

 Dragonfly  
AERIAL  
& CIRCUS ARTS STUDIO

13TH ANNUAL

# CIRCUS

## EXTRAVAGANZA

# THE CASE OF THE CURIOUS BEAR



FEATURING  
POETRY BY  
BLACK  
ATTICUS

NO LIVE ANIMALS- ONLY HUMANS PRETENDING TO BE ANIMALS



the Tomato Head





Monkeys



Rhinos



Red pandas

MARBLE CITY ZOO



Cuddles



Amphibians



Giant AI



Predators



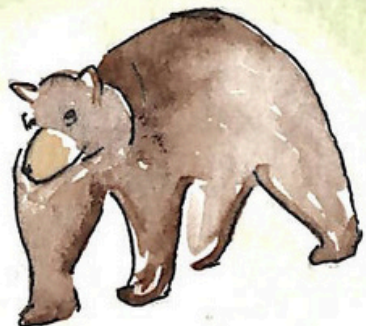
Aviary



Snacks



Sloths



Black Bears



5

## **Original Poetry by Black Atticus**

*[Beginning of show]*

did you know...  
if we were to travel  
back in time...  
to ancient civilizations...

we would find shamans,  
mages, & healers across nations,  
from the central himalayan's,  
highest elevations  
to the smoky mountain valley  
appalachian basins

those who revered animals  
as more than just pets;  
or spectacles to be kept,  
but as spiritual guardians  
as "helpmates" of people;

those who believed  
we can't ascend the heavens,  
without permission from the eagle,  
imagine; fearing the path  
less abandoned,  
over the wrath of those talons  
a thousand gallon hydro tantrum  
an otter-angler moontide ransom  
elks prancing; wolf panting  
dragonfly camping  
between the treble & clef  
of the swan song's depth;  
a spider monkey dancing  
right to left; to-and- fro,  
til the ebb-and-flow  
of hoof & toe  
sways the prose  
of yester's woes  
to shows today  
the way to go,

a way to know  
why the egyptian people,  
deemed dog, cat, &  
scarab beetles,  
as regal

koalas, snakes  
elephants, beagles  
in celtic temples;  
hindu steeples

as if our ancestors knew  
the past is our future's sequel  
a doppelganger's treasure  
measured in retrieval;  
opaque easel of time,  
monuments a monolith  
sent to remind mankind  
of the sacred binds & dealings  
of the winged, gilled  
and four legged beings

*[Beginning of second half]*

I think it's amazing  
How often we find animals  
Roaming around in our sayings:

for don't we call those who cheat  
off other's work 'a leech'  
bites another's culture a 'vulture'?  
Busy bee barking up the wrong tree,  
A tattle tat dirty rat, a lazy brat, a sloth,  
A clever chap, blind as bat, yet sly as fox,  
Clumsy bull in china shop,  
Eager beavers tumbling over,  
Future bright; the world's your oyster,  
If you yell with might but scared to fight,  
then are deemed: all bark, no bite,  
A wolf in sheep's clothing  
with butterflies in stomach,  
A wild goose chase, at snail's pace  
Will plummet, but hold your horses,  
"slow your roll",

This may not be the way to go,  
Place the cart behind the stag you know,  
& don't count your sheep  
Before you get your ducks in a row;  
I know, when the early bird gets the worm  
It is happy as a clam, for the keep it has  
earned

And we learn once again:

we are here to do more  
following than leading  
more learning than teaching  
And i'm seeing this truth;  
That's hard to handle  
Could our friends be foes?  
Valiant vandals?  
Who trampled through gardens;  
left backstory in shambles;  
Can I get a reason why?  
The signs scream so ample  
In big bold letters:

do not  
feed  
the animals



*[End of show]*

why we have zoos:

i highly doubt anything  
considered to be apex  
would make a great house pet  
now granted,  
i've never lived with anything  
large enough to eat fifty pop tarts  
in one chomp

but i'm still willing to bet "the lot"  
that no one would be willing  
to manage a lion's diet  
or the hippos litter box

