



Send in the Clowns

The circus is the only fun you can buy that is good for you.

Ernest Hemingway

Don't you love farce?

My fault, I fear
I thought that you'd want what I want
Sorry, my dear!
But where are the clowns
Send in the clowns
Don't bother, they're here

Stephen Sondheim Send in the Clowns

For more than 250 years, circuses have entertained young and old with their clowns, acrobats, musicians, dancers, tightrope walkers, jugglers, magicians, uni-cyclists, aerial performers and other performance artists. Nothing compares with the joy, the innocence and the unadulterated pleasure that comes when the news breaks that the circus is coming to town, the big tent is put up, and finally, the ringmaster introduces those fantastic acts on that very special day.

The images in this series are from the second Big Christmas Circus in Leiden on Christmas Day 2019. William van Lingen, the ringmaster, assembled performance artists from different parts of the globe for this Big Christmas Circus, including Adela Hernadez, a trapeze artist from Mexico, Jofri Libello, a Dutch clown, Waldek and Pavel, acrobats and trampoline performers from Poland, Adriana Bessogonov, a quick change artist from the Czech Republic, Konastantin Beck, a German balance artist, Rein de Kok, a Dutch juggler, Edit and Raul Ariette, crossbow shooters from Argentina, and Aegon, a French laser show artist.







































































































































































































