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Ringling Bros. clowns Brandon Foster and "Granpaw" Alan Ware entertain kids from the Big Brother/Big Sister organization as clown Olex Kartukov compares noses with a dubious admirer.



Photo by Bill Heard

For 'Kids of All Ages' – The Circus Comes to Metro

- Employees eligible for discounts on selected performances

(July 20, 2007) With painted faces, bulbous noses and baggy pants, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Metro, Friday, with a mini-appearance in the East Portal.

Five clowns – including Boss Clown Kelly Ballaugh – delighted kids from Alta Med in East LA, the American Heart Assn., LA's Best, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and San Jose Elementary School in Pomona, along with morning commuters and Metro employees with a demonstration of hijinks usually seen only under the Big Top.

Juggling, hat tossing, and balancing acts – not to overlook the occasional clown whose pants fell down – kept the crowd laughing for more than a half-hour.

The event, which promoted using Metro, Metrolink or AMTRAK for transportation to the circus, was co-sponsored by the three agencies, who also arranged for the children's groups to attend.

The circus currently is playing at Staples Center through Sunday, before moving to the Honda Center of Anaheim for shows on Wednesday, July 25

through Sunday, Aug. 5.

Metro employees, along with patrons of Metro, Metrolink and Amtrak, are eligible for \$5 ticket discounts to selected performances by showing a Metro ID card or pass at the box office. Tickets prices range from \$15 to \$90. The discounts apply to \$15, \$19 and \$25 tickets.

The discounted performances at Staples Center are today at 7:30 p.m. and July 21 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Discounted performances at the Honda Center are July 26 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; July 27 at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; July 28 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; July 31 at 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 2 at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Aug. 4 at 11:30 a.m.