

Mrs. Christel Sembach-Krone, proprietor of Europe's largest circus, has been awarded the honor of being named "Ambassador of Circus" by the Fédération Mondiale du Cirque under the patronage of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie of Monaco. Mrs. Sembach-Krone was informed of the award on the occasion of her 75th birthday on Sunday, 27 November 2011. "Being named Ambassador of Circus is a high honor reflecting a life-time commitment to and support for Circus arts and culture," said Federation President Urs Pilz. "Mrs. Sembach-Krone exemplifies this commitment through her tireless work to continue to present the classical circus, touring seven months of the year under a "chapiteau," complete with all of its traditional components including, international artists and troupes, musical clowns, a full ballet, and performing animals."

Granddaughter of Carl Krone, the founder of Circus Krone in 1905, Mrs. Sembach-Krone has been a circus performer all her life. In 1995 she became responsible for running Circus Krone. Every five years Mrs. Sembach-Krone surprises her audiences with an all new tour production, the biggest of its kind in Europe. Each wintertime from Christmas to the end of March, she presents three different shows in Circus Krone's permanent building in Munich, the only circus building in Germany. Christel Sembach-Krone has been a horse trainer since she was 12 years old. She was the first woman to perform a high school act with horses without any bridle or saddle. She also has a love for elephants, the trademark of the classical circus. Among her many awards, the most prestigious is the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit) given to Mrs. Sembach-Krone by the Federal Republic of Germany for achievements in animal welfare.

Mrs. Sembach-Krone is the first person in Europe to be named Ambassador of Circus. She joins previously named Ambassadors, the famed Chinese acrobat Madame Xia Juhua, Hungarian-born Mr. Franz Czeisler, creator of the Circus Tihany Spectacular known throughout Latin and North America, and current President of the Russian Federation Republic of Udmurtia, Mr. Alexander A. Volkov whose initiatives have long supported Circus arts and culture.