

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE TELEVISION PROGRAM “MIDNIGHT SUN”
WINS A GÉMEAUX AWARD**

Montreal, December 5, 2005 – The television program *Midnight Sun* won a Gémeaux in the “*Meilleur spécial de variétés ou spécial des arts de la scène*” category. The award was handed out yesterday in Montreal.

In addition to the Gemini Award won last month, this Gémeaux honour pays tribute to the outstanding work of everyone involved in the production.

Filmed in high definition, *Midnight Sun* is a musical and artistic celebration of Cirque du Soleil’s 20th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Montreal International Jazz Festival. Presented outside in downtown Montreal before an audience of over 200,000 festival-goers, this larger-than-life spectacle was broadcast live on television all across Canada.

Over 200 performers were onstage for the event, including Youssou N’Dour (Senegal), Daniela Mercury (Brazil), Jorane (Canada), the ensemble I Musici (Canada), as well as internationally renowned Cirque du Soleil vocal artists Francesca Gagnon and Élise Velle. *Midnight Sun* also features breathtaking feats by artist-acrobats Isabelle Chassé (aerial contortion), Chris Lashua (German wheel), Marie-Laure Mesnage and Yves Décoste (Statue/Vis Versa), as well as Joseph Dominic Bauer on his jaw-dropping wheel of death.

Midnight Sun is a co-production of **Amérimage-Spectra (Alain Simard, Pierre L. Touchette)** and **Productions Conte IV (Martin Bolduc, Yolande Riccioli)**, a subsidiary of **Cirque du Soleil Images**. The show’s executive Producers are **Luc Châtelain** and **Vincent Gagné**; creators and artistic Directors are **Michel Lemieux** and **Victor Pilon**.

Cirque du Soleil Images

Cirque du Soleil Images creates original and innovative products for television, movie theatres and home entertainment, and distributes its productions worldwide. In every project, Cirque du Soleil Images strives to bring the essence and spirit of Cirque du Soleil’s shows to the screen.

Its creations have been awarded numerous prizes and distinctions. Recent examples are *Midnight Sun*, which won a Gemini Award; *Cirque du Soleil Fire Within*, which won a DVD Excellence Award in 2005 as well as a Primetime Emmy Award and two Gemini Awards in 2003; and *Cirque du Soleil Presents Dralion*, which took three Primetime Emmy Awards in 2001.

Amérimage-Spectra

Amérimage-Spectra has established itself as a Canadian television leader in the production of performing arts programming. Always seeking to recruit the best and brightest talents, the firm's commitment to quality has been rewarded with a number of prestigious awards and nominations. At the latest Gala de l'ADISQ—the Junos' French-language counterpart—Amérimage-Spectra captured two Félix awards for television programming, in the "Television Program of the Year – Comedy" category for "Le Procès des Bleu Poudre," and the "Television Program of the Year – Song" category for "Paroles et Musique" with Ariane Moffatt. Other outstanding Amérimage-Spectra productions include "Amélia," which was honoured at the Chicago TV Awards in addition to taking a Rose d'Or in 2003 and a Gemini Award in 2004, "Cirque Orchestra," a Gemini-winner in 2003, and "Montréal mène la danse," for which the artists of Exaucé/Salt—a creation of choreographer Édouard Lock—won a Gemini in 2002.

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