

CIRQUE MECHANICS PRESENTS: *Zephyr*



7:30 p.m. Feb. 18, 2023

Escher Auditorium, College of Saint Benedict

Celebrate the power of the wind with this breathtaking cirque performance. With their thoughtfully engineered blend of artful storytelling, high-level acrobatics and fanciful contraptions, Cirque Mechanics defies categorization. In *Zephyr*, the company celebrates the wind power we've harnessed for thousands of years and the machines we've used to do it. A giant windmill mounted on a turntable harnesses the power and energy of people rather than the wind as performers fly, balance, float on air and defy gravity in this exhilarating whirlwind circus performance.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Think Deeply
- Live Courageously
- Environmental Studies
- Sustainability
- Physics
- Choreography & Movement

ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.cirquemechanics.com/zephyr/>

<https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/cirque-mechanics-2023>

<https://www.csbsju.edu/sju-physical-plant/energy-and-sustainability>

<https://www.csbsju.edu/sustainability>

ENGAGE

Cirque Mechanics, founded in 2004, is hailed as “the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil.” Inspired by modern circus, Cirque Mechanics, finds its roots in the mechanical and its heart in the stories of American ingenuity.

- This show uses several storytelling tropes, including personification, to tell the story of wind and energy. How are emotions depicted during the performance?
- What types of characters do you see represented during this show?
- A Cirque Mechanics performance includes mechanical marvels, choreography, visual design, and a heap of creative problem solving to craft such a show. Can you notice these elements? What stands out to you? Reminds you of something else? Connected with your emotions?

Zephyrus was the god of the west wind and the messenger of spring in Greek mythology. Zephyrus was often thought of as the gentlest of the wind gods. In myth, Zephyrus could be both helpful and vindictive. Seeking to celebrate our interactions with wind and the machines used to harness it, Cirque Mechanics explores and highlights what wind energy could look like.

- How does this show make you look at your environment differently?
- What happens when an element of nature is brought indoors? How does it change?
- How does *Zephyr* translate wind, something that is usually felt and not seen, into a visual performance?

Human activity has rapidly increased the emission of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, human activities such as burning fossil fuels, including coal and oil, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in our atmosphere. Green energies have offset those emissions in small ways and more and new technologies are being found to slow those emissions and the damage they cause.

- What are CSB and SJU doing to be more energy efficient? What green energy sources are they using?
- Why is renewable energy important?
- What are ways in which older technology like windmills could help reverse or balance the negative effects fossil fuel, coal, and oil emissions?