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THE UNPRECEDENTED *ONE NIGHT FOR ONE DROP* BRINGS ALL SEVEN OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S STRIP SHOWS TOGETHER TO DRAW ATTENTION TO OUR PLANET'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE. BY BRET LOVE

Cirque du Soleil fans never have to worry about not being able to see at least one of its shows on any given night they are in town or have a special occasion to celebrate, including holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. But for the first time ever, all seven of Cirque's Strip shows will go dark on the same night—to raise money for founder Guy Laliberté's nonprofit, One Drop, which provides clean water for those who need it. The world-renowned entertainment company has never attempted anything to rival this *One Night for One Drop* production, which will feature more than 200 performers representing all seven shows.

To oversee the event (which coincides with World Water Day), Laliberté selected director/choreographer Krista Monson. To stick with the watery branding, the show will be performed at the "O" Theatre, whose aquatic stage is familiar territory for Monson: She was the artistic coordinator of "O" before becoming Cirque's Vegas casting director. "One of the show's through-lines is that Earth is a beautiful place, but it can also be dangerous, depending on how we perceive and treat it," she says. "The main concept of the show is to celebrate the planet as an artistic creation in its vitality and fragility, and to highlight water as the essence of life within its precious ecosystems."

All of the show's production numbers will be brand-new, incorporating mixed groups from the different Cirque shows. One of Monson's favorite numbers, an intense scene choreographed by Sonia Tayeh of *So You Think You Can Dance* fame, celebrates the strength and courage of women in developing nations.

Laliberté launched One Drop in 2007, after learning that "a person dies every 20 seconds" due to lack of access to clean water. "That is how and why One Drop was born," he says. "I wanted to create a foundation that could make a difference in these people's lives."

A portion of the proceeds raised from *One Night* will stay local, going to the Springs Preserve and its water conservation program. Plus, each of the Strip's shows will designate one night that week during which all ticket revenue will be donated to One Drop, which has raised more than \$48 million in its six years. "So it's not new," Monson says. "But what will be new is, hopefully, a momentum that bridges artistic expression with the urgent necessity of water to survive." *One Night for One Drop will take place March 22 at the "O" Theatre at Bellagio. For tickets, call 702-778-3772 or visit cirquedusoleil.com/onenight4onedrop.* V