

# Working in a Circus



By Anne Russell and Rosemary Emery



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Welcome to our circus. My name is Rumah. This is where I work. There are ten people in our troupe. As well as performing, there are lots of other jobs we need to do.



This is our main tent called the Big Top. When we arrive at a new venue there is a lot to set up. We are in this new town for two weeks. Let me show you what we do.



We perform in a ring in the middle of the Big Top.  
I put the wooden ring boxes together around the outside of the round yellow mat.



We set out all of the seats. The orange seats go at the front and the tiered seats go at the back.  
Zazu climbs up the king pole to set up the lights and ropes. She wears a harness to keep her safe.



Aren and Matthias put the lighting and bunting up outside. The pole is long and heavy. Matthias has to push it very hard and hold it steady while Aren puts it on the base. It is a tricky job. They have done it lots of times so make it look easy.





We have to make the circus area safe for the public. Ash digs a small trench for the electric cable and then covers it up so people don't trip on it.



Everything is set up inside the Big Top ready for the show.  
Aren unties the ropes so that the sides of the tent come down.



We have lunch before we get ready for the show. We always come together at meal times.

Our boss, Damian, reminds us of the jobs that we still need to do today.



After lunch we take turns to clear the meal and wash the dishes. Today it is Aren, Anna and Ash's turn.



We call the kitchen caravan the chuckwagon. We take turns cooking the meals and, because I made lunch, I also clean up the chuckwagon.



Everyone has their own house and this is Ash's house. She is going to get ready for the show.



Ash sits in front of the mirror to put her makeup on. She dabs the gold eyeshadow on her eyelids.



We sell food and drink to the people that come to the show. Ash and Logan get the hot chocolate ready. What else can you see that we make to sell?





Anna makes the popcorn in the popcorn machine. It smells delicious.



Matthias takes the props he needs for his performance into the Big Top. I wonder what is in the old suitcase?

# CIRCUS AOTEAROA

NZ'S VERY OWN CIRCUS

## TICKETS

### RING SIDE - The name says it all

Plastic molded seats set at ground level on the very edge of the action, best for true circus aficionados. Sorry but due to limited space we unfortunately can't offer free child seats here.

Children 0-14 yrs - \$35  
Adults 15 yrs plus - \$40

### ELEVATED - Our Mid range seats

Single molded plastic individual seats set to the centre of the ring. Offering comfort and better viewing.

Children 0-3 yrs - Free  
Children 4-14 yrs - \$25  
Adults 15 yrs plus - \$30

### BLEACHERS - Our Value Option

Single flat Aluminium bench seats set to the side of the ring.

Children 0-3 yrs - Free  
Children 4-14 yrs - \$18  
Adults 15 yrs plus - \$23

Family and group discounts available. Ask at box office. We feel free to inspect seating before purchasing tickets.

**ENJOY THE SHOW**



I sell show tickets in the box office caravan. I like selling tickets because I get to meet and talk to the audience. They are always very excited.



It was another great show today and at the end we all bow to the audience. Today we have to take down the Big Top because we are moving to a new town.



We quickly get changed and start to pack up. We take off the sides of the Big Top first so we can carry everything to the trucks.



We take apart the tiered seats.  
Zazu climbs up the king pole again to bring down the lights and ropes.



There are lots of side pieces to fold up. Anna and Nicole fold up one piece together. It is heavy so they both carry it to the trailer.



There is a lot to do. We work as fast as we can so that we get it all packed up before it gets dark.





We have packed up and left everything neat and tidy.  
Children ride bikes and dogs walk where our tents used to be.  
See you next year!



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