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Circus Boy

US TV series : 1956-57 : dir. : NBC / Columbia : 49 x 25 min
prod: Herbert B Leonard : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Mickey Braddock](#)
Noah Beery Jr; Robert Lowery; Guinn "Big Boy" Williams; Leo Gordon; Billy Barty; Eddie Marr
Olin Howlin

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Hey rube! Mickey Braddock is Circus Boy !

Source: The Golden Age of Children's Television

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"A boy is adopted by a circus troupe. Well-made children's drama series with a lively background of the early 1900s. * "

Excerpt from *The Golden Age of Children's Television*:

"Animals were also an essential part of the fifties show "**Circus Boy**" starring Mickey Braddock, later better known as Mickey Dolenz of "**The Monkees**". He played Corky, a twelve-year old orphan (didn't any American kids have parents?) adopted by Big Tim Champion's travelling circus. His constant companions were Bimbo the baby elephant and Joey the clown, played by Noah Beery Jr some twenty years before "**The Rockford Files**"... "



Source: Yesterdayland.com

How Sweet It Was note:

“**"Circus Boy"**: Mickey Braddock starred in the adventures of Corky, a boy adopted by a circus troupe at the turn of the century. The series was first presented in 1956.”

Yesterdayland.com website review:

“If you didn't have the guts to run away and join the circus as a kid, **"Circus Boy"** was the next best thing. This half-hour mixture of comedy and drama, set at the turn of the 20th century, gave twelve-year-old orphan Corky a chance to live out every kid's dream. And he didn't even have to run away from home to do it, since the circus actually was his home.

After his parents were killed in a high-wire accident, young Corky was adopted by the circus' owner, Big Tim Champion. The young lad quickly found a role in the show as water-boy to Bimbo, a baby elephant that Corky would come to consider his pet. Riding Bimbo's back, Corky dealt with his adolescent problems, and helped the show's adults — including Joey the Clown, the always-energetic Pete, and Little Tom — keep the circus in the black as the show moved from town to town each week.

The show ran on prime time television for two seasons, first on NBC then on ABC. After its prime-time run, it was re-run on Saturday mornings for several more years. And not too many years later, the young star of the show would drop the stage name of “Braddock” to appear in another show using his real name: Mickey Dolenz, singer/drummer for **"The Monkees"**.

Release History: 9/23/56 - 9/8/57 ABC ”

Cast:

Corky	Mickey Braddock
Uncle Joey	Noah Beery Jr.
Big Tim Champion	Robert Lowery
Pete	Guinn 'Big Boy' Williams
Hank Miller	Leo Gordon
Little Tom	Billy Barty
Swiftly	Olin Howlin
Barker	Eddie Marr

[no listing in "History of Television", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. Sawdust spectacles were hot items on American television in the fifties, with titles like **"Big Top"**, **"International Showtime"**, **"Super Circus"** and **"Circus Time"**. This was before decades of natural history programming on the box informed public sensibilities and made the handling of animals on and behind the circus arena appear tasteless and passé, if not overtly cruel. The touring circus still survives, as an anachronistic novelty like the seaside pier, but televised circus performances, once a bank

holiday fixture, have gone the way of the “**Black and White Minstrels Show**” and “**Sunday Night at the London Palladium**”.

I watched “**Circus Boy**” (without great enthusiasm) as a child, and dimly recall that Noah Beery Jr hogged the limelight as Corky's pal Joey. Braddock was little more than an unofficial circus mascot, creeping about between the legs of various plots and intrigues between the adult crew. In circus terms he was less a fire-eater than a ticket-vendor, but he got to straddle the back of a lion for the show's opening titles. Disney trod much the same path with “**TOBY TYLER, or TEN WEEKS WITH A CIRCUS**” (60) featuring Kevin Corcoran.

I've no other details on Braddock/Dolenz, other than that he grew up to play the zaniest of the four Monkees, a group cobbled together by US TV producers in a vain attempt to emulate the unprecedented success of The Beatles with American teens. What is even more bizarre is that it worked. As with David Cassidy from “**The Partridge Family**”, regular TV exposure guaranteed The Monkees an avid teen following for a while.

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