

MARIA LUISA FUENTES SANCHEZ: A LIFETIME OF CIRCUS MASTERY

MARIA LUISA FUENTES SANCHEZ, A NAME SYNONYMOUS WITH BRILLIANCE IN THE WORLD OF CIRCUS ARTS, HAS CARVED A LEGACY THAT SPANS DECADES AND CONTINENTS. BORN ON AUGUST 18TH, 1960, IN MONTERREY NUEVO LEON, MEXICO, MARIA'S JOURNEY INTO THE ENCHANTING REALM OF THE CIRCUS BEGAN AT THE TENDER AGE OF 12. FROM HER HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AT THE FAMOSO CIRCO UNION IN MEXICO CITY, MARIA EMBARKED ON A REMARKABLE ODYSSEY MARKED BY UNPARALLELED TALENT AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION.

THE STAR STRUCK TRIBUNE



Throughout her illustrious career, Maria has been a virtuoso in a multitude of circus disciplines. Whether soaring through the air as an aerial acrobat, captivating audiences with her ground acts, evoking laughter through her clowning, or commanding the ring as a ringmistress, Maria's versatility knows no bounds. Her expertise extends to acting, comedic performances, announcing, and choreography, making her a true luminary of the circus world.

Maria's performances have graced some of the most prestigious circuses across the globe. From the electrifying energy of El Super Circo de Miami to the glitz and glamour of Broadway on Parade Circus, her artistry has captivated audiences far and wide. Whether in the United States or Mexico, Maria's presence has left an indelible mark on the hearts of circus enthusiasts everywhere.



In addition to her stellar performances, Maria has also proven herself as a visionary leader in the circus industry. Since 1993, she has been the owner and performer of her own circus, demonstrating her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence. As the owner and general manager of Broadwayland Circus and El Nicky Power, Maria has set the standard for innovation and entertainment. Her tenure as the general manager of the Nicky Power Show in Las Vegas, NV, and Bobo Fuentes Productions in the USA further solidifies her reputation as a leader in the field.

Maria's journey has been defined by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a thirst for new experiences. After eight years in the United States, she returned to Mexico with her circus, continuing to delight audiences until 2018. Along the way, Maria has also dabbled in Mexican dances and gained full experience in choreographic and theatrical plays. Her role as a stage manager assistant at El Teatro Vallarta in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, further underscores her multifaceted talents and dedication to the arts.

As Maria Luisa Fuentes Sanchez continues to grace the stage with her presence, her legacy remains an enduring testament to the magic and wonder of the circus. Her passion, talent, and innovation have not only entertained audiences but have also inspired generations of performers to reach greater heights. In the grand tapestry of the circus, Maria's star shines brighter than ever, illuminating the path for future generations of circus artists.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MARIA LUISA

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE CIRCUS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, AND HOW DID YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF CIRCUS ARTS BEGIN?

When I was a little kid, my grandfather and my parents used to have a huge circus with many animals and performers, and I loved them. At the age of 15, my father took my sister and me to join his own circus, and it was magical. Every time we visited the circus while I was in school, I couldn't believe it was true. All those beautiful animals—lions, tigers, giraffes, monkeys, elephants, and many more—it was really incredible. I couldn't believe it. When they took me back to school, I used to tell my friends about what we had in the circus, but they laughed at me, saying that I was dreaming. Eventually, I ended up thinking it was all my imagination because life in the city was so boring, and the months waiting to go back to our circus seemed so long. So, when my father decided to bring my sister and me to the circus permanently, it was like a dream come true. It was 1975.

WITH YOUR VAST EXPERIENCE ACROSS VARIOUS CIRCUS DISCIPLINES, COULD YOU SHARE WITH US WHICH ASPECT OF PERFORMANCE RESONATES WITH YOU THE MOST, AND WHY?

When I arrived, I just took care of the office and front end of the circus. Gradually, my father had some of the performers teach us some acts, especially ground acts, because he was scared we might fall from a high place and get hurt. So, we learned how to ride horses and elephants, perform magic acts, work with dogs, dance, and announce the show, becoming ring mistresses. Later, I secretly learned the single trapeze and aerial skills. The discipline that resonates the most with me is performing with the elephants. I just love them. I used to ride them and perform by directing them from the ground. They are such glorious animals—so intelligent, noble, and kind. They have their own character but are usually very kind. They are so intelligent that you wouldn't believe it. They won't hurt you for anything; they take care of you. You are part of their pack.

THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER, YOU'VE PERFORMED IN NUMEROUS PRESTIGIOUS CIRCUSES WORLDWIDE. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES AND WHAT MADE IT STAND OUT?

