

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Directed by Michael Gracey

Written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon, story by Jenny Bicks

Music composed by Oscar and Tony Award winning duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul *La La Land* and the Broadway hit *Dear Even Hansen*.

Choreography by Ashley Wallen. Release date December 2017. Seven months after the circus permanently closed AND after 146 year run!

SOME INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW: The story is inspired by the life of legendary showman P.T. Barnum. Phineas Taylor Barnum was born on July 5, 1810, in Bethel, Connecticut. He was a natural salesman and peddled snacks and cherry rum to soldiers by age 12. Barnum moved to New York City as a young man and tried his hand at a variety of businesses, including newspaper publishing and running a boarding house. In 1835, Barnum's knack for promotion surfaced when he paid \$1,000 for an elderly slave named Joice Heth. Claiming she was 161 years old and a former nurse for George Washington (1732-1799). Barnum exhibited her throughout the northeast region, raking in an estimated \$1,000 per week. After that, he bought Scudder's American Museum in lower Manhattan in 1841, and reopened it as Barnum's American Museum. There he displayed the "Fiji Mermaid" and other oddities of untrusting authenticity among what eventually expanded to a collection of 850,000 exhibits. In July 1865, Barnum's American Museum burned to the ground in a massive fire. He was a successful American promoter who founded what became the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1871.

From: RogerEbert.com "The Greatest Showman" positions itself as a story celebrating diversity, and the importance of embracing all kinds."

QUOTE: "Without promotion, something terrible happens...nothing!" P.T. Barnum

QUOTE: "Every crowd has a silver lining." P.T. Barnum

From: RogerEbert.com: In a 19th & 20th century context, the circus and then VAUDEVILLE (*a light often comic theatrical piece frequently combining pantomime, dialogue, dancing, and song; or a stage entertainment consisting of various acts (such as performing animals, comedians, or singers)*) were welcoming places where those who had skills or who were rejected by society could find a home.

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