

# PRESENTLY PUPPETS

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## CIRCUS!

*Happy Monday, Readers!*

Welcome to The Greatest Show on Earth!

The inception of modern circus is credited to British cavalry officer, Philip Astley. He was the first horse showman to ride his horse in a circle instead of a straight line, which turned out to be a game-changing innovation. In 1770 he hired jugglers and acrobats to perform alongside him, crafting the template for a new kind of entertainment:



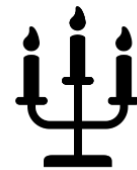
By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century circus had adopted a Ringmaster to introduce the acts and was housed in an enormous tent called the 'Big Top'. Many different circuses had cropped up around the world, and they travelled from town to town, city to city, showcasing their weird and wonderful talents:



In the 1970's a number of groups started to experiment with new styles of circus, moving away from the use of animals to focus on human artistry, story and spectacle. It caught on pretty quickly:



No contemporary circus is more famous than Canada's own, Cirque du Soleil. Founded by a stilt walker and a fire breather from Montreal, Cirque now has shows on every continent except Antarctica! Their shows are renowned for innovation, truly a place to see feats like nowhere else on earth. Check out some of the magic:



Phew! Stay safe, and don't try any of that at home.

*See you next week!*