



PARALLEL EXIT

SUNRISE CIRCUS

STUDY GUIDE

WHAT IS CIRCUS?



THE MODERN AMERICAN CIRCUS CAN TRACE ITS ROOTS BACK TO THE ENGLISHMAN PHILIP ASTLEY, KNOWN AS THE FATHER AND THE INVENTOR OF THE MODERN CIRCUS. HE ESTABLISHED MANY OF THE COMMON CONVENTIONS WE NOW ASSOCIATE WITH THE CIRCUS: A DYNAMIC PROGRAM OF ASTOUNDING ACTS OF PHYSICAL SKILL, DANGER, AND COMEDY, ALL ACCENTED WITH MUSIC.

WHO WAS P.T. BARNUM?



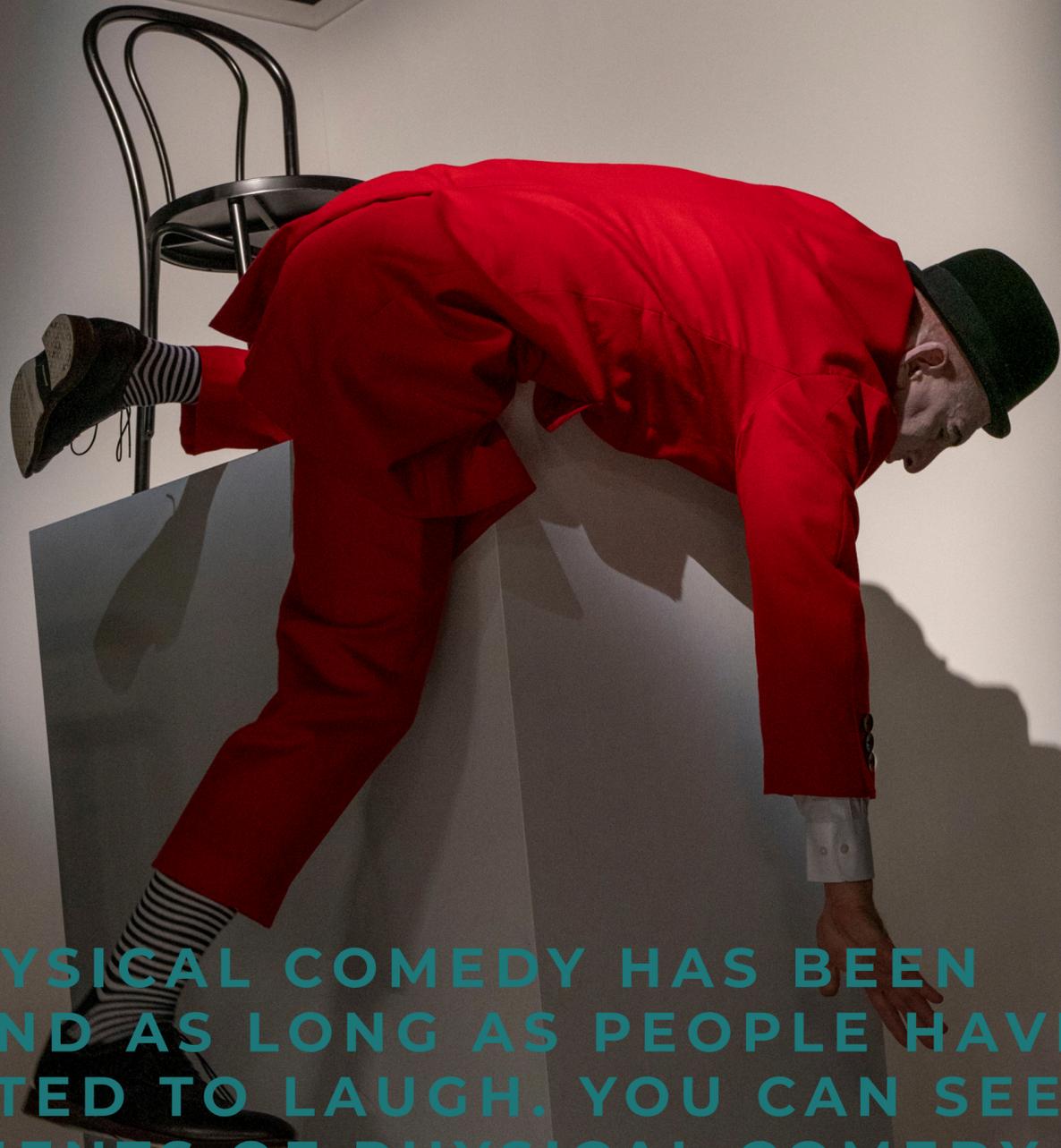
P.T. BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS, A TRAVELING EXHIBITION OF ANIMAL AND HUMAN ODDITIES, BECAME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AMERICAN CIRCUS KNOWN AS THE SIDESHOW.

