



To whom it may concern

Monaco, 20 May 2019

The Fédération Mondiale du Cirque (FMC) under the honorary presidency of H.S.H. Princess Stéphanie celebrates this year its 10th anniversary.

The Federation was founded in Monaco to preserve and promote circus arts.

Circus is one of the performing art forms independently from its style or presentation. Acrobats, animals and clownery are the three legs of the traditional circus and we believe that none of these legs could be left apart. FMC regularly follows the results of different public surveys too regarding the audience's opinion about having or not animals in circus and the yes votes are in big majority.

But of course, as in the case of any art, it is the quality which makes the difference.

(Ref: Big Top Label /quality assurance system for circuses/ <http://bigtoplabel.com>)

The Federation used all its contacts and influence as a professional organization, providing experts to work out, establish and introduce high standard animal welfare regulation by governments, but at the same time we support the artists' freedom, within the national legal frame, to make their choice whether to work or not with animals.

During the past decade FMC contributed in numbered cases to the acceptance of very strict animal welfare regulation in a couple of countries.

A scientific research in the UK in 2011 proved that animals in circuses, when they are kept in accordance with the highest quality requirements are happy. The Animal Licencing System introduced later proved to be an effective method in favour of good husbandry.

Preserving Circus Culture and Promoting the Art of Happiness

www.circusfederation.org



Let us quote our Honorary President, H.S.H. Princess Stéphanie:

“The presentation of animals has always been an important part of the circus tradition and remains symbolic of the circus for many people. While I am aware of the issues surrounding animals in the circus, my personal experience is with animal trainers and presenters who dedicate themselves to high quality animal care and lifelong relationships with their animal partners. If there are instances where this is not the case, I believe, as my father did before me, that the best way to ensure the health and welfare of animals in any captive setting is through governmental regulation and strict enforcement. We, at the Festival, also do our part by inviting only those acts that ensure that their animals’ health and welfare needs are met.”

Martin Lacey Jr., animal trainer, had an unprecedented success during the 43rd Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival in 2019. The strongest critics, sceptics and fans unanimously welcomed, admired and enjoyed the artist’s unique professionalism, unconditional devotion, and the way he built up the personalized relationship with each of his lions. Everybody could feel and see the mutual respect and love between them. That method of training is the way towards the future.

On behalf of the Federation we wish you successful work in hope of finding the satisfactory solution for the sake of circus arts.

Sincerely yours:

Urs Pilz
President

Zsuzsanna Mata
Executive Director

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