

UNDER THE BIG TOP

The Circus Is Back In Town

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Ladieees and Gentlemen!

Welcome to “Circque Sous Le Beeg Flop!”

Be entertained by those gallant hawks on the highwire, Sharon and Darryl.

Be knocked over by the sheer hilarity of the clown-kings of comedy, Hoppo,
Bumpo and ...Oomph!

Be gobsmacked by the gargantuan proportions of Draco, the Strongman.

The ‘razzle-dazzle shim-sha-boom’ of Jingo, Jango and Jongo.....Jugglers A’lobo.

Be stunned by the courage and jaw-dropping gracefulness of the famous trapeze
artist, Miss Tinsel Belle.

Sound pretty good, so far, eh?

But what if someone wanted to ruin it for everyone?

And let’s call this not particularly nice person ... say, Big Boss Daddy.

Will he succeed in taking over the circus?

Will ‘Circus Boy’ – SUPERHERO! save the day?

Will my friends and I be out of a job?

Well, just sit back, relax, for this

“The Greatest Show On Earth!”

The Ringmaster

UNDER THE BIG TOP

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Running Sheet/1

ACT ONE

Scene: Under the Big Top

The two Ringmasters welcome everyone to 'The Big Top'.
Full Cast enter during song

Song One **THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN**

ACT TWO

Scene: Under the Big Top

Scene 1

The Jaaarve Gypsies enter to deliver Excerpt #1 of the Circus Story in Rap

Song Two **BIG TOP BOP #1**

Scene 1

Enter Big Boss Daddy and Clem. Big Boss informs the audience of his plan.

Song Three **BIG BOSS DADDY**

Big Boss tells Clem to cut halfway through the high-wire. They exit

Scene 2

Calamity Jane enters and introduces the first act – The Tightrope Walkers: Darryl and Sharon.

Song Four **PEACHES AND CREAM**

Darryl and Sharon conduct their routine on the high wire until the rope breaks.
Enter Johnny Silver (Circus Boy). He tries to 'save the day' but has no luck with Darryl around. Big Boss realizes his plan has been thwarted.

Running Sheet/2



ACT THREE

Scene: Under the Big Top

Scene 1

The Jaaarve Gypsies enter to deliver Excerpt #2 of the Circus Story in Rap

Song Five **BIG TOP BOP #2**

Big Boss and Clem release the wild animals
Enter Calamity –Jane McDonald to introduce the next act.
She is interrupted by the clowns, Hoppo, Bumpo and Oomph. They run on screaming that the animals are on the loose. Clowns exit.

Song Six **ROAR!**

Scene 2

Enter Draco – The Strongman and Circus Boy to save the day.
Bumpo turns his wit on Draco. Draco exits
Ringmaster reminds Circus Boy to feed the animals
Exit Circus Boy with the animals. He runs into the sarcasm of Bumpo.
Big Boss realizes he's been foiled again.

ACT FOUR

Scene: Under the Big Top

Enter the Jugglers: Jingo, Jango and Jongo. They exhibit their talents to an 'awe inspired' audience.

Song Seven **JUGGLER A'LOBO**

Each juggler in turn displays his talents. A chorus of the song completes each act.
Colonel Walker finalizes the act. The jugglers take a final bow.

Running Sheet/3



ACT FIVE

Scene: Under the Big Top

Scene 1

The Jaaarve Gypsies enter to deliver Excerpt #3 of the Circus Story in Rap

Song Eight **BIG TOP BOP #3**

Enter Big Boss Daddy who has decided to sabotage the trapeze act by putting epoxy glue on the swing bar.

Ringmaster Calamity Jane introduces the trapeze act with Tinsel Belle.

The clowns interrupt with their own slapstick act.

Belle finds herself stuck up on the trapeze and calls for help.

Circus Boy wants to tell Belle how he really feels

Song Nine **FLYING GIRL**

Scene 2

Belle is left hanging in the air. Enter Circus Boy to save her.

Unfortunately, Draco hears her calls and is first on the scene. He saves Tinsel Belle.

Circus boy finally frees himself from the obstacles. But his endeavors have been thwarted again. Big Boss reiterates his plan to destroy the circus

ACT SIX

The Jaaarve Gypsies enter to deliver Excerpt #4 of the Circus Story in Rap

Song Ten **BIG TOP BOP #4**

Our two Ringmasters inform the audience that the tent is going to collapse.