it doesn't matter  
how much you believe  
them to be cute  
or "just for you"  
there's still no way  
a rhino will ever fit  
into your subaru

and though i haven't  
grabbed a law book  
not taken time to thumbed through it  
i'm still quite sure it's illegal to keep  
a gorilla in your storage unit

you'll need a ladder  
to feed that giraffe  
or brush it's hair,  
to scrub that neck right,  
you might want to lose  
that fear of heights

til you hear the night  
as a mating call for morning;  
see dawns dusking up a warning:

for if one's bear's cage  
is another bird's throne  
if the sloth can sleep  
where the lion still roam

then who are  
we to define  
who what or where  
they call home  
how can we judge their habitat?  
for if nature deemed their  
place of peace  
shall not match  
where we find it at?  
does it's purpose diminish?

does a cage hit different  
when you're born within it?  
can you perceive its limits  
beyond a concept of distance  
do wings see sky and long to kiss it?  
does the lion roar to hear it?  
to feel it? can it help it?  
endangered helpless,  
species need to be cared for

therefore we zoo, we keep  
favor for each; with pride and prudence  
we are not their teachers  
more so the students  
and we are not their rulers  
but merely their stewards.

# program

## **Prologue**

Black Atticus

## **Bear Breaks into the Zoo**

Georgi Gardiner, Tyler Newman,  
Gretchen Kratts, Bethany Minser Love

## **Narrator and Crow**

Robin Gray Nicks, Katy Gawne

## **Sloths**

Elementary Performance Group:  
Harper Andrews, Ida Garlington,  
Kensie Leemkull, Grace Weinstein-McLeod,  
Emrys Newman, Barbara Nicks, Jake Weinstein

## **Bears**

Teen Performance Group: Lucy Andrews,  
Alcus Broxson, Lu Gawne,  
Keirra Weinstein-McLeod, Oakleigh  
McReynolds, Sophia LaFollette, Vi Thompson,  
Bonnie Wallace, Jake Weinstein

# program

## **Stealing of the Keys**

Tyler Newman, Georgi Gardiner, Jake Weinstein

## **Monkeys and Gorilla**

Tiffany LaFollette, Rachie Simoni,  
Lucy Andrews, Oakleigh McReynolds,  
Blake Stannard, Georgi Gardiner,  
Alcus Broxson, Vi Thompson

## **INTERMISSION**

### **Poem**

Black Atticus

### **The Aviary**

Lissa McLeod, Jake Weinstein, Aaron Freeman,  
Chenoa Allen, Jessica Brackeen, Brittany  
Strickland, Jenna Newman, Althea Winters

### **Cuddles**

Amber Winters, Dawn Headrick

# program

## **Predators**

Becky Soto, Logan Soto

## **Crow with Angler Fish**

Katy Gawne, Lucy Andrews,  
Oakleigh McReynolds,

## **Tree Frogs**

Gretchen Kratts, Bethany Minser Love

## **Big Al**

Heather Quinsey

## **Red Pandas and Rhinos**

Dawn Headrick, Amber Winters,  
Georgi Gardiner, Jake Weinstein,  
David Stewart, Raivyn Headrick Blackburn,  
Jenna Newman, Emrys Newman, Chenoa Allen

# program

## **Zookeeper's Decision**

Tyler Newman

## **Ending**

Black Atticus

## **Finale**

Entire cast



# **crew**

## **Lights**

Madison Grover, Gail Broxson

## **Sound**

Tim Gawne, Rodney Lee

## **Stage Managers**

Heather Quinsey, Lissa McLeod

## **Circus Extravaganza Committee**

Jenna Newman, Jake Weinstein, Katy Gawne,  
Janette Kennedy, Chenoa Allen

**And a special thank you to all of our  
volunteers who make this show possible!**

**thank you to our  
sponsors and  
community partners!**



**TENNESSEE  
ARTS  
COMMISSION**

Cultivate. Create. Participate.



*the Tomato Head*

**thank you to our  
sponsors and  
community partners!**



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community partners!**



**David Pyle**

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*The Knox Party Bus*



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