



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unleash Your Inner Jalapeno! Cast of Latin-Infused *¡Caliente!* Announced

***Direction by Ricardo Salinas of Revolutionary Latino Comedy Group,
Culture Clash***

What: *¡Caliente!* Directed by Ricardo Salinas of *Culture Clash*
Featuring: Robert Lopez (El Vez), Christine Deaver, Ling Rui, and more.

Where: Teatro ZinZanni *spiegeltent*
222 Mercer Street, Seattle

When: February 2, 2012 through June 10, 2012 – ON SALE NOW
*Show schedules change weekly

Tickets: Dinner Prices start at \$106 (All Ages)
Matinee Prices start at \$86 (General), \$59 (Senior/Military), \$50
(youth/student)
Special! Valentine's Day performance
Box Office: (206) 802-0015
<http://dreams.zinzanni.org/>

Seattle, WA – Part circus, part dinner theatre, and always magical—that's Teatro ZinZanni! Introducing the latest production, born in San Francisco and set to grace Seattle's only *spiegeltent* February 2 to June 2012, the latin-infused, *¡Caliente!*. Tickets are now on sale at dreams.zinzanni.org

In a storyline seemingly ripped from the current headlines, *¡Caliente!* follows a brother-sister duo, Tres and Cinco, who charge themselves with galvanizing the troops when the tent is threatened with closure. Times are tough, and these "back-of-house" heads and their kitchen staff refuse to be kicked out! In the spirit of Chaplin and the Marx Brothers, pandemonium ensues when a man with a heart of steel finds his inner chanteur and his side-kick turns into an aerialist. With latin music, food, and cultural stylings, *¡Caliente!* is non-stop entertainment in typical ZinZanni-style!

Christine Deaver and **Robert Lopez** return to Seattle to create the new characters *Tres* and *Cinco*, the brother and sister team who electrify the tent with their Latin flavor.

Famously known as **El Vez**, the Mexican Elvis, legendary performer and musician **Robert Lopez** has made audiences around the world swoon for his twisting salsa-hips and Latino renditions of Presley classics. Robert formed the '70s punk sensations 'The Zeros', with whom he made his very first recording, on display at the EMP in Seattle. In 2011, El Vez's rip away gold lame mariachi suit was presented in the exhibit "American Sabor" at the Smithsonian Museum. "American Sabor" explores the influence of Latino musicians in post-World War II America through the lens of major centers of Latino music production—New York, San Antonio, San Francisco, Miami and Los Angeles. It is currently touring the United States. Robert currently resides in Seattle where he debuted as an original Teatro ZinZanni performer in 2002.

Opposite Robert is actor, singer, writer, director, and voiceover artist, **Christine Deaver**. She has worked extensively in theatre, film and television in L.A. and abroad, and is a recipient of numerous Garland, Ovation and L.A. Weekly awards for her work in the theatre. She has written and performed several one-woman shows including *Ah, Families, Leave it to Deaver*, and *Bodacious* across North America, Asia and Europe. Deaver was also been seen in the formidable Russian spy homage the *Defenders*, as the power-hungry fire inspector in *Empire Hotel*, and as the voice of Sarah Palin, Heidi Montag, Carrie Bradshaw and many others in the series *The Yards*.

Making his first-ever performance with Teatro ZinZanni is Big Mike Geier as Mr. Otis. Big Mike's music career began in the early 1990's as he fronted the "Swing Noir" band The Useless Playboys. After extensive touring, he moved to Atlanta and started the band Kingsized, a high-energy, 13-piece band best known for their hugely popular Elvis Presley memorial show *Elvis Royale* and the annual *Holiday Jubilee & Toy Drive*. Big Mike's talent goes beyond the stage and onto the screen with appearances on the Cartoon Network, Adult Swim, MTV, Playboy TV and PBS. He made his provocative, scene stealing big screen debut alongside Luke Perry and LeAnn Rhimes in the film *Good Intentions*. Big Mike resides in Atlanta with his wife where they write and record music for the Cartoon Network and Adult Swim.

Masterful aerialist **Ling Rui** makes his Teatro ZinZanni Seattle debut with *¡Caliente!*; he has been performing and training in the circus arts for years. At the age of 10, he joined the Flag Circus of China where he traveled worldwide, and in 2000, he joined Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* touring North America and Europe for five years. In 2003, he and his partner, Fang Ming, developed their duo strap act and were asked by Cirque du Soleil in 2006 to join the production of *Delirium*. Since then, the pair have presented their act and received numerous prestigious awards including the gold medal at the Wuhan International Acrobatic Arts Festival. Ming and Rui first performed their duo act with Teatro ZinZanni in 2008. *¡Caliente!* marks the debut of Rui's solo strap act, which was inspired by the French song 'Je suis malade'.

Dancer, choreographer and percussionist, **Ann Bernard** has captivated audiences with the art of Argentine malambo for more than 20 years. As a performer in *Saltimbanco*, Cirque du Soleil's longest running show, she has given more than 1,500 performances for audiences in Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada and the United States. She currently focuses on solo acts that implement the furious rhythm of zapateo, a dance involving percussive footwork, as well as performing the audience-engaging burlesque clown Anita. Teatro ZinZanni Seattle audiences will enjoy Anita for the very first time in *¡Caliente!*.

Additional Cast Members Include: longtime ZinZanni favorites, Les Petits Freres (Gregory Marquet, Mickael Bajazet, and Domilttil Aillot) and Vita Radionova. Learn more:

<http://dreams.zinzanni.org/cast.htm>

Teatro ZinZanni has a special Valentine's Day performance of *¡Caliente!* on February 14, 2012. Treat you amour to this saucy new show filed with romantic music, decadent champagne, chocolate covered strawberries. Details: <http://dreams.zinzanni.org/valentine.htm>

Production Team: ¡Caliente! is directed by Ricardo Salinas with artistic direction by Teatro ZinZanni's Norman Langill.

For photos, interviews or other questions please contact Tina Gonsalves at (206) 802-0011 x 7240 or tinag@zinzanni.org.

About Teatro ZinZanni:

Teatro ZinZanni was originally launched in Seattle by Norm Langill and One Reel in 1998. Originally intended for a short run during the holiday season, the initial production enjoyed 14-sold out months leading to a permanent show in Seattle and expansion into San Francisco. After 13 successful years, One Reel launched Teatro ZinZanni as an independent arts organization in 2011. Since its' opening, Teatro ZinZanni has been delighting audiences with its swirling stream of performance, music, and comedy presented in the elegance and intimate comfort of an antique Belgian *spiegel tent* or mirror tent. Best known for regular evening three-hour performances that blend cirque, comedy, and cabaret served up with a five-course gourmet meal, Teatro ZinZanni performance opportunities now include: a two-and-a-half-hour Midday Matinee, special late night experiences, unique children's' programs and Camp ZinZanni, an education program for kids ages 5 to 16. In 2011, Teatro ZinZanni is an independent, non-profit arts organization.

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