Performing in different circus companies around the world makes us better people in every way. You have to know lots of people and learn how to live together in harmony with different ideologies, cultures, ideas, feelings, and personalities, and learn from everybody with modesty and a willingness to become a better person, making a lot of friends even though we may think differently. One of the most memorable performances I cannot forget was in Bogotá, Colombia, South America, where the circus was sold out for six or seven months. The crowd filled the tent every single show. It was beautiful, just amazingly beautiful.

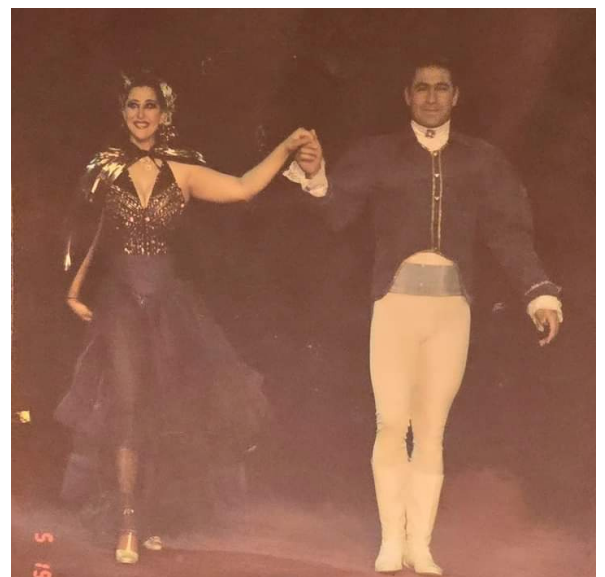
AS AN OWNER AND GENERAL MANAGER OF YOUR CIRCUS, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED, AND HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME THEM?

The challenges were mainly financial; we didn't have much money. We were very young, and our circus was small and weak. People didn't trust us firmly, and we didn't have trucks to move the circus trailers. But we didn't give up. We asked for many favors from cities, authorities, police officers, and many others that you cannot imagine. But we triumphed, we did well. Whatever we did, we kept going after our dreams. Sometimes my husband or I couldn't sleep or eat regularly, and sometimes we didn't even have enough for gasoline for the cars. But God never abandoned us, and something always came through, or someone lent us more money to keep going. We had such difficult times, but we never, ever gave up.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOUR DECISION TO RETURN TO MEXICO AFTER EIGHT YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD INFLUENCE YOUR CIRCUS VENTURES UPON YOUR RETURN?

We went back to Mexico because my daughters, Nicky and Denisse, missed it so much. They wanted to see the family, coexist with them, their Mexican circus friends, and most of all, enjoy the food. Mexico is a very rich country in meals, and we love them.

COULD YOU SHARE SOME INSIGHTS INTO YOUR EXPERIENCES AS A STAGE MANAGER ASSISTANT AT EL TEATRO VALLARTA IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO, AND HOW IT CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT?



Working in Puerto Vallarta as an assistant manager was very short-lived because the pandemic came. When it was over, we decided to reopen our show. But it was okay and not too different from what we do in the circus, just taking care of the performers and the rules inside the theater.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING CIRCUS PERFORMERS OR ENTREPRENEURS LOOKING TO MAKE THEIR MARK IN THE INDUSTRY?

“The only thing I would say is: keep going, never ever give up. If you fall, get up. If you fall again, get up every time, and keep pushing and pushing. With all due respect, just keep going.”



LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR CIRCUS AND YOUR LEGACY IN THE WORLD OF CIRCUS ARTS?

Only God knows what will happen in the future. But if I may ask for something, I just ask for health to keep going, health for my family and friends, and long life and love from us for our circus, Circus Funland Events. If we achieve our goal to cheer up people's hearts, it will be a huge success for us. We would think that we did it! We did it! And if they keep remembering us, that would be an even higher success. We want to make people happy with our circus performances, our family show, and all our events and parties.

Thank you for your time and for the interview.

MARIA TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT MOST OF THE YEAR SHE WORK IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN LAS VEGAS, CALIFORNIA, AND ARIZONA.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR INCREDIBLE JOURNEY AND PASSION FOR THE CIRCUS ARTS WITH US. YOUR DEDICATION AND LOVE FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL ART FORM ARE TRULY INSPIRING. YOUR STORIES AND EXPERIENCES HIGHLIGHT THE MAGIC AND HARD WORK THAT GO INTO EVERY PERFORMANCE, AND IT WAS AN HONOR TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR REMARKABLE CAREER.

CONGRATULATIONS ON ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF YOUR AMAZING WORK IN THE FUTURE. FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING MARIA'S JOURNEY OR CONTACTING HER, YOU CAN FIND HER ON FACEBOOK PAGE: CIRCO CIRCUS EVENTS ([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PROFILE.PHP?ID=61554424139021&MIBEXTID=LQQJ4D](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554424139021&mibextid=LQQJ4D))



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