



Smithsonian Institution

Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections

2017 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: CIRCUS ARTS AUDIO LOG SHEETS

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 09:56:08

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Univers ~~al~~ Soul Circus - an example -
Circus always
Contemporary for 250 years calling for funding,
Call "circus arts" - Bendelstiff ~~likely Bindlestiff~~ had political
tramp clown -> Depression/political

"Wooley" - Circus vs. Circus arts terminology. Circus arts
are thousands of years old. eg. - contortion Mongolia
need to broaden historical lens to old traditions.
Circus - brought to ~~different~~ different ~~trads.~~ different
trads. together
under one tent.

Whitmann - Diverse-theater, pop up, circus school,
Definition - venues have changed w/ skills same

Wooley circus coach - youtube has changed circus training.
eg. acrobatics at fingertips access to everyone -
but circus is not supposed to be viewed from a phone.

Nelson Books, interning, mentoring - how we learned
circus & sideshow & Ward Hale - learned everything about
putting up a circus - feats ~~etc.~~ tie knots
etc. Many have
circus skills but not the showmanship. maybe
~~misses~~ missing the "heart" of live
shows -

Walk - Sarasota-generations, mentor - but unique
Whitmann - transnational business - all over the world, now entire
circuses tour around the world.
Wooley - a set of values mentorship just do what needs to be done -
Walk - does circus reflect outside inside
Nelson yes - we are outside culture
~~frer~~ friendly - pastors against it -1880s still broke
Whitmann up - side shows risqué
Walk - circus musicians did - "avant garde" made popular-something
unusual is expected in circus - surprise, exciting, etc

Q - the Public Health. Any studies on ~~langel~~
longevity ->
New wave - healthier being living - ~~leas~~
less smoking - live old age
contortional coach - perform into their 50s - ~~warns~~
if not injured.

Amy Cohen: American Circus Educator - physical literacy
re health-study compared cirque de Soleil vs. video games
scans of body Dr. Dean Krillen ~~should be Kriellaars~~ - Hetherlands
(sp?) circus in
every phys ed program in Canada.

Q - BMX, skateboard etc - now in many ~~circus~~
circuses now
intersection of arts & athletics

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Q - academic world - need for informed circus criticism - is there
growing interest in other sections of academia. cf history.
~~theater~~
not much circus criticism - short reviews by theater ~~theater~~
certain ~~theater~~
know ~~theater~~ know ~~theater~~ dont know difference
~~theater~~ beber ~~theater~~ betwn hard & easier
2 workshops by circus now - for journalists. Not enuf voloume
to just review cicus ~~theater~~ work ~~theater~~ unlike theater
Academics are beginning to get together lower/higher ed
NY - 1990s - new vaudeville ~~theater~~ was ~~theater~~
writer/~~theater~~ cir ~~theater~~ critical
criticism -> spectacle .com - good source. Circus Report also

~~Q~~ - circus music - how created - new or
selected A few have live music now Smerkus ~~theater~~ does
~~theater~~ their ~~theater~~
creates music to fit the act

Musicians union affect -
musicians get paid more than acrobats

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