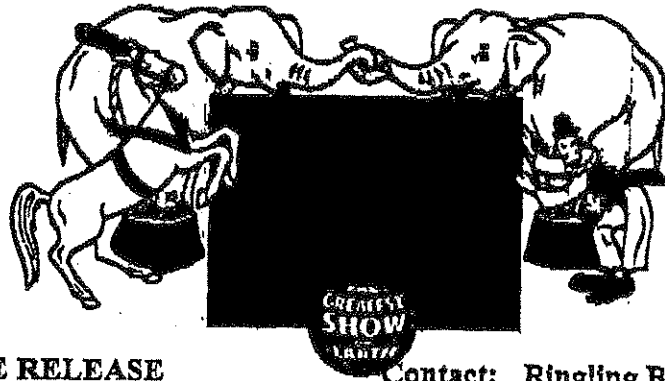


# EXHIBIT 4



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EARLY NECROPSY FINDINGS REPORTED** *Ringling Bros. Awaits Final Test Results*

VIENNA, VA – July 27 – Early findings from the necropsy performed on Benjamin, a 4-year-old elephant traveling with *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®*, show evidence of excessive accumulations of water in the lungs and stomach, but a final determination of the cause of death is pending the final necropsy report. Benjamin died Monday, July 26, while playing in a pond with his elephant companion, Shirley. This was part of a scheduled stop en route to the Reunion Arena in Dallas. At this time, it appears that Benjamin died when he ventured into deeper water. Attempts to rescue him were unsuccessful.

When asked about the results, Dr. William Lindsay, Director of Veterinary Care for Ringling Bros., replied, "In many instances, a necropsy may not reveal a clear-cut cause of death, but the initial evidence in this case suggests that Benjamin died from drowning. He showed no signs of abnormality or chronic disease." The case is still open, and pathologists are evaluating the tissue samples to determine the official cause of death. Final results of the full necropsy should be available in seven to ten days.

Ringling Bros. is saddened by this news and stunned by the events of the last 24 hours. Benjamin was born at Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation on February 3, 1995, and has performed with Shirley on Ringling Bros. Blue Unit since January 1998. The loss of Benjamin is particularly distressing because he represented a new generation of an endangered species and one that Ringling Bros. is committed to preserving.

Ringling Bros. will release final information to the public as soon as it is received.

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