



# Women In Circus Symposium

**Western Bank Library**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August**  
**9.30am - 4.30pm**



**University of  
Sheffield**

**The University  
Library**

## **Programme**

09.30 – 10.00 Registration and refreshments

(fire alarm test)

10.00 - 10.05 Anna Clements, Director of Library Services and University Librarian – Welcome

10.05 – 10.15 Arantza Barrutia, Senior Archivist National Fairground and Circus Archive – Coproduction at the archive

10.15 - 10.20 Dea Birkett (Moderator) - Introduction to the symposium

10.20 -10.50 Rebecca Truman – A Life in Aerial Performance

10.50 - 11.10 Professor Vanessa Toulmin – Historic Background of Women in Circus

11.10 – 11.30 20 mins Coffee break

11.30 - 11.50 Beatrice Behlen - Parallel Lives: The case of the two Azellas

11.50 -12.10 Alison Young - The Right of Women to a Voice: Ada Isaacs, Female Jester and the Politics of the Victorian Circus Clown

12.10 - 12.30 Dr Kim Baston - The roles and experiences of women in the eighteenth-century circus

12.30 – 12.45 questions

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch

13.15 – 13.45 Tour of Rope Women exhibition with Rebecca Truman and Arantza Barrutia (optional)

13.45 - 14.05 Dr Debanjali Biswas - Their Chameleon Lives: Travelling Show-women and Dangerous Animals Acts, 1895-1945

14.05 - 14.25 Emily Greenwood - Producing Your Platform: Celebrating Veteran Expertise and Entrepreneurial Success in UK Circus

14.25 – 14.45 Dr Marisa Carnesky - Reclaiming Showwomxn Heritage as Matriarchal Resistance

14.45 – 15.00 questions

15.00 – 15.20 Coffee break

15.20 - 16.20 Panel discussion with Dea, Vanessa, Rebecca and Marisa

What does the future look like for women in circus?

16.20 - 16.30 Dea Birkett - Event closure