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

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

Keith Hennessy's Circo Zero presents...

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**

Bay Area Premiere

Sept. 20 – 23 (Thurs. - Sun.)

and Sept. 26 - 29, 2007 (Wed. - Sat.)

All shows at 8:00 pm

Project Artaud Theatre in SF

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

"A vibrant and theatrically daring new work...Circo Zero's Sol niger is charming, funny, quirky, disturbing and frequently, to use an old-fashioned word, beautiful."

- culturevulture.net, Michael Wade Simpson

Sol niger, a new piece by Keith Hennessy and his award-winning contemporary circus / performance company **CIRCO ZERO** is having its Bay Area premiere on **Sept. 20 - 23 (Thurs. – Sun.) and 26 - 29, 2007 (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 Thursday, Sept. 20 and Wed Sept. 26 are "Pay what you wish." CASH ONLY at the door.

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

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**, **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. His interdisciplinary research engages improvisation, public actions and alchemy / shamanism as tools for choreographic investigations of political realities. 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.

Recent awards include **Alpert/MacDowell Fellowship in Dance** (2005) and SF Bay Guardian's **Best of the Bay** for Circo Zero. Keith has taught at Goddard College, USF, New College of CA, 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 Subsistances, Lyon (*Homeless USA*,

2005), Les Laboratoires, Paris (*American Tweaker*, 2006), FUSED (French-US Exchange in Dance) and Centre Chorégraphique National, Belfort (*Sol niger*, 2007), and Lower Left Performance Co, San Diego (*Gather*, 2005).

Born in Canada, he has lived in San Francisco 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...

What: Sol niger
A Bay Area Premiere
Performed by Keith Hennessy and CIRCO ZERO

Dates: Sept. 20 – 23 (Thurs. – Sun.)
and Sept. 26 - 29, 2007 (Wed. – Sat.)
All shows 8:00 pm

Venue: Project Artaud Theatre in SF
450 Florida St. (at 17th St.) in SF

Tickets: \$25
except Thurs., Sept. 20 & Wed., Sept. 26 "Pay what you wish!"
CASH ONLY at the door.

Box Office: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

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

Telephone: For info please call 415/ 255- 2500

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

Project Artaud Theatre is wheelchair accessible.

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