



HARRY INVITES  
YOU TO LEARN  
ABOUT THE  
THE FUN OF THE  
CIRCUS!!!



We can look first at the History



Beginning of the modern circus starts in 18th century with Philip Astley(1742-1814), a cavalry officer from England. He opened in Lambeth, London on 4 April 1768, an amphitheatre for the display of horse-riding tricks. He was an English equestrian, circus inventor, regarded as being the “father of the modern circus”





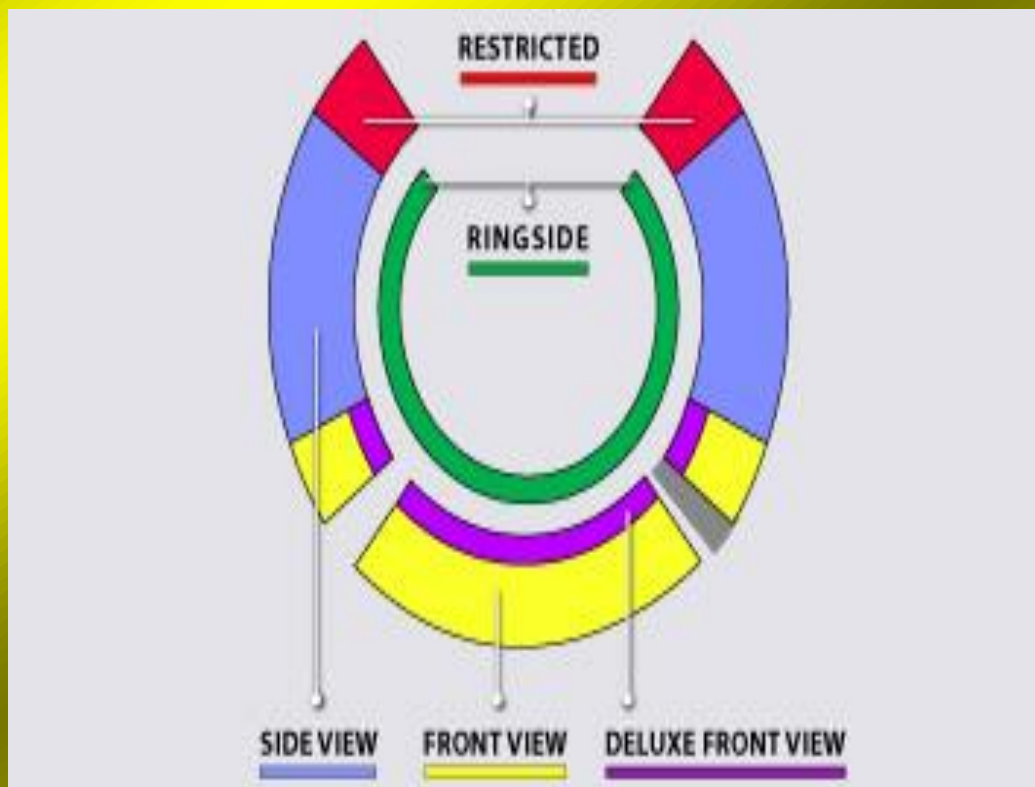
In the 1770 he hired acrobats, tightrope walkers, jugglers and a clown to fill in the pauses between the equestrian demonstrations and thus chanced on the format which was later named a "circus". Performances developed significantly over the next fifty years. The traditional format, in which a ringmaster introduces a variety of choreographed acts set to music, developed in the latter part of the 19th century and remained the dominant format until the 1970s.

WHAT IS A CIRCUS?

**Performers** who put on diverse entertainment shows. That included clowns, acrobats, trained animals, trapeze acts, musicians, dancers, tightrope walkers, jugglers, magicians, unicyclists. Circus acts most commonly travel with circuses around the world.

Buy Tickets  
& enter

A Striped big top is a frequent image  
of a circus tent



ENTER **Harry** The Ringmaster!!

The traditional ringmaster costume consists of a bright tailcoat, often red with gold trim and with a black top hat. The outfit is designed to look like an 18th-century gentleman's riding habit, and often includes a whip, a relic of when the ringmaster directed the performance, not as an announcer and host but as director of the many equestrian acts.



PERFORMING  
ACTS

There are many different acts in circuses. Some people do acrobatics and gymnastics. Often a group of gymnasts will finish up standing on top of one another in a pyramid. The gymnasts may also do jumping acts on trampolines. Some people are jugglers, throwing things in the air and catching them. There may be people who walk on stilts or who ride on unicycles. They may perform magic which may include sword swallowing, knife throwing or fire eating.



STRONGMAN

**Angus MacAskill** was a notable strongman. In the 19th century, the term strongman referred to an exhibitor of strength or similar circus performers who performed feats of strength. More recently, strength athletics, aka strongman competitions, have grown in popularity.

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## PERFORMING BEASTS

While the types of animals used vary from circus to circus, big cats (namely lions, tigers, and leopards), camels, llamas, elephants, zebras, horses, donkeys, birds (like parrots, doves, and cockatoos), sea lions, bears, monkeys, and domestic animals such as cats and dogs are the most common.

In recent years people have changed their ideas. They think that it is unkind to make wild animals perform tricks that are unnatural to them. Many of their trainers used cruel methods to teach these animals to do tricks, e.g. hitting the animals, giving them electric shocks or causing pain in other ways.

## FAMOUS CIRCUSES

The title Moscow State Circus is used for a variety of circuses. Most commonly, it refers to one of the two circus buildings in Moscow, the "Circus Nikulin" (the old circus, featuring animal acts) and the "Bolshoi Circus" (the new circus, featuring trapeze and acrobatics), or to traveling shows which may or may not be directly related to Russia.

## WORLD FAMOUS CLOWNS

Joseph Samuel William Grimaldi (21 November 1802 – 10 December 1832), better known as J. S. Grimaldi or JS Grimaldi, was an English stage actor, comedian and dancer, who frequently played the role of Clown in the harlequinades that accompanied nineteenth-century pantomimes. He was the son of Joseph Grimaldi, who popularised the role of Clown in the early 1800s.



Clowns have a varied tradition with significant variations in costume and performance. The most recognisable modern clown character is the Auguste or "red clown" type, with outlandish costumes featuring distinctive makeup, colourful wigs, exaggerated footwear, and colourful clothing. Their entertainment style is generally designed to entertain large audiences.

Clowns have an unwritten rule about not using each other's acts and styles. Having the painted eggs is a fun way to keep a record of clowns' faces. It's also a nice way to honour clowns of the past. The clown register has an artist to paint the eggs, complete with little hats and tiny wigs.

## MODERN TIME CLOWNS!



There are always clowns who do funny things to make people laugh. They trip over things and fall over, throw buckets of water over one another or put custard pies into

Bozo - This fictional character appeared on various TV shows in the United States

## My favourite **CLOWN**

THE FAMOUS CLOWN PENNYWISE Pennywise the Dancing Clown



**Goodbye From Harry HA HA**