

- Q. The Duroffs' favorite animal was a performing pig that became almost as famous as her owners. What was her name?
- A. Chuska. The Duroffs' trained her to parachute from a balloon. Chuska became almost as popular with circus audiences as her owners.
- Q. Which famous Russian clown owned a dog named Pushek?
- A. Karandash. Posing as an orator with one paw on a podium, Pushek would bark and then Karandash would announce "The talk by the Minister of Propaganda Goebbels has now ended."

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- Q. One Fratellini brother was born in Russia; one was born in Italy. Where was the third born?
- A. France. The Fratellini brothers were all born in different countries. They performed in Russia for years before becoming popular in Paris.
- Q. What was the motto of the Moscow Circus School?
- A. Balance is better if the head is full.
- Q. Besides acrobatics, gymnastics and balance, what subject must students at the Moscow Circus School study?
- A. Juggling.
- Q. What type of circus developed by the Russians is probably most unpopular with the tigers?
- A. Water Circus. In addition to the traditional circus, the Russians have developed the Circus on Ice and the Water Circus, complete with tigers performing in the water.

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- Q. What does the word "Ovadratiki" mean in English?
- A. Hopscotch. When relaxing from their lessons, students at the Moscow Circus School frequently relax by playing Ovadratiki.
- Q. Which author's play was produced circus-style with hell transformed into a circus and the devils played by clowns?
- A. Tolstoy. In 1919 Tolstoy's play *The First Distiller* was produced as if in a circus.

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- Q. Other than a pig, what kind of animal did the Brothers Duroff use in their act?
- A. Rats. The Brothers Duroff, two famous Russian circus performers, trained a pig and hundreds of rats for their acts.
- Q. For what kind of act is the Moscow Circus especially famous?
- A. Animal acts. The Moscow Circus has always been famous for its animal acts, which have included many unusual animals such as hippopotami, penguins, kangaroos and pelicans.

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- Q. Who founded the Russian Circus?
- A. Charles Hughes. He was an English stunt-rider who started the first Russian circus in 1793.
- Q. Which writer wrote a short story based on the experiences of Vladimir Duroff and his dog Kashtanka?

A. Chekhov. Anton Chekhov wrote "Kashtanka" based on a story related to him by Vladimir Duroff.

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Q. The ice-skating bears of the Circus on Ice are so good the Russians claim they could best the hockey team of what nation?

A. Canada. In one act of the Circus on Ice, teams of ice-skating bears play hockey. The bears are so good that some Russians claim they could beat the Canadian Maple Leafs.

Q. Besides voice and acting, what subject must a student study to become a clown in the Moscow Circus?

A. Pantomime.

Q. In one of his acts, Vladimir Duroff played what role?

A. Pied Piper. In one act of the Duroff brothers, Vladimir played the Pied Piper of Hamelin. When he played his pipe, hundreds of rats would swarm all over him.

Q. What type of clown appeared in the first Russian circus?

A. Redhead Clown. The Redhead clown made his first appearance in a Russian circus, earning his name by wearing a wig, bright makeup and a luminous nose.

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Q. The famous Russian clown Popov began his career as what kind of performer?

A. Slack wire walker. Popov began his career as a slack wire walker, but after he invented a series of clown turns to cover his mistakes on the wire, he subsequently became one of the greatest clowns in the world.

Q. What is another name for a tightrope walker?

A. Funambulist.

Q. At what age can children apply to the Moscow Circus School?

A. Eleven. Only one in seventy is accepted.

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Q. What street in Moscow is named after circus performers?

A. Duroff Street. The Duroff brothers and their pig were so popular that a street was named after them.

Q. What is the name for the early minstrels and acrobats who were banned by Alexis I?

A. Skomorokhi. They were early bands of itinerant showmen who wandered about Russia. The skomorokhi were eventually banned from performing because of the political satire in their acts.

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Q. The students at the Moscow Circus School are only allowed to work with which large animal?

A. Horses. Students train in all circus specialities except exotic animal handling. The horse is the only large animal the students are allowed to work with.

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Q. Who was called the "shock-brigadier of clowning"?

- A. Vitaly Lazarenko. He earned the title by entertaining and inciting Bolshevik forces on the frontiers of the Russian revolution.
- Q. In their acts, the Bim-Bom clown duet combined acrobatics with what?
- A. Music. The Russian clowns Bim and Bom would play the violin while rolling over each other's back and doing acrobatic leaps.
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- Q. One of the Duroff Brothers was named Vladimir. What was his brother's name?
- A. Anatoly. The brother developed the genre of clown-satirist, mixing political criticism with comic animal acts.
- Q. Which intellectual movement adopted the circus as the model for a new theater?
- A. Futurism. In 1913 Futurism embraced the circus as a model for a new theater, impressed by the "abysses of the ridiculous" and the "whole gamut of stupidity, imbecility and absurdity" as well as the "whole gamut of laughter and smiles."