



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Ottavio Gesmundo
646-279-1446 / GrandGypsy@aol.com

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The Grand Gypsy Weaves Together Historical Events Through The Extraordinary Life Of Circus Superstar Ottavio Canestrelli

Surabaya, Indonesia– December 23, 2016 - *The Grand Gypsy* (Lulu) by Ottavio Canestrelli with Ottavio Gesmundo, is an engaging new showbiz memoir detailing the extraordinary adventures of circus superstar Ottavio Canestrelli (1896 – 1977), a decorated World War I veteran, impresario and showman who emigrated to America to become a center ring star of the famed Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Co-author Ottavio Gesmundo, a sixth generation performer himself, took his grandfather’s original memoir, added additional commentary and had it published. Gesmundo is an accomplished crossbow stunt performer who, like his grandfather, has entertained audiences all over the world.

Through his days touring with his family across five continents and countless nations, *The Grand Gypsy* recounts Ottavio Canestrelli’s whirlwind life that intersected with some of the 20th Century’s most historic times and significant events. He fought for Italy in World War I and later performed with the Krone Circus in Germany during the 1920’s on the eve of Adolf Hitler’s rise to power. Among his adventures, he witnessed the excavation of the Sphinx in Egypt, survived a riot in Uruguay, and was at a 1931 rally for Mahatma Gandhi in India. Twice he appeared on the 1960’s pinnacle showcase for talent, the Ed Sullivan Show in New York City.

The Grand Gypsy is a captivating journey under the big top and through 80 years of historic world events via Canestrelli’s many remarkable exploits. Featuring more than 170 rich historical photographs, this unique personal account of Canestrelli’s life in and out of the circus is an unforgettable story filled with daring feats and tragic mishaps.

Available from online publisher Lulu.com as well as Barnes & Noble, Amazon, iBooks, Kobo, Ingram, and other outlets.

“The story of his travels, his acts and those of his talented family will enthrall any reader, and this is a most well-written and structured book” - Circus Report

“Fascinating and highly enjoyable reading, not only for anyone interested in circus history, but also for any curious or adventurous mind.” – Circopedia.org

“At 238 pages, with over 170 historical photographs, the book is a delight to read. I highly recommend it” - White Tops

High resolution photos, crossbow performance/demonstration, and interviews with Ottavio Gesmundo are available. Watch performance and interview on Fox 5 Good Day New York <https://vimeo.com/crossbowstunts/GoodDayNewYork> and The Tonight Show <https://vimeo.com/crossbowstunts/TheTonightShow>.

For additional information, please visit www.thegrandgypsy.com, or www.crossbowstunts.com. You can connect with Ottavio Gesmundo on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/ottavio.gesmundo>
<https://www.instagram.com/crossbowstunts/>
<https://twitter.com/CrossbowStunts>

Book Details

ISBN: 9781483448947
Copyright: Ottavio Gesmundo (Standard Copyright License)
Published: June 9, 2016
Publisher: Lulu
Language: English
Pages: 238
Binding: Perfect-bound Paperback
Photos: Black & white
Dimensions: 6" x 9"
List Price: \$18.98 (paperback), \$12.98 (eBook)

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