

[The Maui News Visitors' Guide](#)



Check Out Our Complete Coverage!
2009 EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL
 Nov. 23, 24 and 25, 2009

CHAMINADE VANDERBILT **MARYLAND**

The Maui News

[Maui Invitational](#) | [Submit News](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Create an Account](#) | [Home](#)

Member Login: Email: Password: [GO](#)

Search: Local News Classified [EZToUselslandPages](#) Web [GO](#)

[Real Estate Maui](#) | [50th Anniv. of Statehood](#) | [News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Weather](#) | [Local Sports](#) | [Blogs](#) | [CU](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Vac Rentals](#) | [Saturday Homes](#)

[TV](#)

EZ To Use ISLAND PAGES
 Your Yellow Pages Connection
 EZToUselslandPages.com

[Go](#)

News

> [Local News](#) > [News](#)

- Visitors' Guide**
- Best of Maui 2009**
- Maui Now 2008**
- Real Estate Maui**
- 50th Anniv. of Statehood**
- South Maui Holiday**
- Local News**
 - [News](#)
 - [Hawaii News](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Editorial](#)
 - [Letters to the Editor](#)
 - [Columns](#)
 - [Sunday Currents](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Weather](#)
 - [Religion](#)
 - [SUBMIT NEWS: Virtual Newsroom](#)

- Sports**
 - [Local Sports](#)
 - [Maui Invitational](#)
 - [Maui Invitational Preview Tab](#)
 - [Hawaii Sports](#)
 - [National Sports](#)
 - [Sports Spotlight](#)
 - [SUBMIT SPORTS: Virtual Newsroom](#)
- Community**
 - [Community News](#)
 - [Engagements](#)
 - [Weddings](#)
 - [Anniversaries](#)
 - [Student Spotlight](#)
 - [SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS: Virtual Newsroom](#)

PARADE

500+ BRAIN TEASING GAMES

News Elsewhere

- [National News](#)
- [International News](#)

Promises of 2008

Cirque Polynesia moves outdoors

Fewer seats, but more room for high-wire acts

By HARRY EAGAR, Staff Writer

POSTED: November 25, 2009 [Save](#) | [Print](#) | [Email](#)

KAANAPALI - Cirque Polynesia, which opened in June during the worst visitor industry slump since 2001, has survived, and this month it moved to a permanent, outdoor theater at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa.

Managing Partner Doug Harris said Tuesday that the new venue, called the Maui Moon Theater, provides a bigger stage but fewer seats, which raises the possibility of sellouts. In fact, Cirque Polynesia did sell out last Friday.

The Hyatt gets its Monarchy ballroom back for conventions and big local events, like the EA Sports Maui Invitational basketball tournament dinner. Resort General Manager Mike Jokovich said he has a couple of good-sized groups booked in December "and some in the first quarter," so he needs the space.

Since June 2, when Cirque Polynesia debuted, the resort has had the ballroom available part time. Cirque performs five days a week, and will move to six days Tuesday, Harris said.

The theater under the stars seats 350, while the ballroom could handle 600. "Now we are starting to worry about sellouts," Harris said.

But not rain. Since moving outdoors, it has rained only once but not enough to stop the show. Based on the experience of other outdoor evening activities like luaus, he doesn't expect to lose more than 10 nights a year to weather.

Cirque will give rainchecks, and with shows almost every night, Harris said he thinks most people will be able to work around rainouts.

He has been surprised how many people who book online do so after they have reached the island - about 60 percent. Cirque has recently added sales staff and hired Mike Hearne, formerly vice president of operations at Hilo Hattie, as general manager in charge of day-to-day operations.

Harris, who brought his cirque to Maui from Waikiki after the show there lost its lease, said he was a little nervous about competition with other night-time attractions, of which `Ualena was perhaps the closest. He was pleasantly surprised to find that his business competitors were cooperators on stage.

Cirque Polynesia and `Ualena both performed at the county fair, and cirque and the Old Lahaina Luau, as well as several keiki halau, are entertaining during halftime breaks at the basketball tournament this week at Lahaina Civic Center.

"We have worked pretty closely with other performing artists," Harris said.

He is preparing to make a proposal to the LahainaTown Action Committee for a cirque presence on Front Street next Halloween, something to help "bring the right kind of people" out on fright night.

The outdoor show is higher and wider than the indoor show, Harris said. The indoor stage was 18 by 15 feet, the outdoor stage is 40 by 30 feet. This allows for a more expansive high-wire program.

Jokovich said the combination of cirque and ballroom was a good match, but it couldn't be sustained. So Cirque Polynesia was allowed to take over two mauka tennis courts at the resort.

Article Photos



Cirque Polynesia photo
 Cirque Polynesia performer Simon Arestov performs during a show recently. He is a second-generation circus performer born in Moscow.

Get a DVR FREE for 3 mos.

CLICK HERE and get yours today!

Submitting news items has never been *Faster*

Ads by Google

Maui
 Fares Just Dropped!
 Flights Starting at \$49*
LowFares.com/Cheap-Flights

(858) 756.7855
 Have you considered Kauai? Beachfront Luxury. Half the Price.
capricornvillas.com

Maui Luxury Villa Rentals
 Affordable upscale beachfront homes & villas - A/C, guaranteed views
www.TropicalVillaVacations.com

Cheap Move to Maui?
 Use PODS. Simple & Cheap. You Pack, We do the Rest.
www.pods.com

Dream Homes on Maui
 Search All Property in Real Time. Broker, Attorney, Fast Response.
www.BerryRealtyGroup.com

[State Candidates](#)
[County Candidates](#)
[U.S. President](#)
[Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#)

"I'm so happy for the way it has worked out," Harris said. "I'm not just saying that. We have enjoyed the public reception."

* Harry Eagar can be reached at heagar@mauinews.com.

Mau Scene

[Subscribe to The Maui News](#)

[Making the Scene](#)
[Maui Beat](#)
[Backstage](#)
[On the Scene](#)
[Movies on Maui](#)
[Resort Entertainment](#)
[Luaus](#)
[Shopping Center Activities](#)
[This Week at a Glance](#)
[Music](#)
[Art in View](#)
[Art Exhibits & Gallery Listings](#)
[Dining on Maui](#)
[Side Orders](#)
[SUBMIT to SCENE: Virtual Newsroom](#)

Share:

Facebook MySpace Digg Stumble . Buzz up! Mixx Fark del.icio.us LiveSpaces

Flight Hawaii

Fares Just Dropped! Flights Starting at \$49*
LowFares.com/Cheap-Flights

Maui Luxury Villa Rentals

Affordable upscale beachfront homes & villas - A/C, guaranteed views

Ads by Google

Blogs

CU

History

Ads

[Jobs](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[National Ads](#)
[PLACE AN AD](#)
[Legals](#)
[Print ads from the News](#)
[Vac Rentals](#)
[Saturday Homes](#)

Online Extras

[Crossword](#)
[TV](#)
[TV News](#)

Customer Services

[Contact Us](#)
[Newspapers In Education](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[F.A.Q's \(Frequently asked questions\)](#)
[Dealer and rack locations](#)
[Terms of Services](#)
[On Line Ads](#)



[Real Estate Maui](#) [50th Anniv. of Statehood](#) [News](#) [Obituaries](#) [Weather](#) [Local Sports](#) [Blogs](#) [CU](#) [Jobs](#) [Classifieds](#) [Vac Rentals](#) [Saturday Homes](#)

[TV](#)

The Maui News.

100 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
808-244-3981 (local)

© 2009 . All rights reserved. | [Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#)