

Bizarre: A Circus Story

TRT 63 Minutes

Tagline:

A Small Man with a Big Dream for the Big Top

1-2 Liner:

A magical tale about the extraordinary life of Master Lu Yi, hailed as the father of modern acrobatics, and the vast community of big top lovers who share his dream of a thriving US circus industry.

Short Synopsis:

Bizarre: A Circus Story is a magical tale about passion, triumph, and heartache. Part portraiture, it centers around the fantastic life and legacy of Master Lu Yi, revered as the father of modern acrobatics, and army of circus lovers who share his dream of a thriving US circus industry. Master Lu Yi is a wise, jolly, and infectious man. From his rise among the Communist Party as an acrobatic leader to his time as a prisoner during China's Cultural Revolution, Master Lu Yi's triumph to freedom is nothing short of a miracle. His life story is an exceptional one, full of hardships and grief, but his love for circus arts keeps him young and motivated.

Based at the Circus Center in the heart of San Francisco, Master Lu Yi has been an innovating force behind the growing international circus community for decades. Known among his students as "Johnny Appleseed," he's like a living circus encyclopedia with over 50 years of circus knowledge. But he would be nothing without the vast network of circus lovers that he's amassed along the way and continues to grow to this day. With the help of advocates like Master Lu Yi, circus in the United States isn't about animals or cheap thrills anymore, it's about showmanship, athleticism, and pure magic.

Just like a circus, *Bizarre: A Circus Story* aims to inspire and delight. It features breathtaking performances by members of the local circus community, from world-renowned performers to youth artists, who have dedicated their lives to this special art form. These enchanting interludes portray circus artists in a totally new way and provide a rare glimpse at the raw strength, talent and poise it requires to be a true performer. However, it takes more than just talent and training to survive in the circus. It's grueling, competitive, and painful. Yet circus arts is growing and more popular than ever, specifically in the United States. This extraordinary story is proof that this ancient tradition not only continues to thrive, it's evolving in the modern world. But what does this evolution mean for the performers of the future? What new challenges will they face? Circus is about freedom, love and wonder, and there's room for everyone.

Treatment:

Bizarre: A Circus Story is a magical tale about passion, triumph, and heartache. It's a rare inside look at the lives of performers, instructors, and big top lovers working to keep the circus arts alive and thriving in our modern age. The main story follows the fantastic life and legacy of Master Lu Yi, a wise, jolly and infectious man heralded as the father of modern acrobatics, and his dream of running a world class circus training center in the United States. Since the 1960s, Master Lu Yi has been an innovating force behind the international circus community. His dedication and love of circus arts is unparalleled. With the help of advocates like Master Lu Yi, circus in the US isn't about animals or cheap thrills anymore, it's about showmanship, athleticism, and pure magic.

Master Lu Yi's life story is an exceptional one. He was scouted by a traveling acrobatic troupe as a child, became a world class acrobat as a teenager, served as director of the acclaimed Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe for 33 years, and was the youngest Vice President of the Chinese Acrobatic Association ever appointed. From his rise among the Communist Party to his time as a prisoner during China's Cultural Revolution, Master Lu Yi endured many trials and heartaches as a result of his dedication to this art form. But he never faltered and his triumph to freedom is nothing short of a miracle.

Even after all the suffering, he's not bitter at all. Master Lu Yi is a jovial man who likes to tell jokes and pick on his students. At 75 years old, he can still hold a two minute handstand and isn't afraid to tell you to lay off the donuts. Master Lu Yi's most enduring quality is his dedication. He attributes his strength to his family. Now, more than ever, he channels their love and support into his passion for his craft. He's energetic, honest, and his youthful attitude is inspiring to anyone who meets him. Through this film, Master Lu Yi shares his secrets on how to stay young, healthy, and happy.

Known among his students and colleagues as "Johnny Appleseed," Master Lu Yi has dedicated his entire life to spreading his love of the circus. His influence on acrobatics is legendary and continues to grow. If you're training in the circus today, then you've probably learned from Master Lu Yi or one of his former students. In order to foster better performers worldwide, he sees himself as a bridge between China's technical ability and America's theatrical ability. His goal to continue combining these two worlds to create a bigger and better international circus community.

Master Lu Yi would be nothing without his vast network of circus lovers. Over the last 50 years, he's trained and inspired countless lifelong circus advocates. Based in San Francisco since 1990, Master Lu Yi has acted as Master Teacher and Artistic Director at the Circus Center, former training school for the famous Pickle Family Circus. He trains acrobats, aerialists, clowns, jugglers, professionals, amateurs, adults, kids, and anyone else who will listen. Master Lu Yi understands that the only way circus arts will survive is to spread as many seeds as possible, which includes cultivating the next generations of young performers. His incredible story is proof that this ancient tradition not only continues to thrive, it's

evolving in the modern world. But what does this evolution mean for the performers of the future? What new challenges will they face?

Bizarre: A Circus Story is also part performance based. It's filled with elegant and stunning performances by Master Lu Yi's students and active members of the San Francisco circus community. These magical interludes show the diversity of talent and skill that embodies circus arts today. Utilizing high speed techniques and the best cinematic technology on the market, the film features gorgeous aerialists, hilarious clowns and heroic acrobats in a completely new way. Shot entirely on the RED Epic and Phantom Flex, these unique performances use super slow motion that provides a rare glimpse at the raw strength, talent and poise it requires to be a circus performer.

Bizarre: A Circus Story aims to inspire and delight. It illuminates the circus world in a way that has never been seen before. But circus isn't all about the glitz. It's extremely hard, painful, and dangerous. It takes more than just talent and training to survive in the circus. Then why is it growing? Circus is special. It offers a sense of community unlike any other art form. The artist perform their tricks just for you and, at the same time, conjures your feelings and memories of childlike wonder. In that same nature, this film has touching, inspiring, and magical themes. *Bizarre: A Circus Story* will make you want to try a handstand or take a trapeze class or learn to juggle. Circus is about freedom, love and wonder, and there's room for everyone.