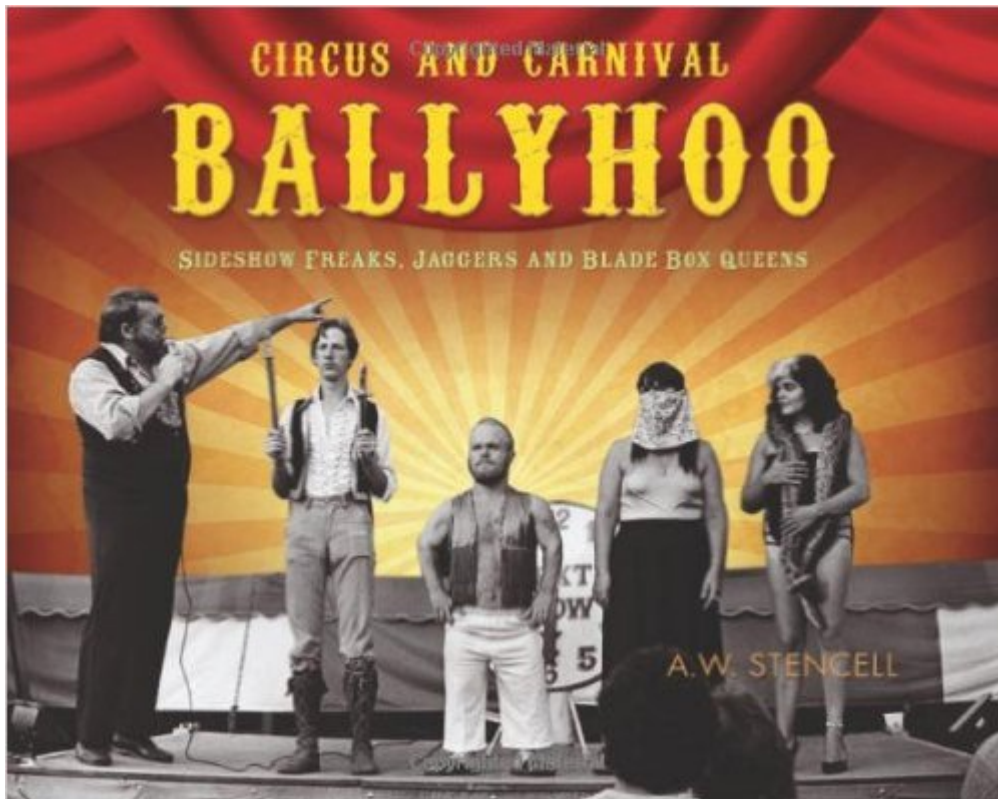


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# Circus And Carnival Ballyhoo: Sideshow Freaks, Jabbers And Blade Box Queens



## 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 &#151; 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 &#151; 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

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 The photos alone make the book a valuable historical reference.

The book Ballyhoo by Al Stencil is a wonderful return to the world of sawdust and spangles as it was many years ago. Today you see many of these previous attractions walking down the city streets and shopping at Wal Mart. As a matter of fact in the last year I have seen more tatoed women while shopping that had as many designs on them as Betty Broadbent and it is quite easy to see women larger than Baby Irene in any shopping mall. The book is well written and illustrated with numerous great photos. This book is a must for any fan of the good old days when the circus and carnival really was a show for children of all ages.

This is a great history of circus sideshows with some truly great photos. I enjoyed this book and especially enjoyed all of the photos.If you are looking for a good comprehensive history of the circus sideshow, this is a good reference point to start with. It was interesting to watch the sideshow evolve depending on the economic solvency of the country or the changing tastes of consumers. It was also interesting to see how the general acceptance of people with physical or disfiguring disabilities has taken away some of the money that could be made off the sideshow.

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

The author did alot of research on the carny lifestyle and it shows in his writing. The book is well written and gives an objective point of view.

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!!

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