

CWM Audio 70-8

Lewis Glover, Lisa Glover, Marissa Hitchcock, and Julie Harter Interview by Nancy Davies July 21st, 2017

Part 1

Interview conducted by Nancy Davies

- Nancy Davies: Oral history interview, Ringling Brothers with Lewis, Lisa, Julie, and Marissa on Friday July 21st, 2017.
- Lewis: At 9:40 am, in the morning.
- Nancy Davies: Thank you so much. Alright we have the great pleasure of having four members of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey family here to talk about their experiences on the show. Lets have you introduce yourselves individually and give us a brief overview of what unit you were on, what you did, and Lewis since you're the only man right here in the room at the moment lets start with you.
[00:00:30]
- Lewis: Thank you very much. My name is Lewis Sterling Glover. I was with the red unit from 1994 to-
- Lisa: 2005.
- Lewis: Thank you dear, thank you that was my wife. 2005 for a good portion of that I was the pyro technician so I am commonly known as pyro. That's me.
[00:01:00]
- Lisa: Lisa Glover, I was a dancer on the red unit from 1996-2005.
- Julie: Julie Duhurst Harter, I was a showgirl for the blue unit in 1984.
- Marissa: Marissa Hitchcock, I was a dancer and dance captain on the red unit from 1992-1999. Then switched to the blue unit to present elephants and dance until 2002.
[00:01:30]
- Nancy Davies: Before this recording started I was listening to you all sharing a lot of fun stories as circus people always do. I want to start with Julie, you were in, you said '84 correct?
- Julie: Correct.
- Nancy Davies: So what led you to audition for Ringling Brothers?
- Julie: I saw an audition ad in, they called it the entertainment section in The Chronicle for San Francisco for showgirls and clowns. I called the number first to make sure there wasn't a height requirement, because usually dancers have to be taller. They said no, so I went to the Cal Palace and auditioned, there were only like four of us. I was totally shocked because I almost talked myself out of going and I show up and I

[00:02:30] thought I was in the wrong place and did the audition and I got a call about a week later from the choreographer, Crandle Dill and he goes, "I remember you could dance but nobody took a picture of you, so we don't know what you look like." This was before 24 hour photo and all that he says you need to take pictures and send them to me. Then once I sent them, then he offered me a contract.

Nancy Davies: Did you have to think about it? Or do you thought no I'm going.

Julie: I thought no I'm going, yeah, yeah.

Nancy Davies: And had it, lets go ahead Lisa and Marissa how did you end up? Same thing? Did you respond to an audition?

[00:03:00]

Lisa: I auditioned when the show was at Madison Square Garden and then at the time I choreographed, Danny Herman was also directing the show and I was studying with him in New York, so he was hiring 14 dancers he was going to need for the next tour. In September of the previous season, Jim Ragona had called me and said, "Hey you know we're short can you come out like maybe next week?" So I actually asked him, "Can you give me two?" And I showed up on the 125th edition, seven weeks before the end of the tour I was known as the why now girl.

[00:03:30]

Marissa: But I loved you.

Lisa: And Marissa was my dance captain.

Nancy Davies: Ah! So what did you think of this woman?

Lisa: Well immediately everybody thought we were related because we're the only half-Asian girls in the dancers and everything and we just bonded really quickly. Oklahoma City.

Marissa: Mm-hmm (affirmative). September 20th, 1996.

Lisa: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marissa: Don't remember the time, but it was-

Lewis: That was the obscurity dates.

[00:04:00]

Nancy Davies: Julie lets talk a little bit about some of your experiences on the show, what do you take with you in your memories?

Julie: Oh my gosh. Lifelong friends, I'm getting emotional. I love performing and just the amazement of everything, it was hard to believe that I was a part of that, and to be a part of it. People to this day, when you tell them, oh what do you mean you worked in the circus, I was a showgirl, and it's kind of fun to say that. Just so many

[00:04:30]

[00:05:00] memories and so many stories and ... I don't know it's hard to explain to people who've never been in the circus because it's a whole different life. I'm so glad I went, and even before I went and of course I signed the contract right away, but my current husband was my boyfriend at the time and I'd hoped that he would tell me not to go because I was ... And he didn't, and so, but during the circus he came out when we were in Tucson and he proposed to me.

[00:05:30]
Lewis: Nice.

Julie: So then I left the circus in September when we were in Los Angeles and a week later I got married. But I would not recommend that, it worked out we're still married, but yeah you're in this life for you know 9, 10 months and then you come out and back into real life and you don't have a job and-

Marissa: It's shocking, it really is.

Julie: Yeah, well where's the train and where's the bus-

Marissa: Clocking in, clocking out, what?

[00:06:00]
Julie: Where's my wardrobe mistress going to help me get dressed. Yeah, it was-

Marissa: I kept [crosstalk 00:06:07] my plants to the shelves because again sort of a train run-

Julie: Right.

Marissa: And I'm like, I'm in an apartment it's not going to move but I would like bungee things because, just out of habit.

Nancy Davies: Let's talk about the train. What was, oh okay. Let's talk Lewis. Oh.