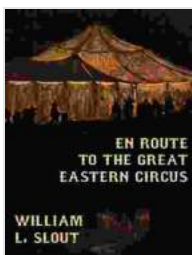


# En Route to the Great Eastern Circus and Other Essays on Circus History: A Comprehensive Review

Ladies and gentlemen, step right up and prepare to be amazed by an extraordinary literary journey into the captivating world of circus history. "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus and Other Essays on Circus History" is a mesmerizing collection of essays that unveils the rich tapestry of this beloved form of entertainment, taking us on a captivating voyage through its origins, evolution, and enduring impact on popular culture.

## A Captivating Glimpse into Circus Lore

Edited by renowned circus scholars John M. Turner and Jeaninne Basinger, this comprehensive volume brings together a stellar cast of contributors who delve deeply into the fascinating lore of the circus. Each essay shines a spotlight on a different aspect of this captivating spectacle, exploring its diverse facets and shedding light on its historical significance.



## En Route to the Great Eastern Circus and Other Essays on Circus History by William L. Slout

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 539 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 130 pages



From the captivating origins of the circus in ancient Rome to its transformation into a global phenomenon in the 19th century, "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus" charts the remarkable trajectory of this beloved entertainment form. We witness the rise of legendary performers like P.T. Barnum and the Great Farini, whose daring feats and extraordinary spectacles captivated audiences worldwide.

### **Unveiling the Magic Behind the Big Top**

Beyond the spotlight's glare, these essays delve into the intricate workings of the circus, revealing the behind-the-scenes secrets that made these grand spectacles possible. We learn about the meticulous planning, the logistical challenges, and the tireless efforts of countless individuals who brought the magic of the circus to life.

From the procurement of exotic animals to the design and construction of elaborate sets, "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus" offers a comprehensive exploration of the complex machinery that made the circus a marvel of entertainment. We gain insights into the challenges faced by circus owners and performers, and the ingenious solutions they devised to overcome them.

### **The Circus as a Reflection of Society**

But the circus was not merely a form of entertainment; it was also a reflection of the society in which it existed. These essays examine the ways in which the circus both mirrored and influenced cultural norms and values.

We see how the circus provided a platform for social commentary, challenging stereotypes and promoting diversity.

Through its portrayal of race, gender, and class, the circus became a lens through which audiences could examine their own society and its complexities. "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus" explores the ways in which the circus both entertained and enlightened, fostering dialogue and understanding.

### **A Legacy That Endures**

While the golden age of the circus may have passed, its legacy continues to enchant and inspire. In the final section of the book, contributors explore the enduring impact of the circus on popular culture. We see how circus imagery and motifs have found their way into film, television, music, and literature, shaping our collective imagination.

From the iconic big top to the awe-inspiring feats of acrobats and clowns, the circus has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape. "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus" celebrates this enduring legacy, showcasing the ways in which the circus continues to captivate and inspire new generations.

### **: A Must-Read for Circus Enthusiasts**

For anyone fascinated by the captivating world of the circus, "En Route to the Great Eastern Circus and Other Essays on Circus History" is an essential read. With its captivating narrative, meticulous research, and stunning visuals, this comprehensive volume offers an unparalleled journey through the history, culture, and legacy of this beloved form of entertainment.

Whether you're a seasoned circus enthusiast or simply curious about this enchanting spectacle, this book will transport you to a bygone era of wonder and amazement. Dive into its pages and discover the hidden stories, the larger-than-life characters, and the enduring magic that has made the circus an unforgettable part of our cultural heritage.

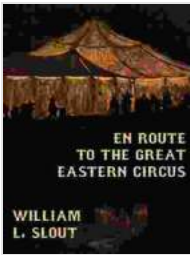
## **About the Authors**

John M. Turner is Professor of Performance Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is the author of numerous books on circus history, including "Clowns and the Classics" and "The Great Sea Lion Performances: The Rise of the Circus in Coney Island, 1884-1900."

Jeaninne Basinger is Professor of Film Studies at Wesleyan University. She is the author of several books on film history and popular culture, including "The World War II Combat Film: Anatomy of a Genre" and "A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women, 1930-1960."

## **References**

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