Right: 2017 March 10 St. Cloud Visitor ad p.9
SJP students present “Godspell” – but not for the first time!

Background: http://hdwallpaperdaily.com/rainbow-gradient-stripes-wallpaper/
Photo: 2017 March 10 St. Cloud Visitor ad p.9
Back in 1975, it was the First Prep Musical. Because SJP’s music department is in rather sad shape, Mr. Broussard had to rely on only his professional singing experience from the Broadway production.

Images: Prep World April 1975 p. 93
Text inset: Prep World April 1975 p.92
Back in 1975, it was the First Prep Musical

When all the aspects of Godspell are combined, it must be ranked as one of the finest Prep productions!

Jim Barbeau

Images: Prep World April 1975 p. 93
Text inset: Prep World April 1975 p.92
Except for an occasional soft-shoe-in-the-shower, SJP has never done any dancing on a formal level (and this year none on a social level). Yet in the Prep Goshenella a chorus-line of dancers, not unlike the Rockettes, performed before enthusiastic crowds.
St. Cloud Times April 7, 1975
Play program courtesy of Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP ’75
St. Cloud Times April 7, 1975
Play program donated to the SJU Archives by Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP ‘78
“The best part of the whole deal was [that] Fr. Alan Steichen, who was headmaster at the time, sent us a BUNCH of colored carnations on closing night. We threw them out to the audience who kept giving us standing ovations. It was pretty cool.”

Teresa (Tess) Goerger Koltes, SJP ’78

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Play program donated to the SJU Archives by Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP ‘78
Monks Bring Circus to Saint John’s
by Margaret Wellington Arnold

The circus came to Collegeville, June 12-18. Inspired and directed by Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB, professional circus performer for thirteen years, two dozen boys and girls, aged twelve to sixteen, spent a week learning and performing basic circus skills. Performances were given at the Benedictine parishes of Collegeville, St. Joseph and Richmond.

Saint Joseph, Minnesota, was invaded by circus clowns during the Collegeville Circus Camp.
A bit about Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, Prep director of plays and circus camps, once a circus performer himself!

Br. Paul spends much of his time at St. John’s Prep. In his third year teaching theater at the prep school, he directs the drama program, which will put on six performances throughout the year. “That will keep us busy,” he says. “My goal is to get each kid at Prep to be involved in one play, in some way, during their years here.”

He still keeps up a little bit with circus life by putting on a circus camp for kids in the summertime. Last summer, 12 kids participated in the first year of the camp. It went so well that Br. Paul expects it to fill up to 40 next summer. Putting on all those wild projects is exhausting, but it’s part of what he calls “wringing the most out of life.”

The Record Oct.9, 1997, p.9

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/39283
Running a circus camp isn’t what most people associate with a monastery. Br. David Paul Lange helped out with the camp. “It’s amazing. Everyone has been so supportive. Here you have two Benedictine monks running a circus camp.”

Brothers Paul-Vincent and David Paul introduce make-up, costuming, juggling, skit and wire working at the Saint John’s Circus Camp.

photo by Andra Van Kenten

2001 Abbey Banner Fall p.10

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23677
Br. Paul can’t imagine many monasteries giving permission for a monk to put on a circus camp or allow him to eat fire in the dining hall, which he has done.

Br. Paul has found the other monks to be very supportive of his camp. “They’re marvelous. They just come to the show and watch. Of course, it doesn’t hurt that the monks get in for free.”

Brothers Paul-Vincent and David Paul introduce make-up, costuming, juggling, skit and wire working at the Saint John’s Circus Camp.

photo by Andrea Van Kemen

2001 Abbey Banner v.1 n.2 Fall p.10
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23677
The gorgeous parade will precede the numerous acts and events. Don’t miss this singular spectacle. The FAMOUS MILITARY BAND is an attraction by itself. Bring the children with you.

Trained animals from the burning sands of Africa and from the ice fields of the North—Elephants, Tigers, Lions, Giraffes, Horses, Monkeys, Black Bears, Polar Bears—will perform the most astounding feats. We shall have with us the celebrated trainers of these animals, under whose direction even the lions are as meek as ordinary tame donkeys. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE CIRCUS DONKEY.

A troupe of clowns will perform ten of the most ludicrous and side-splitting acts. A bunch of concentrated joy, glee and mirth.

From the SJU Archives: Grand Indoor Circus poster, printed by St. John’s University Press.
Grand Indoor Circus poster 084/7 (Box 1:03)
Compiled in March 2017 by
Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SIU Archivist
from resources in the SIU Archives.
Special thanks to Tess Goerger Koltes, SJP '78
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Grand Indoor Circus poster 084/7 (Box 1:03)