THE CIRCUS HAS COME TO TOWN!

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Maria Gloria Bedicks
Marco A C Bortoleto
PRESENTATION

For centuries we have enjoyed circuses and their artistic performers in cities, villages, under the big top, on television, in parks, at parties and in so many other places.

This close relationship caused the circus to become a heritage of humanity, part of our collective imagination, an object of artistic appreciation, with an important contribution to the cultural, social and humanistic development of society.

In 2006, the CIRCOS Research Group (CIRCUS) of the Physical Education Faculty of University of Campinas (UNICAMP) promoted the circus in the schools, seeking to connect their academic productions with professionals who are responsible for the education of thousands of children, many of whom quickly become enthusiastic fans of the circus arts.

This is how the Circus in the School Project (CIRCO NA ESCOLA) came to be, and now it is completed with a book about some of the real artists who participated in this project, who joined forces to encourage this traditional art.

This is a book for all the children who wish to journey into the greatest show on earth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Hooray for the Circus! Hooray for Education! Hooray for the Arts!

Marco A.C. Bortoloto
Coordinator — CIRCUS
In a little town far, far away lived people who worked hard every day and never had any fun, but who had little access to culture. Nothing new ever happened in that little town. Everyone went to bed early each night, and they never had any good times at all. It was a boring life, maybe even a little bit sad, don't you think?

One day, the quiet, boring afternoon silence was broken by cheerful music, loud laughter and small band. The doors and windows in the little town opened up and everyone went out into the street, curious and

The clowns shouted, “Hooray, hooray! The circus is coming!”

A smile appeared on every face, for no one in that town had ever seen a circus before. Everyone was excited!

All the circus artists, the clowns, the acrobats, the magicians and the animal trainers paraded down the street with their elegant, colorful clothes, displaying a little bit of their show. They paraded down the streets of the town, inviting everyone, “Ladies and gentlemen! Children of the town! Don’t miss the greatest show on earth today!!”
On the opening night of the circus, the popcorn man was very happy because he had never sold as much popcorn as he did that night! At that performance, the whole town was at the big top! The seats were filled with people of all ages. It was pure excitement and joy!

Suddenly, beating on a large drum and almost tripping on the curtains, the clowns Jerry and Jeronimo entered and announced gleefully, “Ladies and gentlemen, Girls and boys! We are going to laugh and play and send all sadness away!!!”
The spotlight focused on the very top of the canvas, where the trapeze artists were. There, wrapped in a lovely yellow silk, as bright as sunlight, Janet the ballerina floated down. She danced on the tips of her toes and it almost looked as if she were flying. It was the most beautiful sight! The audience clapped wildly until her partner Enrico swung down on a trapeze.

In a great leap, Janet looked as if she might fall. Everyone gasped. “Oh!!” Don’t worry... Enrico caught her and both of them climbed up on the trapeze and swung into each other’s arms, giving the greatest performance ever seen. They danced in the heights to the music of “The Waltz of the Flowers” by the famous Russian composer Tchaikovsky.
Before the audience could catch their breaths, the jugglers came in, doing amazing tricks. They were juggling hoops, clubs and balls, all at the same time. They jumped into different formations and even made a pyramid.

And the show went on and on! Suddenly, the lights dimmed for the entrance of the magician Josep, with his tricks and illusions, which amazed the audience.
But what is that?? A monkey walking on a tightrope? No one had ever seen such a funny performance! Babaloo’s trainer was elegant and enchanting, directing her in her tricks. Laughter filled the circus and grew even louder when Babaloo jumped down and took off her mask, revealing that she was really an acrobat in a monkey costume!
It didn’t take long for the clowns to return. This time, to say “Good-bye”, they called all the performers for a final parade. The smiling audience applauded joyfully, whistled and shouted, “Bravo!!” “Hooray for the circus!!” “Hooray for the performers!!” “Hooray for the greatest show on earth!!” And the people would never forget that wonderful day when the circus came to town.