



## The Greatest Showman

Phineas Taylor Barnum is a young boy in the 1830's, he works for his father - who is a clothes tailor. One day they visit the house of Mr. Hallett and his daughter Charity.

P.T Barnum makes Charity laugh and she spits her tea across the room. Charity's father is really angry about this and hits P.T Barnum across the face, forbidding him to ever speak to Charity again.

Charity is then sent to boarding school and sends letters to P.T Barnum. They develop a great friendship. Once she is old enough and leaves school they decide to get married.

Years later, Barnum is working for a trading company, until his boss tells everyone that they are shutting the company down, due to bankruptcy, after their trading vessels have sunk to the bottom of the ocean. Barnum goes home to Charity and their daughters, Caroline and Helen. He brings home a spinning lamp, or "wishing machine", for Caroline's birthday. Charity and the girls all make wishes, and Barnum hatches an idea.

Barnum goes to the bank for a \$10,000 loan and uses the deed to the (sunken) trading vessels as collateral. With the money, he opens up a museum devoted to oddities, because he thinks people are fascinated with things like that. No one likes the museum, so no one visits it.

The girls suggest that their dad should use real things in his museum. Barnum then goes around town searching for unique individuals. Among them are a dwarf named Charles Stratton, a bearded woman named Lettie Lutz, an obese man called Lord of Leeds, a hair-covered man referred to as Dog Boy, and an 8-foot tall man. Together they put on a show called a circus.

The circus starts to bring in money, leading Barnum to move his family into a luxurious mansion, as well as being able to put Caroline in a

ballet school. However, the other girls mock her for being part of a circus family.

The circus troupe is invited to England to meet Queen Victoria. Here, Barnum meets noted opera singer Jenny Lind, and they invite her to perform for the show so that she may become known worldwide.

Barnum goes on tour with Jenny whilst protestors gather outside the circus to harass the troupe for their physical differences. Barnum returns home from his tour and greets his family, when he overhears about the fire. He runs towards it, just as the flames consume the whole circus building. Barnum just sits outside the remains of the circus.

Barnum plucks up the courage to restart the show in a tent with circus animals and the rest of the troupe. Audiences turn out in mass. The circus is a great success!