**WHAT KIND OF ACTS
ARE IN SUNRISE
CIRCUS?**



**UNICYCLE, TIGHTWIRE, SPINNING
PLATES, MAGIC, MUSIC, PHYSICAL
COMEDY, AND JUGGLING
(INCLUDING UMBRELLAS!)**

WHAT IS PHYSICAL COMEDY?



PHYSICAL COMEDY HAS BEEN AROUND AS LONG AS PEOPLE HAVE WANTED TO LAUGH. YOU CAN SEE MOMENTS OF PHYSICAL COMEDY AROUND YOU AT ALL TIMES - A PERSON TRIPPING ON THE SIDEWALK, SOMEONE BUMPING THEIR HEAD ON SOMETHING THEY DON'T SEE. AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT HURT, WE OFTEN LAUGH WHEN WE SEE THESE EVERYDAY EVENTS.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



MAKE YOUR OWN CIRCUS SHOW:

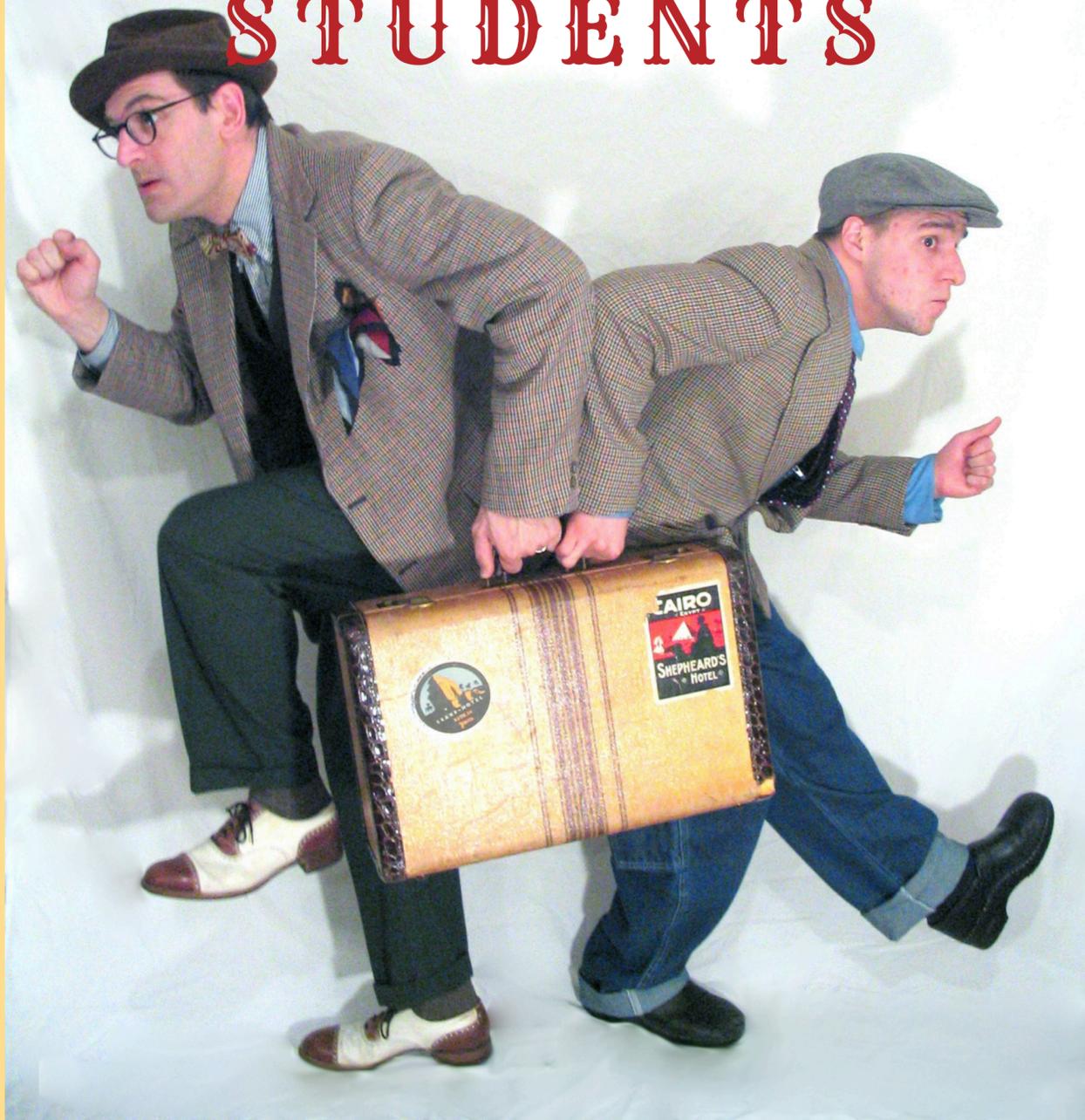
ASK YOUR FRIENDS IF THEY HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT – IT CAN BE ANYTHING FROM SINGING TO DANCING TO DOING A HANDSTAND. CHOOSE ONE PERSON TO HOST THE SHOW AND BRING OUT YOUR FRIENDS ONE AT A TIME TO PERFORM THEIR TALENT. KEEP EACH ACT SHORT, THOUGH, AS AUDIENCES LOVE VARIETY!



THE TRIP:

