



THE WORLD FAMOUS GREAT BOMBAY CIRCUS

PROFILE

Baburao Kadam founded the Grand Bombay Circus in 1920. The Circus initially toured in Sindh and Punjab (now part of Pakistan). **K.M.Kunhikannan**, was a versatile artiste and founder of Whiteway and Hind Lion circuses, had joined the Grand Bombay Circus with his entire troupe. The three circuses were merged in 1947 and was renamed Great Bombay Circus. After the death of K.M.Kunhikannan in 1953, his nephew **K.M.Balagopal** took over and became a partner of Great Bombay Circus. Under his dynamic leadership the Circus grew to be one of the biggest circuses in India.

His Majesty King Mahendra, The late Maharajah of Nepal and the Queen had witnessed the show at Calcutta. Impressed by the spectacular performance; the circus was invited to Nepal. **V.V.Giri**, Former President, **Mrs.Indira Gandhi**, Former Prime Minister, **V.K.Krishna Menon**, Former Defence Minister, **Sidharath Shankar Ray**, former Governor of Punjab, **E.M.S.Namboodiripad** and **E.K Nayanar**, former Chief Ministers of Kerala, **M.G.Ramachandran**, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, were some of the important dignitaries who had witnessed the show in different parts of the country.

The Great Bombay Circus offers you a fusion of complete entertainment with spectacular and daring acrobatic acts, sizzling performance by glamorous artistes and ear-splitting laughter generated by the talented clowns. To excel and earn accolades has been their forte. The Circus was recently invited by the Sri Lankan and South African Govt. to perform in their respective countries. The Circus today has around 300 employees which includes 30 male artistes, 60 female artistes, 40 administrative staff and 180 support staff. The mobile zoo of Great Bombay Circus has around 64 animals consisting of elephants, horses, camels and rare birds like the scarlet macaw, the blue and yellow macaw, moluccan cockatoos, african lory, african grey parrot and pigeons.

The latest Hindi block buster **Krish** starring **Hrithik Roshan**, **Don** starring **Amitabh Bachchan**, **Hum Sub kaatil** starring **Pran** and **Vijay** were shot from the Great Bombay Circus. The world famous Great Bombay Circus will be introducing ten new innovative acts in their latest edition here. The circus will be here for 45 days only.

The highlights of the present programme is the 5 member troupe from Russia. The performers are professional artistes who have qualified from the Tashkent Circus College. This has contributed in fine tuning their skills and making their presentation attractive. The troupe members are **Zumrad Azamova**, **Buri Khankel Diev**, **Setora Abdumajidova**, **Mohabbat Miryakubova**, **Inna** and **Kurvonoy Uzokova**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME

- 1.Chinese Roller Act: Seethu** (China) balances on a wooden plank which is placed on five cylindrical rollers, one on top of the other forming a vertical pyramid. She takes a circular ring and passes it simultaneously balancing on the cylindrical roller. It is indeed a feat that she balances on the rollers and performs some spectacular acrobatic acts.
- 2.Cube Pyramid Juggling:** The pyramid juggling act is a remarkable performance by the Russian artistes. This act performed by **Zumrad Azamova**, **Buri Khankel Diev** and **Sitora Abdumajidova** is a lively act which requires good co-ordination, control and speed. The highlight is when Timur balances the cube pyramid on his forehead. The dexterity and perfection in the act speaks of his professionalism.
- 3.Russian Palotna Acrobatics:** Two long pieces of cloth resembling the traditional saree are hung from the ceiling. The artiste performs acrobatics by hanging on this cloth. The artiste performs some intricate acrobatic postures. She bends her body like a withered vine at a height of twenty five to thirty feet.
- 4.Chinese Candle Balance: Sakhi, Lakshmi** performs this remarkable feat of balancing fifty-one lighted candles holding it in her mouth, hands and soles of her feet. It requires a very flexible body as it is a brilliant acrobatic performance.
- 5.American Limping Board:** This item has been adapted from an American Circus. One could find a display of good acrobatic skills by a dynamic group of boys. The boys perform remarkable somersault acts on the limping board. The music is also very captivating and lively.
- 6.Russian Spider Ring Act:** The spider ring act is a display of excellent co-ordination, acrobatic precision by three dynamic boys. They hold the circular rings and perform some excellent vertical and horizontal acrobatic acts. This is again an innovative act which has been introduced in the Indian circus for the first time.
- 7.Vertical Swinging Acrobat:** In this item they do some graceful acrobatics in midair hanging on a ribbon cloth. **Maneesh** balances on the cute and slim **Mandira** and rises to a great height. An attractive dual act!
- 8.Russian Devil Clown Act: Mustafa**, performs the devil clown act with **Bijaya**. In this act the appearance and costume of the clown needs special mention. The children enjoy this item as it has a blend of fear, fun and suspense. The act is quite distinct and fans the imagination and fantasy of children for these present day histrionic, terrifying comic characters.
- 9.High Wheel Cycle skipping Act and Pocket Cycle: The High Wheel Skipping Act** performed by **Subhash**, our star performer is a rare feat in Indian Circus. **The pocket cycle act** needs special mention as the cycle is hardly six inches and could easily pass off as a mere toy. But when **Subhash** pulls it out of his pocket and decides to ride on it with his wife **Sheela** and Anmol holding a Candyman chocolate the audience is shocked with disbelief.
- 10.Russian Clown Skipping Act: Mustafa**, the clown initially walks on a rope. Then he wears a mask and again walks on the rope with perfect balance. This is followed by a skipping contest. Herein children from the audience are invited to skip. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst the children as finally the smartest of all is selected for the final skip act wearing a mask. The whistle is blown as an instruction to skip, but the clown cleverly removes the skipping rope. The boy continues to jump vigorously assuming that the skipping act is on, as he hears the whistle being blown continuously. There is a roaring ovation from the audience, as the boy wearing the mask is made a fool. As a finale, all the children who had participated in the clown act are given Candyman chocolates. The punch-line here is the interactive act which thrills the children and audience alike.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION FOR CHILDREN

Elephant Cricket: Elephant Cricket is again one such item that brings life and thrill amongst the children and elders alike. They take cover and try to protect the infants from the aggressive batting prowess of the Elephant. Like Yuvraj Singh or Mahendra Singh Dhoni she always likes to play lofted shots into the gallery for a six.

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