

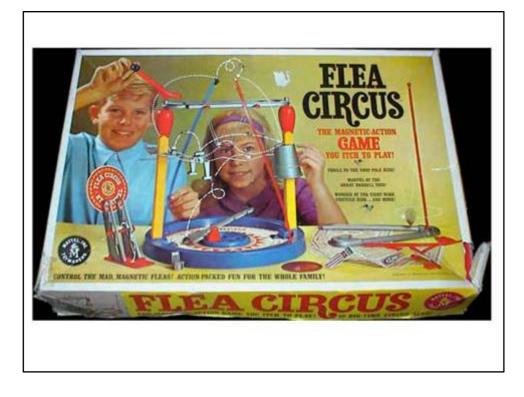


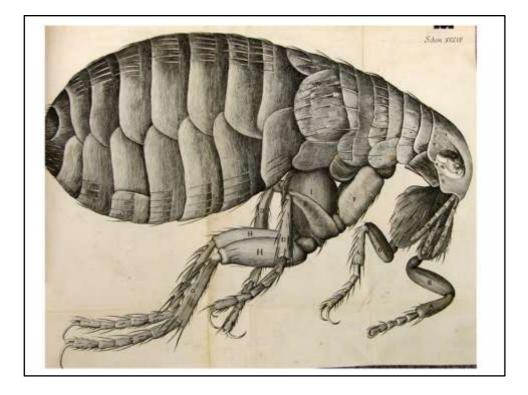




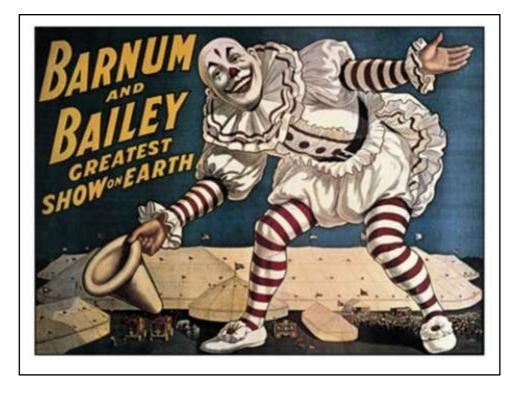


Miniature circus





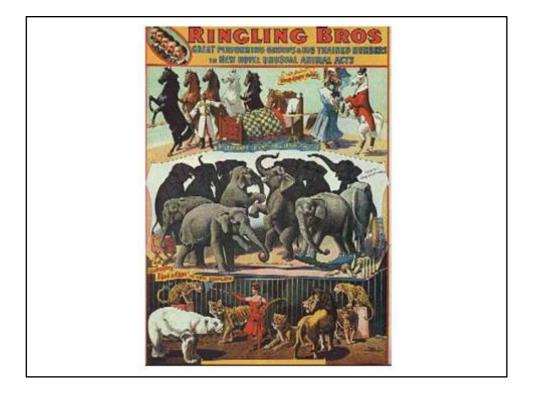
Robert Hooke's The Flea

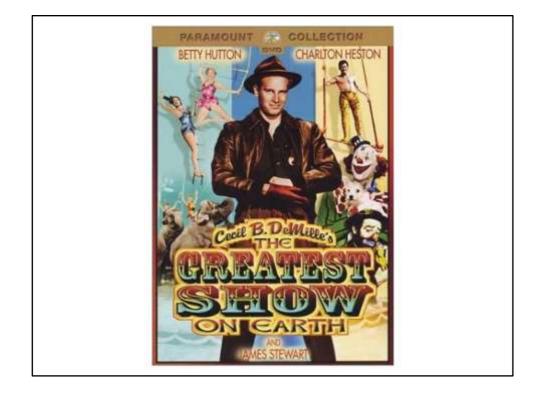






**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** is an American <u>circus</u> company. The company was started when the circus created by <u>James Anthony Bailey</u> and <u>P. T.</u> <u>Barnum</u> was merged with the <u>Ringling Brothers Circus</u>. The Ringling brothers purchased the Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1907, but ran the circuses separately until they were finally merged in 1919.





**The Greatest Show on Earth** is a 1952 drama film set in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus The film was produced, directed, and narrated by Cecil B. DeMille, and won the Academy Award for Best Picture. Its storyline is supported by lavish production values, actual circus acts, and documentary, behind-the-rings looks at the massive logistics effort which made *big top* circuses possible.

The film stars Betty Hutton and Cornel Wilde as trapeze artists competing for the center ring, and Charlton Heston as the circus manager running the show. James Stewart also stars as a mysterious clown who never removes his make-up, even between shows.

In addition to the film actors, the real Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Circus' 1951 troupe appears in the film, with its complement of 1400 people, hundreds of animals, and 60 carloads of equipment and tents. The actors learned their respective circus roles and participated in the acts.