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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Vermont Circus Festival brings performances, exhibits,
2 and workshops to Brattleboro

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA)
6 presents the inaugural Vermont Circus Festival, which is set for
7 the week of Nov. 2–9.

8 The Vermont Circus Festival is a regional event with an
9 international draw framed around circus performances,
10 workshops, seminars, and pop-up activities.

11 The seed of the festival began as an annual weekend of
12 circus activities put on by NECCA for the past 15 years. For 2025,
13 “NECCA is rebranding and expanding the experience” to the
14 Vermont Circus Festival, adding guest company performances
15 and a variety of activities beyond the walls of NECCA’s trapezium,
16 organizers wrote in a news release.

17 By partnering with local organizations, NECCA is
18 offering many ways to engage with the circus in town.

19 Organizers say the festival will draw roughly 200
20 participants in more than 50 workshops; five performances of
21 three different shows; at least 20 free classes, seminars, exhibits,
22 and discussions, and a “Clown Crawl” at Friday night’s Gallery
23 Walk.

24 In addition to workshops in aerials, acrobatics, flying
25 trapeze, and mime, free activities for the community include
26 circus classes at NECCA for youth and adults, “Clowns on Ice” at
27 Nelson Withington Skating Facility (supported by Brattleboro
28 Recreation & Parks), a circus-themed book reading discussion
29 with Brooks Memorial Library, a circus painting exhibit and art
30 discussion featuring longtime circus performer and globally
31 celebrated fine artist and illustrator Karen E. Gersch at 118 Elliot
32 gallery.

33 A “History of Circus in Vermont” seminar will be held
34 with Circus Smirkus Founder Rob Mermin, “Silver Circus” classes
35 for those age 50 and up (sponsored by AARP Vermont), a
36 “Directing for Circus” roundtable with internationally recognized
37 directors (supported by Vermont Humanities Council), figure
38 drawing with acrobat models at The Drawing Studio, and student
39 shows at area retirement homes (sponsored by Ben & Jerry’s
40 Foundation).

41 Three shows will grace the stage at NECCA’s trapezium
42 featuring guest company Parallel Exit’s new show “I’ll Take It” on
43 Friday, Nov. 7, an Alumni Cabaret on Saturday, Nov. 8, and a
44 Beta Night Open Stage on Sunday, Nov. 9.

45 Organizers say the goal of the festival “is to culturally
46 and economically enliven New England’s rural community
47 through circus arts.”

48 For more information, contact NECCA at
49 info@necenterforcircusarts.org and view the full schedule of
50 events and get your tickets at necenterforcircusarts.org.

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