

Greatest Showman Fall 2023

[After “Greatest Show”]

[Actors are all seated. Three circus performers take center stage and speak to the audience.]

Nicky

Ladies and gentlemen! Children of all ages! Welcome to the world famous
PT Barnum Circus!

[Audience applauds.]

Nate

We have Dancers! Jugglers! Trapeze artists and more!

[All performers stand upstage. Barnum enters and walks downstage. He is frustrated.]

Olivia

This is Mr. P.T. Barnum our founder and leader.

ANN

Mr. Barnum is one of the most successful men in the whole country.

Brendan

He is known all over the world.

Jacob

We all are.

Cody

But, it wasn't always that way.

[Circus performers sit. Barnum's wife Charity enters.]

CHARITY

You're home early.

BARNUM

I lost my job – again.

CHARITY

You weren't right for that job.

BARNUM

Or any job.

CHARITY

I have everything I could ever want.

BARNUM

But, no magic.

CHARITY

Well then – make some.

["A Million Dreams"]

Nicky

Barnum put out a call for –

Nate

Unique persons!

Brendan

Curiosities!

Brianna

Daring acts!

Cody

And wonders of the world!

["Come Alive"]

[Circus performers exit. Phillip enters with a play script. He is making edits.]

Phillip

No, no, no, no!

Barnum:

Mr. Carlyle?

Phillip:

yes.

Barnum

P.T Barnum

Phillip:

From the circus?

Barnum:

Yes. You produce plays?

Phillip:

Yes. Do you want your money back?

Barnum:

No. Mr. Carlyle, I'd like to make you an offer.

Phillip:

No thank you. I'm doing fine.

Barnum:

Wouldn't you like to see the other side?

Phillip:

I make a good living Mr. Barnum

Barnum:

Yes, but are you really living Mr. Carlyle?

Phillip:

It would cost me to leave.

Barnum:

Name your price.

Phillip:

18 percent

Barnum:

Seven

Phillip:

Twelve

Barnum:

Nine

Phillip:

10

[Ann Enters]

Barnum:

Anne! I want to introduce my newest hire, Mr. Phillip Carlyle

Ann:

It's a pleasure to meet you Mr. Carlyle

Phillip:

Yeah, pleasure

Anne:

and what is your act Mr. Carlyle?

Phillip:

I don't have an act.

Anne: (*chuckles*)

Everyone's got an act.

[Greatest Show Reprise]

[CPs enter.]

Jacob

The circus is a hit with the people!

Brendan

But, not with the critics.

[CPs pass a newspaper and read.]

Cody

This show is the shame of the city.

Nicky

It is offensive and indecent?

Nate

Offensive and indecent? I like that!

Jacob

What do we care what the newspaper thinks?

ANN

We only care what our fans think and they love us!

[Phillip Enters]

PHILLIP

You guys are not going to believe this! We've been invited to perform for the Queen of England!

ANN

Queen of England? Can't get much better than that!

[CPs exit. Charity Enters..]

CHARITY

When will you be back?

BARNUM

I don't know.

CHARITY

You don't have to do this.

BARNUM

But I do. For us!

CHARITY

But we have everything we could ever want.

BARNUM

I want to give you the life I promised you.

[Barnum exits...then Charity]

[Matt plays "God Save the Queen"]

ANNOUNCER

You're Majesty. Mr. PT Barnum and his friends from America.

[Queen enters.]

QUEEN

The honor is mine Mr. Barnum. You are all more wonderful than I could have imagined.

Nate

You're not so bad yourself, sister!

[Queen laughs and exits.]

ANNOUNCER

Mr. Barnum, you are invited to a reception following tonight's performance.

[Announcer exits.]

Jacob

It's time to party!

BARNUM

No. You have to rest for tomorrow's show.

ANN

Who can rest?

Nicky

I'm too excited to rest!

Nate

Me, too! Let's go!

BARNUM

No! *I* was invited. *Not* all of *you*. I can't have you mingling with the public!

Cody

Why? Are you ashamed of us?

[Barnum struggles to answer.]

BARNUM

No. Just – you need your rest.

[Barnum exits.]

[“This is Me”]

[Circus Performers exit. Ann and Philip remain.]

ANN

What about you, Phillip? Are you ashamed of us too? Are you ashamed of-
me?

PHILLIP

No. My place in this world is with you.

["Rewrite the Stars"]

[Barnum enters and sits down stage left. He is busy writing and crossing things out. Charity enters and looks at him from a distance. She sings to him. He does not respond to her.]

[CHARITY sings "Tightrope" then exits.]

[Barnum sits in a chair downstage. He is upset. He is joined by the Circus Performers.]

Nicky

What's wrong? Feeling sorry for yourself?

BARNUM

I lost everything because I forgot what was important. I'm sorry.

Cody

You put folks of all kinds on stage with you.

ANN

All colors, shapes and sizes.

Brendan

You presented us as equals.

Jacob

You gave our talent a home.

Cody

We forgive you. Right guys?

ALL

Yeah!

["From Now On"]

["This is Me" – reprise]

END