

Cirque du Soleil show Kooza wows Austin audiences

Want to be amazed by jaw-dropping physical feats? [Get a ticket](#) to **KOOZA**, the [Cirque du Soleil](#) show currently performing at Circuit of the Americas in Austin.

I saw the show, which runs through October 8, 2015 in Austin, and came away feeling it's one of the best Cirque du Soleil performances--all ages will love the incredible performances by acrobats, contortionists, and just plain dare-devils. Colorful costumes, funny clowning antics, and fast-moving action kept the audience intrigued throughout the entire show.

KOOZA was first performed in 2007, but this year's version looks brand new, according to artistic director Ron Kellum, who is originally from Texas. Kellum, a talented Broadway dancer before becoming a producer of mega-shows 15 years ago. "Coming from a theater background, I like being able to use all my skills in this Cirque production," he says.

In the original Cirque tradition, acrobatic performances and the art of clowning are deftly combined in this adrenaline rush of a story about a melancholy loner who finds himself in a zany kingdom. The Innocent, the main character, searches for his place in the world after being carried off by The Trickster into a world that baffles him. Kellum says, "The Innocent's struggle is a metaphor for all people who are trying to find their place in the world."

Other characters include The King, two Court [Clowns](#), the mechanically-minded Heimloss, and The Dog, plus a line of dancers who do double duty in helping set up apparatus for different acts. All contribute to various feats of extraordinary athleticism that are a hallmark of Cirque du Soleil shows.

Acrobats balance on a tower of chairs, and bodies are flung through the air from human pyramids. Contortionists and hoop acts display fluid movements and exceptional balance. Unicycle stunts, four guys on twin high wires, a trapeze artist, and the whirling Wheel of Death provide more heart-stopping thrills. Intricate choreography and original music add to the production's appeal.

Created by Guy Laliberte in 1984, Cirque du Soleil shows were developed to highlight the skills of talented street performers. During the past 30 years a variety of Cirque shows has been enjoyed by millions of people all over the world. See **KOOZA** in Austin until October 8, after which it will travel to Vancouver, British Columbia for a late October run.

[Purchase tickets online](#)