



October 11, 2018

Ray Solley, Executive Director
Tower Theatre
Via email: Ray@towertheatre.org

Dear Mr. Solley,

I am writing to you regarding Wild Kingdom's Peter Gros, an exotic animal show scheduled to take place at the Tower Theatre on October 22nd.

While the show may seem amusing on the surface, exotic animals exploited for entertainment are victims of a highly unnatural life that negatively affects their wellbeing. Training and housing conditions for traveling animals used in these types of acts can be incredibly stressful and even abusive. The simple fact that animals are forced to travel and perform on cue in a disorienting environment is reason enough for many people to boycott such events. And boycott they do, especially in a progressive area like Bend.

NAPSA is a coalition of nine of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 750 primates, many of whom were formerly used in entertainment. So that you may learn more about the harms of the use of primates in entertainment, our advocacy position statement on this topic is attached.

The use of performing primates is waning due to growing public awareness of the issues. Large corporations like Pfizer and Dodge have responded swiftly in response to outcry following ads showcasing performing apes by pulling the ads and committing to no longer engage in this practice. The top ten advertising agencies in the U.S. have all pledged not to use apes in their campaigns, with some foreswearing the usage of all nonhuman primates. A growing number of sports teams have also pledged to not use primates in "monkey rodeos", including the Williamsport Crosscutters, the Lexington Legends, the Sugar Land Skeeters, the Long Island Ducks, the Hartford Yard Goats, the Kalamazoo Growlers, the York Revolution and the Madison Mallards. Fairs are also reconsidering such events, including those in Cecil County, MD, Northport, NY and Alachua County, FL.

If you pledge to cancel Wild Kingdom's Peter Gros, or plan to no longer feature the show in the future, the primate sanctuary community would be happy to publicly commend your organization for its prudence (with your permission, of course. This can also be kept private.) The use of exotic animals for entertainment is inhumane, archaic, disturbing to your audience, and mars your theatre's reputation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Erika Fleury'.

Erika Fleury
Program Director



Advocacy Position Statement Performing Primates

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is opposed to the use of trained primates for entertainment. As experts in the field of primate care, we respectfully ask the public not to support public events featuring trained monkeys and apes.

While such performances may seem amusing on the surface, the primates used in these spectacles are poorly treated. Although the records of many animal rental operators are generally less than stellar, and training and housing conditions can be incredibly stressful (and often abusive), the simple fact that primates are forced to dress up and perform on cue in a terribly unnatural situation is reason enough to avoid such events.

The entire lifetime of a primate is negatively affected when they are exploited for entertainment. As infants, they are removed from their mothers at a very early age – years before they would naturally separate. They are trained using methods that intimidate and inhibit their innate behaviors. Even then, the intelligence and unpredictable nature of these wild animals means that they often can only be used for a short time as actors before they become too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous. Primates are then deemed useless to the entertainment industry, and sold into situations that range from uncomfortable to downright harmful. The lucky ones are able to spend the remaining years of their life in a primate sanctuary.

NAPSA is a coalition of nine of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our member sanctuaries, we care for over 730 primates, many of whom were formerly used in entertainment. We see how primates are forever damaged by the work forced upon them, and we look forward to the day when such archaic practices are no longer permitted.

For more information:

["The Use of Primate "Actors" in Feature Films 1990–2013," Brooke Catherine Aldrich](#)

["Apes in Media and Commercial Performances," Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#)

["Bengals Shocking Half-Time 'Cowboy Monkey' Has a Cruel History," The Dodo](#)

["Chimpanzees in Entertainment," ChimpCARE](#)

["Apes in Entertainment," Jane Goodall Institute Australia](#)

["Opposition to the Use of Nonhuman Primates in the Media," International Primatological Society](#)

["Atypical Experiences of Captive Chimpanzees \(Pan Troglodytes\) Are Associated with Higher Hair Cortisol Concentrations as Adults," S.L. Jacobson et al.](#)

["Impact of Visual Context on Public Perceptions of Non-Human Primate Performers," K. A. Leighty et al.](#)