WALK IN A STRAIGHT LINE, AND PRETEND TO TRIP IN A SPECIFIC SPOT. TURN AROUND AND WALK TO THAT SAME SPOT, AND TRIP AGAIN. THINK FOR A MOMENT, AND THIS TIME, WHEN YOU WALK TO THAT SPOT, STEP OVER IT AND CONTINUE WALKING. TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS AND THEN TRIP ON SOMETHING ELSE.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



THE SEARCH:

TWO PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR EACH OTHER. THEY START FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, EACH LOOKING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. THEY WALK BACKWARDS, SLOWLY, AND ALMOST WALK INTO EACH OTHER. AT THE LAST MOMENT, THEY TURN AND MISS EACH OTHER, BUT DO NOT SEE EACH OTHER AT ANY POINT.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



THE LOOK:

TWO PEOPLE STAND BESIDE EACH OTHER, LOOKING AT THE AUDIENCE. ONE TURNS THEIR HEAD TO LOOK AT THE OTHER. AS THE FIRST ONE TURNS THEIR HEAD BACK OUT FRONT, THE OTHER TURNS THEIR HEAD TO LOOK AT THEM. THEY CONTINUE TO GO BACK AND FORTH, MISSING EACH OTHER EACH TIME.

WHO IS PARALLEL EXIT?



**PARALLEL EXIT IS THE COMPANY
BEHIND SUNRISE CIRCUS. FOUNDED
IN NEW YORK CITY IN 2005, WE
CREATE AND PRESENT ORIGINAL
PRODUCTIONS OF CIRCUS AND
THEATRE FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL
AGES.**