S. WATSON’S
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF LIVING CURIOSITIES
28 OXFORD ST. W

AUSTRALIANS.

THE STOUTEST LADY IN THE WORLD.

THE TALLEST & SHORTEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.

THE TALLEST & SHORTEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

ADMISSION.
6D. OPEN FROM 11 A.M. TO 11 P.M.
There are 2 types of sideshows

**Single-O**

- Single performer or object

**Ten-In-One**

- Ten acts for the price of one
P.T. BARNUM

When his American Museum was destroyed by fire for a second time in the late 1860s, Barnum decided to take his show on the road. He went on tour with his circus. The problem was that the circus at this time was considered a low form of entertainment...In order to distance himself from being associated with all this, Barnum featured not only a circus, but also large tents that housed many other kinds of "enlightening" entertainment. These included a menagerie, a hall of freaks and even a collection of ancient statues! As time went on, the concept was streamlined down to just the freak show and menagerie touring with the circus. Barnum's show set a high water mark that other showmen worked to emulate.

--Todd Browning, historian and sideshow performer
JUGGLERS AND FIRE-EATERS

- Feats of dexterity, and in the sideshow world, danger

- Often done outside the venue, to attract attention

- Robert Powell, one of the most famous fire eaters of all time, not only swallowed fire but also red-hot coals, melted sealing wax and brimstone
PICCADILLY HALL.

HARVEY'S MIDGES

THE SMALLEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

ADMISSION 1/2 CHILDREN HALF-PRICE.

PRINCESS LOTTIE
BORN
July 4th, 1869
20 ins. in height
ACTUAL PRESENT WEIGHT 9 LBS.

PRINCE MIDGE
BORN
Jan. 14th, 1868
21 ins. in height & weight
9½ LBS.

GENTLEMAN:
31 ins. in height
186 years of age
LILPUTIAN VASCIST.

JENNIE WORGEN
25 ins. in height
19 years of age
THE MIDGES HOUSEWIFE.
LITTLE PEOPLE

*Dwarf performers were a common sideshow element*

*Charles Sherwood Stratton, known as General Tom Thumb was P.T. Barunum’s star performer*

*One of the smallest was Jeffrey Hudson, ‘Lord Minimus’ at 18 inches tall*
ESCAPE ARTISTS AND MAGICIANS

- Slight of hand tricks and escape art was usually positioned between more extreme sideshow attractions.

- Harry Houdini (pictured left) became the most renowned escape artist in the world, but started his career doing card tricks in sideshows.

- The Davenport Brothers used their escapology skill to convince their audiences they had magical abilities.
FIRST TOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN.
DURING THE FAIR.

£1,000
CHALLENGE TO THE WORLD!
TO PRODUCE THE EQUAL OF LALLOO, THE GREATEST LIVING
WONDER IN THE WORLD!
A Native of Lucknow, Central India.

LALLOO

A very Intelligent, Strange, and most Remarkable
INDIAN BOY! 17
Seventeen Years of Age. He Stands Five Feet in Height.
Lalloo has Two Perfect Bodies
Lalloo has Four Perfect Arms
Lalloo has Four Perfect Hands
Lalloo has Four Perfect Legs
Lalloo has Four Perfect Feet
BUT LALLOO HAS ONLY GOT
ONE PERFECT HEAD

IN FACT, IT IS SIMPLY
A BOY and GIRL Joined together
And if LALLOO is not really
ALIVE

£100
WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

NOTE! - This is really the most Marvelous Phenomenon of Nature Existing, that has ever been made a Public Exhibition of in this, or any other Country; and in a Country that every Fisher and Mother ought to see.

REMARKS.