The cast enter the stage in a quest for solidarity.

Big Boss and Clem execute the plan to collapse the Big Top.

Draco warns everyone to 'run for their lives'.

Song Eleven **RUN FOR YOUR LIVINGS**

Running Sheet/4

ACT SIX cont'd

Circus Boy tries to calm everybody down and save the circus with a big stick. Big Boss Daddy realizes he just cannot win when he runs into Draco and the clowns.

The circus is saved

Full cast re-enter stage for final song.



Song Twelve **UNDER THE BIG TOP**

FINIS

SAMPLE ONLY

Note:



Symbol denotes sound effect or soundtrack provided as CD or MP3

CAST/1

JOHNNY SILVER (Alias CIRCUS BOY)

An apprentice tent cleaner who has super-hero aspirations.



THE RINGMASTERS

COLONEL TEX WALKER & MS CALAMITY JANE MCDONALD

The gallant circus owners and masters-of-ceremonies. Both speak with an exaggerated 'down south' drawl.

THE VILLIANS

BIG BOSS DADDY

The resident circus villain. He makes repeated attempts to take over the circus.

CLEM

Big Boss Daddy's inept side-kick. He tries hard to please Big Boss, but he is clumsy and a little dim. Clem's part requires a good sense of physical slapstick humour.

THE TIGHTROPE WALKERS

DARRYL & SHARON

They work as a team, but they have a number of 'issues' that emerge during their act.

THE JUGGLERS

JINGO & JANGO & JONGO

The circus juggling team. They vary considerably in skill but as a team they put on a great show. Jango speaks with an exaggerated French accent.

TINSEL BELLE

The star performer – particularly in the eyes of Johnny Silver

CAST/2

THE CLOWNS

HOPPO

The traditional clown

BUMPO

The cynical, clown with no respect for his audience

OOMPH!

The miming clown who uses words sparingly

DRACO

The strongman who struggles a little with the English language.

THE 'JAAARVE' GYPSIES

Four of the coolest circus Hip-Hop rappers

AUDIENCE PROMPTS (1 & 2)

They intermittently carry cue cards across the stage to instruct the audience how to respond.



SCRIPT

ACT ONE

Set: Under the Big Top
A Ringmaster's podium is set up front stage left, where it remains.

Audience Prompts are positioned with their cue cards at each side of the stage. They remain in position during the musical. The two Ringmasters each enter from opposite sides of the stage.



Colonel W.: Ladieees and Gentlemen! Boys and Girls! Bald-headed babies!
Welcome to the Big Top!

For each audience direction, two Audience Prompts walk across to the middle of the stage holding up the appropriate sign, then walk back.

Audience: HOORAY!

Colonel W.: I, Ringmaster Colonel Tex Walker, ably assisted by ma' colleague and fellow Ringmasteress, Calamity-Jane McDonald, both consider it a great honor and a privilege to be able to entertain you-all tonight.

Calamity J.: What we have in store for you-all is a collection of the most 'ex...sarting' acts to ever be witnessed in this part of the world.

Colonel W.: Yes! We have plucked these acts from parts of the globe never before seen by human eyes, and have been able to assemble them in the ONE place ...

Audience: OOOOOO!

Calamity J.: ... At the ONE TIME ...

Audience: AAAAAAH!

Colonel W.: ...Solely for your viewing enjoyment tonight. So without further to do ...

Tex & Cal: Let the Greatest Show On Earth begin!

ACT ONE cont'd

Audience: HOOORAY!

SONG ONE THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

During the chorus of the song, all the other circus performers begin a procession on to the stage, until the whole cast/chorus is assembled by the end of the song.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Set: Under the Big Top
Tightrope is set up centre stage.

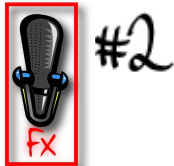
Enter the 'Jaaarve' Gypsies.

SONG TWO BIG TOP BOP #1

Exit Jaaave Gypsies

Scene 1

Enter Big Boss Daddy stage right. He slinks onto the stage looking around suspiciously.



He stops centre stage and glares at the audience. He motions to his off-sider, Clem to haul himself onto the stage.

Big Boss: Will you get yourself out here and stop with all that cafuddlin'!

Clem enters in his inimitable, clumsy style.

Clem: Aww-Haww! Comin' right at ya', Boss

Clem runs straight into Big Boss.

Big Boss: Will you watch where you're goin', you clumsy oaf!