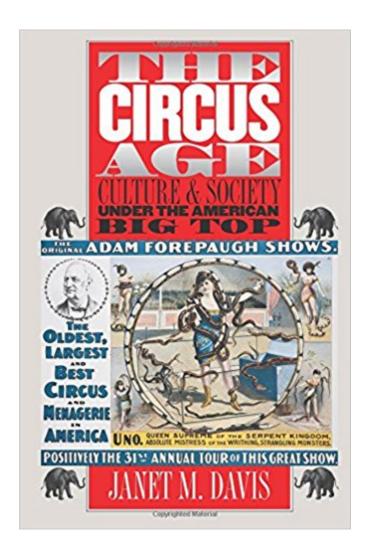
The book was found

The Circus Age: Culture And Society Under The American Big Top





Synopsis

A century ago, daily life ground to a halt when the circus rolled into town. Across America, banks closed, schools canceled classes, farmers left their fields, and factories shut down so that everyone could go to the show. In this entertaining and provocative book, Janet Davis links the flowering of the early-twentieth-century American railroad circus to such broader historical developments as the rise of big business, the breakdown of separate spheres for men and women, and the genesis of the United States' overseas empire. In the process, she casts the circus as a powerful force in consolidating the nation's identity as a modern industrial society and world power. Davis explores the multiple "shows" that took place under the big top, from scripted performances to exhibitions of laborers assembling and tearing down tents to impromptu spectacles of audiences brawling, acrobats falling, and animals rampaging. Turning Victorian notions of gender, race, and nationhood topsy-turvy, the circus brought its vision of a rapidly changing world to spectators--rural as well as urban--across the nation. Even today, Davis contends, the influence of the circus continues to resonate in popular representations of gender, race, and the wider world.

Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press (September 23, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807853992

ISBN-13: 978-0807853993

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #866,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus #4814 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities >

Performing Arts #5783 in Books > Science & Math > Technology

Customer Reviews

Janet Davis' The Circus Age: Culture & Society Under The American Big Top is a very valuable book for anyone wanting to learn about the history of the American circus and the role it played in culture and society during the classic circus age back when the big circuses traversed the country by railroad and performed under canvas. Davis has done a remarkable amount of research, including finding and interviewing people whose tales about the circus give the reader real insight

into what circus life was like and what the circus meant to people back when "Circus Day" was often the biggest event of the year. The book is fairly well illustrated with photographs of circus life and with the posters used to promote the various acts and spectacles the circus would bring to town. Among the wealth of information about the circus are the author's accounts of how extremely organized circuses were, particularly in the setting up and tearing down of the circus 'city' when it came and left town, a necessity born of using the tightly scheduled trains to travel the country. The following is a good example of the useful details Davis brings out in her book:"The 'army' of canvasmen who erected and tore down the billowing canvas tents was a crucial part of the total labor show. Audience members traveled in horse-drawn wagons over miles of bumpy dirt road in predawn darkness just to observe how circus workers (aided by horses and elephants) created a magical, moveable city on an empty lot. At the turn of the century... human and animal labor still performed virtually all the on-site jobs, before gasoline-engine stake-drivers and other motorized machines began replacing some of the human labor in 1910-1920.

Download to continue reading...

The Circus Age: Culture and Society under the American Big Top The Hartford Circus Fire:: Tragedy Under the Big Top (Disaster) McGraw-Hill Education: Top 50 ACT English, Reading, and Science Skills for a Top Score, Second Edition (Mcgraw-Hill Education Top 50 Skills for a Top Score) McGraw-Hill Education: Top 50 ACT Math Skills for a Top Score, Second Edition (Mcgraw-Hill Education Top 50 Skills for a Top Score) Amigurumi Circus: Crochet seriously cute circus characters American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers (American Horticultural Society) National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees--W: Western Region (National Audubon Society Field Guides (Paperback)) Redreaming America: Toward a Bilingual American Culture (SUNY Series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture) Big Nate Triple Play Box Set: Big Nate: In a Class by Himself, Big Nate Strikes Again, Big Nate on a Roll Never Quote the Weather to a Sea Lion: And Other Uncommon Tales from the Founder of the Big Apple Circus My Music Is My Flag: Puerto Rican Musicians and Their New York Communities, 1917-1940 (Latinos in American Society and Culture) Proletarians of the North: A History of Mexican Industrial Workers in Detroit and the Midwest, 1917-1933 (Latinos in American Society and Culture, #1) Under Water, Under Earth All Dressed in White: An Under Suspicion Novel (Under Suspicion Novels) Under Cover: The Promise of Protection Under His Authority American Circus: An Illustrated History The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy American Circus Posters (Dover Fine Art, History of Art) Caffeine and Nicotine: A Dependent Society (Drug Abuse and Society) National Audubon Society Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals: North America (National Audubon Society Field Guides (Paperback))

<u>Dmca</u>