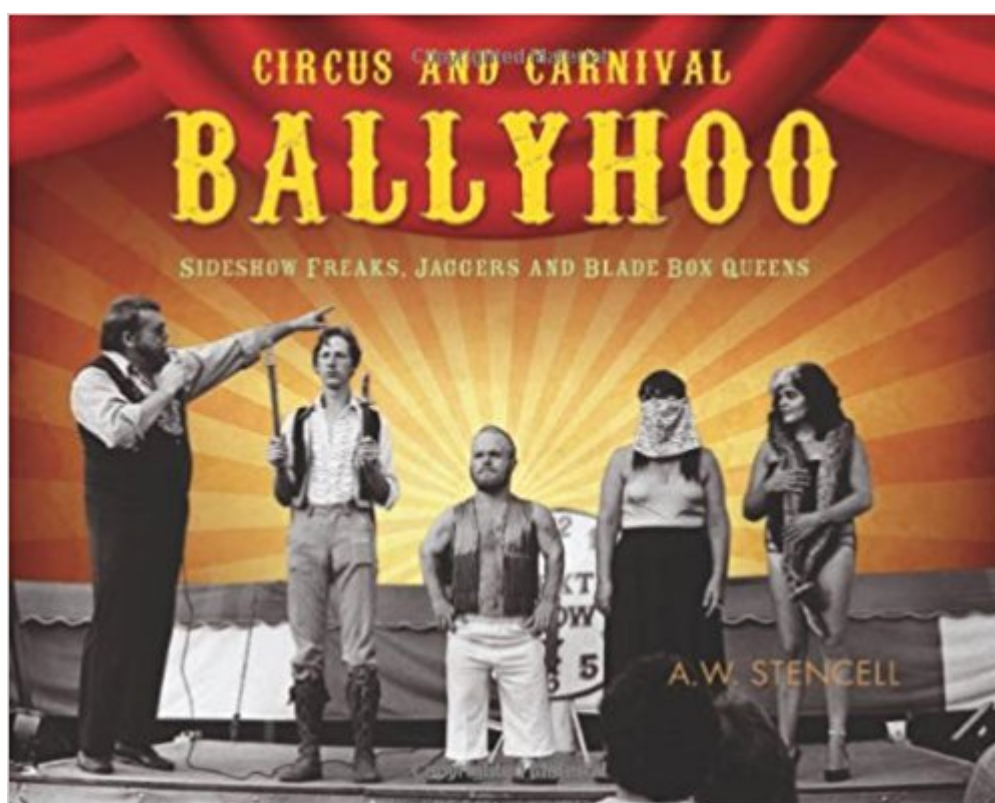


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# Circus And Carnival Ballyhoo: Sideshow Freaks, Jabbers And Blade Box Queens



## Synopsis

Circus and Carnival Ballyhoo lifts the curtain on carnivals in America. Here is the history of the North American side show at circuses and carnivals, along with the stories of freaks and other side show acts in other venues such as dime museums, store front shows, in vaudeville, on movie theatre stages; and even at touring whale shows. This follow-up to Seeing is Believing (ECW, 2002) tells the story of the carnival in words and pictures. The book follows the development of the circus side show with interviews and stories from side show workers that explain the role of freaks, working acts, managers, and talkers; and explores how important grift was to circuses and how it became located inside the side show. From circus transportation to highlights of the construction of the big top, to Lentini the three-legged man, Siamese twins, and the folks with an extra body growing right out of them, Stencell gives us an incredible and very real perspective on the circus in words and photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A former circus owner chronicles the colourful history of sideshows. Full of photos from the author's private collection and evocative slang such as 'grifters' and 'lot lice,' the book links exhibitions of freaks and curiosities past to today's Body Worlds science shows and reality TV contests involving the ingestion of bugs." —Globe and Mail

A. W. Stencell owned and operated his own circus for 19 years and is a former president of the

Circus Historical Society. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.

A must have/must read for any carnival fan. It's really two reads in one; the first go through you can read the hundreds of detailed captions to the many photos, then the second read is the general text. Very informative. My only complaint would be the disparagement and referencing of gay men as "queens".

I really bought this book because I saw that there were several pictures and mentions of a particular sideshow group that I follow, and was very pleasantly surprised at the quality of the book! Many, many pictures that I have never seen before and that anyone who enjoys sideshow history would love. Highly recommend!

The circus and carnival sideshows of yesteryear fulfilled the same purpose as today's reality TV...bringing the odd and unusual to a mass audience. Mr. Stencell obviously knows his subject matter and enjoys sharing his enthusiasm with his readers. The photos alone make the book a valuable historical reference.

I ordered this book as a text for an elective class I am teaching. The book has a great lay-out with a lot of pictures and accessible information. However there are a lot of colloquial terms that the students found difficult to navigate through. Overall, it was a great purchase and great for our class.

I have always been a fan of old time circus' and freak shows. This book has so much info I am amazed it was all fit into this book!!The photos are awesome, info to them is wonderful, and the book as a whole gives you a tremendous amount of info!! Great read!!

Great product and shipping!

Extremely interesting and factual. I have had the pleasure of meeting the author many years ago on a circus lot. Thanks Al for enjoyable reading.

Gained from a variety of sources. Extensive research written anecdotally was enjoyed immensely. I would recommend to anyone curious about the sideshow life.

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