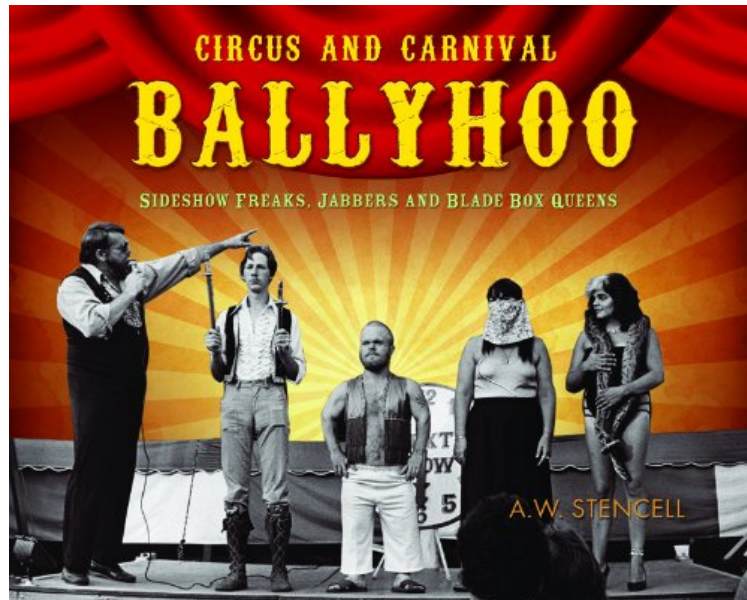


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Circus and Carnival Ballyhoo: Sideshow Freaks, Jabbers and Blade Box Queens

A. W. Stencell

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A. W. Stencell : Circus and Carnival Ballyhoo: Sideshow Freaks, Jabbers and Blade Box Queens before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Circus and Carnival Ballyhoo: Sideshow Freaks, Jabbers and Blade Box Queens:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must have, must read. By Robert Anderson 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". 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book, excellent pictures! By Harvey187 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! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Popular Culture History By User #17 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 The photos alone make the book a valuable historical reference.

From Lentini the three-legged man and Siamese twins to equipment caravans and big top architects, this captivating collection lifts the striped curtain to reveal the larger-than-life world of circuses, carnivals, and freak shows in post-World War II America. Copious never-before-seen photographs, in-depth historical research, and insightful interviews with former sideshow employees illustrate the development of the circus sideshow, the roles of key groups—the freaks, working acts, managers, talkers—and the importance of the grift.

"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." nbsp; Globe and Mail