

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS PREVIEW: Wed, July 7, 1976

11:00 a.m. Enter at 8 W. 54 St.

PROPOSITION CIRCUS PRESENTS TAXI TALES

The Proposition Circus will present Taxi Tales, a musical revue for children and their parents written and directed by Allan Albert, at The Museum of Modern Art on Sundays and Mondays for four weeks beginning July 11. This play, which humorously explores the many situations involving the taxi in urban life, will be given on the Upper Terrace of the Museum's Sculpture Garden, weather permitting, at 11:30 and 2:00 every Sunday and Monday for a four-week engagement: July 11 and 12, 18 and 19, 25 and 26, and August 1 and 2.

In this contemporary commedia, four actors, dressed in yellow and black-and-white padded costumes, perform songs from an original score by Donald Sosin, punctuated by familiar street sounds, car horns, whistles and the clicking of taxi meters. Skits include a duet for passenger and driver which takes place through the impenetrable partition; an aria for a doorman and his taxi whistle; a musical piece celebrating red, yellow and green traffic lights; a dialogue between a garrulous driver and his meter; a decoding of driver-dispatcher radio lingo; and finally, the magical taxi utopia in which no one has to rush, where everyone shares cabs, and the tempo of urban life slows down to an agreeable hum.

The Proposition Circus has been performing throughout the Eastern United States since 1969. It ran for three years off-Broadway and last year gave a performance at The Museum of Modern Art on Family Day in October which has been called "a beautifully choreographed hunk of fun." The group is the children's wing of The Proposition Workshop, Inc., a non-profit professional theater based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition to Taxi Tales, the Proposition Circus has produced other plays for children, including The Wanted Wagon and The Boston Tea Party.

The play will run in conjunction with a major exhibition on view at The Museum of Modern Art through September 7 -- The Taxi Project: Realistic Solutions for Today -- which features five newly designed working prototypes of safer, less

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polluting, and more attractive taxicabs for the future.

Taxi Tales has been created with the assistance of a Younger Audience Play Commission grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The play has been presented as an educational service of The Museum of Modern Art. Admission is included in the entrance charge to the Museum, which is \$2.00 for adults, \$.75 for children and senior citizens, and \$1.25 for full-time students with identification. The Museum hours are from 11:00 - 6:00, Thursday 11:00 - 9:00, closed on Wednesdays.

Reservations are required for groups of more than five children and can be made for Monday performances only. Telephone 956-7540 between 10 and 2.

The press is invited to a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, July 7 at 11:00 a.m. on the Upper Terrace of the Sculpture Garden.

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Additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7295; 7501.
