better in obscure light, that the truth is rarely evident in direct confrontation.** With the symbolic abstraction of a quietly practicing alchemist, **Sol niger** addresses shifting definitions of war, torture, terror and justice with respect to the disputed role of oil and global capital. Inspired by a seemingly incongruous mix of performance styles including camp satire, esoteric dance and puppetry, high risk aerial circus, blues, Broadway, and John Cage.

Conceived & choreographed by Bay Area dance icon **Keith Hennessy** – [2007 **GOLDIE Award** winner for Dance/Performance (*SF Bay Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery Award*), **Sol niger** is created collaboratively with an extraordinary cast of circus/aerial artists, musicians, puppeteers, and dancers: **Seth Eisen, Sean Feit, Emily Leap, Brett Womack, and Max.** Original Score by Sean Feit. Production designers include: Costumes: BJ Bandy; Lighting design: Max; Video: Ben Fallah, Eisen & Hennessy.

Tickets are now on sale at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

or by calling [24/7 Ticket Hotline] **800-838-3006**

**To arrange an interview with Keith Hennessy,
please call publicist Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260.**

Sol niger was commissioned by Les Subsistances (Lyon, France), Centre Chorégraphique National (Belfort, France) and UC Davis Dept of Theatre and Dance, with additional support from FUSED (French-US Exchange in Dance), Zellerbach Family Fund, H & F Hewlett Foundation and private donations.

KEITH HENNESSY tours internationally as a performer, choreographer, teacher and organizer. Hennessy's work is noted for untamed physicality, sharp intelligence and eccentric invocations of queer spirit. He directs CIRCO ZERO in intimate spectacles for stage and street. Keith was a member of the collaborative performance companies: **Contraband** (85-94), **CORE** (95-98), and **Cahin-caha, cirque bâtard** (98-02). His work is featured in several books and documentaries, including **How To Make Dances in an Epidemic** (David Gere, Univ. of Wisconsin: 2004), **Gay Ideas** (Richard Mohr, Beacon: 1992), and **Dancers in Exile** (RAPT Productions, 2000). He is a co-founder of 848 Community Space / CounterPULSE a thriving performance/culture space in San Francisco.

Awards include: **Alpert/MacDowell Fellowship in Dance** (2005) and SF Bay Guardian's **Best of the Bay** for Circo Zero. Keith currently teaches at USF and

New College of CA and has taught at Goddard College, USF, JFK University, UC Davis, improvisation festivals in Budapest, Seattle, Stolzenhagen (Germany), Moab, the Aerial Dance Festival (Boulder), plus grass-roots workshops in Arcata, Chicago, Toronto, and Earthdance (Northampton, MA), and at festivals and independent dance studios in the US and Europe. Recent commissions include Les Substances, Lyon (*Homeless USA*, 2005), Les Laboratoires, Paris (*American Tweaker*, 2006).

Born in Canada, he has lived in SF since 1982 and is active in the dance community as well as in local and global networks for peace and justice. His solo work has been produced throughout the U.S. and internationally, and he has won numerous awards and commissions for his collaborative work.

CIRCO ZERO makes live performance sparked by current and historic social realities. Rooted in contemporary dance, we forge a dynamic synthesis that includes circus, theatre, visual art and live music. With a focus on experimentation and research, CIRCO ZERO evolves performance language, builds community, and nurtures a vision of live performance relevant to everyday life. The entire 2002 run of Circo Zero at Project Artaud was sold-out and played to widespread critical acclaim.

Keith Hennessy web site - <http://www.circozero.org>

Calendar Editors, please note...

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Performed by Keith Hennessy and CIRCO ZERO

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All shows 8:00 pm

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450 Florida St. (at 17th St.) in SF

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Telephone: For info please call **415/ 255- 2500**

Website: <http://www.circozero.org>

Project Artaud Theatre is wheelchair accessible.

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