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**For Immediate Release  
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**Spirit International Opening Ceremony Featuring Cirque Le Masque**  
*International Procession of Countries and Cirque Le Masque Show Open to Public*

**THE WOODLANDS, Texas**—The Spirit Golf Association will host the Opening Ceremony for the 2011 Spirit International Amateur Golf Championship, featuring entertainment by Cirque Le Masque, Monday October 31, 2011 at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. The Procession of Countries will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Cirque Le Masque taking the stage at 8:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. All seating will be in the covered section at the Woodlands Pavilion.

The 2011 Spirit International is an amateur golf championship that features 80 participants from 20 countries representing six continents. Country teams are comprised of national amateur champions and top ranked amateur golfers. Participants spend October 30-31, 2011 in The Woodlands, Texas prior to the official golf competition at Whispering Pines Golf Club, November 2-5, 2011.

The Spirit International Opening Ceremony will begin at 7:30pm with the parade of countries, introducing the two men and two women golfers from each of the following participating countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Following the Opening Ceremony will be a Halloween themed Cirque Le Masque show. The show has all the wonderful elements of Cirque including acrobats, dancers, juggling, high wire and feats of balance and contortion.

The Spirit International was founded in 2001. Past Spirit Alumni include Lorena Ochoa, Paula Creamer, Alexis Thompson, Yani Tseng, Martin Kaymer, Karl Schwartzel, Brandt Snedeker and Matteo Manassero. The format of play for the competition is Four-Ball Stroke Play. The men's

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and women's Four-Ball score is combined for the International Team competition. There is also a separate men's and women's team competition.

The host course for The Spirit International is Whispering Pines Golf Club, located 80 miles north of Houston, in Trinity, Texas. Whispering Pines has been ranked the #1 course in Texas every year since 2006 by the *Dallas Morning News*. Most recently *Golf Magazine and Golfweek* ranked Whispering Pines in America's Top 100 Courses. Visit [www.whisperingpinesgolfclub.com](http://www.whisperingpinesgolfclub.com) for more information.

The Spirit Golf Association, a 501© (3) charitable organization, is responsible for the Whispering Pines membership program and tournament management of The Spirit International. The Texas Golf Association is the governing association for The Spirit International competition.

For more information on The Spirit International Amateur Golf Championship, please contact Tournament Director Eric Fredricksen at 281-298-2664 or [efredricksen@spiritgolf.org](mailto:efredricksen@spiritgolf.org). The official website for The Spirit International is [www.thespiritgolf.com](http://www.thespiritgolf.com).