Of the Natural Anomalies, Prodigies, and Wonders Leonardo da Vinci and others, about the Boy LALLOO in figures. - "The smallest man, or smallest person," appeared in what the Two-Headed Child, and the Georgian Twins were called without a parallel in the World's History." - Dr. Thomas GASCOIGNE, M.R. Surgeon

A Character says: - "There are Two-headed Mutilated Men, and this World is not so far off as it looks." He has been Exhibited in the Portland Hall, Longfellow Place, London, at the Admission of One Shilling Each.

JAMES HOMER and M. D. FRANCIS, Proprietors.
**HUMAN ODDITIES**

* People with birth defects, or disfigured by disease

* The most famous of these performers was Joseph Carey Merrick, the Elephant Man

* Often, these performers would take on other talents, such as juggling, dancing, or singing
Contortion and Acrobatics

▪ Athletic performers who pushed their bodies to extremes

▪ In the 1800s, male contortionists were the most common

▪ Contortion was often performed by Indians, in addition to fakir stunts
STRONG MEN AND WOMEN

* Performers would show off their physique, lift impressive barbells

* Eugen Sandow (pictured left) is known as the father of modern bodybuilding and could break a chain locked around his chest

* Josephine Blatt, who performed under the name “Minerva” lifted 3,564 lbs in a hip-and-harness lift in 1895 and was named the strongest woman in the world
Hairy Men and Women

Men and women who had a large quantity of hair, from dog-faced boys to bearded ladies to women who merely possessed incredibly long locks

Fedor Jeftichew, also known as Jojo, the dogfaced boy (pictured left), suffered from Hypertrichosis, as did his father

Annie Jones (also pictured left) acted as a spokesperson for PT Barnum's "Freaks", and tried to abolish the word from the business
Tattooed Devils

- Men and women with extensive body art and piercings

- Captain Constantenus (pictured left) was the most heavily tattooed man of the 1800's

- Performers of this type were wildly popular. Captain Constantenus commanded a $1000 weekly salary.
Strange Beasts

- Unusual animals, usually taxidermied hoaxes

- P.T. Barnum’s first hoax was the Fiji Mermaid (pictured left)

- Shetland ponies were often shown as “the world’s smallest horse,” and the beaver-like nutria as “the world’s largest rat”
Fakir stunts involved overcoming immense pain, such as the human pincushion, or the bed of nails.

Traditionally, a fakir is a Sufi, and the stunts are part of their religious practice. Most performers of the era were not actual Sufis.

Dutch Fakir Mirin Dajo (pictured left) allowed an assistant to plunge a fencing foil right through his body. The foil appeared to have pierced several vital organs and yet, the fakir remained relatively unharmed.
Pickled Punks

- Human fetuses and other oddities, sealed in formaldehyde jars

- Often, the specimens in the jars were faked using wax or rubber

- This was a “blowoff” act, presented at the end of the 10-in-1 to get extra money out of the audience.
BUT THAT’S NOT ALL!
FRANK HOWARD
AMERICAN TATOOED ARTIST

MISS IVY HOWARD
CORNET SOLOIST

ANNIE HOWARD
BARNUM & BAILEY'S ORIGINAL TATOOED LADY
**Jared Axelrod** has been a student of circus culture and perform of sideshow stunts since he founded the Industrial Strength Freakshow in 2001. He has performed with the Lulu Tech Circus, The Zoo Crew Freak Show and his solo shows "Follow The Destrucions" and "Bloody Sunset." He has willingly stapled paper to his forehead, been tied to and escaped from a variety of furniture, stabbed needles into his arms and face, eaten a mouthful of live crickets, juggled a bizarre array of objects, and been shocked by a two-foot bolt of lightning. He swears he will never swallow live crickets again, though.

**J.R. Blackwell** has been a circus performer since 2001 under the stage name "the Plastic Elastic Kitty", where she was a founding member of the Industrial Strength Freak Show. She specializes in contortion, bed of nails and fire-eating. She has performed with The Zoo Crew Freak Show and her solo show "Freak Show" was featured in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. She is currently performing with the Hellcat Girls Burlesque.