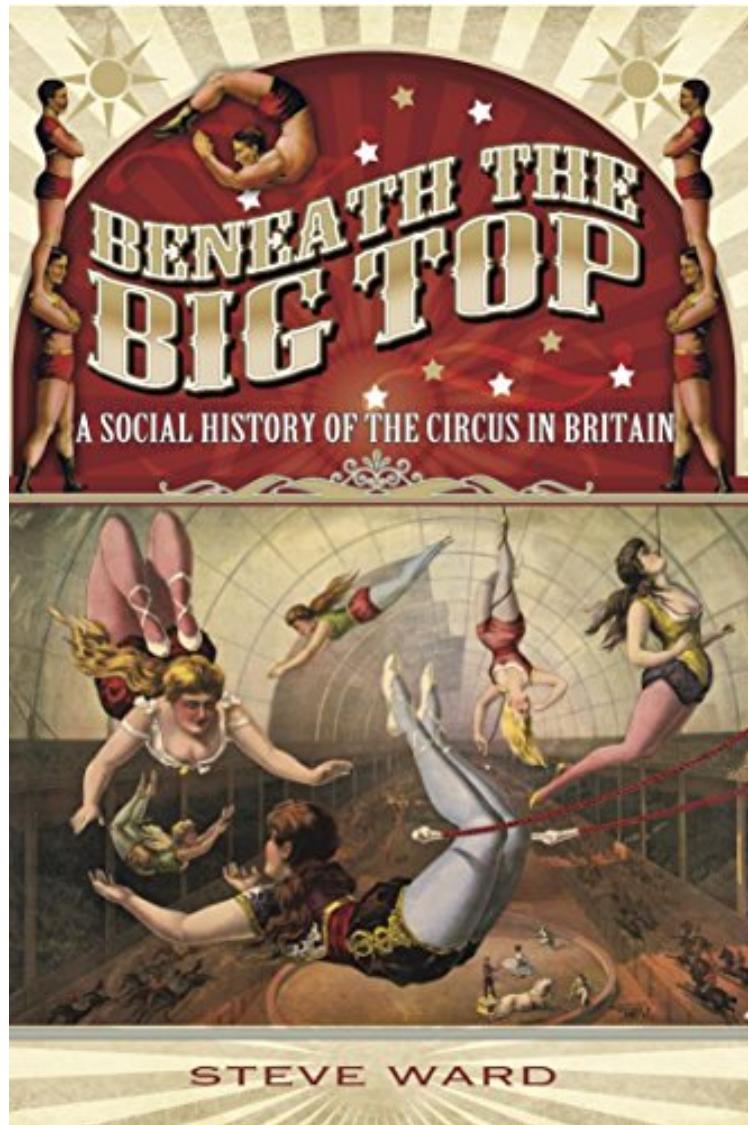


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Beneath the Big Top: A Social History of the Circus in Britain

Steve Ward

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Steve Ward : Beneath the Big Top: A Social History of the Circus in Britain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beneath the Big Top: A Social History of the Circus in Britain:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Steve Ward gives the reader a ringside seat in the greatest show of all. By SEWExhaustively researched yet so very accessible. Steve Ward gives the reader a ringside seat in the greatest show of all. He is the ringmaster precisely directing our attention so we can see, know and feel how circus came down through the ages and remains a vital part of our culture.(Kevin O'Keefe Director of Circus MinimusSteve Ward's 'Beneath the Big Top' is a wonderful history of the circus world from the British viewpoint. For me, the best things a

book can do are inform you, involve you and engage you. Steve has found a way to do all of these things in a book that is both full of interesting information and a great read. I didn't want to put it down. Thanks Steve!(Chuck Johnson President of the American Youth Circus Organisation)Steve Ward's new book 'Beneath the Big Top; A Social History of the Circus in Britain' conveys the author's passion for circus and the detailed research he has undertaken. The quality of the writing, and the intriguing individuals involved in circus, results in a book that is a pleasure to read as well as an excellent source of information. A variety of excellent illustrations adds to the book's appeal.(Charlie Holland Author of Strange Feats Clever Turns)Beneath the Big Top is a thorough review of the history of the Circus brought to life with contemporary anecdotes and illustrations. An entertaining and informative book.(Jim Riley Founder of Skylight Circus Arts)beautifully illustrated and superbly researched.... (Roger Lewis for the Daily Mail 2.1.2015)A welcome addition to the literature available on the subject. It also stands out for putting the circus performances in a wider social context.....(Tim Roberts National Centre for Circus Arts)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed this bookBy Caroline HellerAs a former circus performer and now teacher and circus professional, I thoroughly enjoyed this book !! The Circus has such a rich history and Steve does an amazing job at not only chronicling it, but also telling entertaining and wonderful stories throughout. The photos are also amazing !! I recommend this book for both circus professionals and also for everyone else..it is a fabulous read for all !!Carrie Heller, Circus Arts Institute. Atlanta, Ga.

Beneath the Big Top is a social history of the circus, from its ancient roots to the rise of the 'modern' tented travelling shows. A performer and founder of a circus group, Steve Ward draws on eye-witness accounts and contemporary interviews to explore the triumphs and disasters of the circus world. He reveals the stories beneath the big top during the golden age of the circus and the lives of circus folk, which were equally colourful outside the ring: bull; Pablo Fanque, Britain's first black circus proprietorbull; The Chipperfield dynasty, who started out in 1684 on the frozen Thames bull; Katie Sandwina, world's strongest woman and part-time crime-fighter bull; The Sylvain brothers, who fell in love with the same woman in the ring

As a former circus performer and now teacher and circus professional I thoroughly enjoyed this book!! The Circus has such a rich history and Steve does an amazing job at not only chronicling it but also telling entertaining and wonderful stories throughout. The photos are also amazing!! I recommend this book for both circus professionals and also for everyone elsehellip;it is a fabulous read for all!! (Carrie Heller, Circus Arts Institute, Atlanta, GA)About the AuthorA former performer, teacher and director of a prize winning youth circus, STEVE WARD has worked with circus groups worldwide. He also has an MA researching the role of circus within education. Steve later founded the National Association of Youth Circus and his Leeds based group Circus Zanni won several awards. He has written widely on the circus and his latest book 'Beneath the Big Top; A Social History of the Circus in Britain' was published in 2014. Today Steve works as a genealogist and freelance writer, although he still occasionally performs, creates and directs circus shows.