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An International Wonderland Takes Shape: Circus Chimera Prepares Alice For Her Center-Ring Debut (continued)

In the evening, members of the New Dynasty Chinese Acrobats take their turn on the rehearsal stage. Qian Wu and Luo Mei, the two young women, practice with diabolos, passing them back and forth between each other, over and over. (What's a diabolo? Think "yo-yo on steroids!") The other Chinese performers are practicing a complicated maneuver involving fifty-foot heights and bungee jumping.

But where's the net? "No net," laughs one of the handsome daredevils.

On one side of the stage, Katya sits sewing. She keeps a close eye on the Chinese girls: sure, they're her "family" but they're also her competition, and competition is as keen in the circus as it is in every other artist's world.

Another day is drawing to a close. Outside in the chilly night, the non-performing members of the Circus Chimera staff are working on a new tent for the cookhouse, blue and white strips of canvas laid out on the grass. They come from Mexico; they, too, are important members of Circus Chimera's international family.

And in a week Circus Chimera's 2006 show Alice In Wonderland will open in Brownsville, Texas. After that, the circus will hit the road for ten months of traveling, ten months of shows – one, two, three times a day; seven days a week. Many voices from many lands. Our family entertaining yours. Join us for a couple of hours and become a part of Circus Chimera.

Please contact Patrizia DiLucchio, publicity coordinator, for an interview with James K. Judkins: (831) 656-9971; publicity@circuschimera.com. For photographs or more information about Circus Chimera, log on to www.circuschimera.com/media2006