

Incredible Vintage Circus Photos from the '40s and '50s

Early circus photographers like Frederick Whitman Glasier — who often [dressed](#) like his idol, “Buffalo Bill” Cody — spent a large part of their careers snapping shots of daily life in Wild West shows and traveling circuses across America. Their documentation of these incredible and often strange performers revealed a stunning juxtaposition of hard living and garish glamour that has since evolved into now famous acts like Cirque du Soleil. Taschen’s [The Circus Book: 1870-1950](#) compiled the works of these photographers — like Edward Kelty, Mathew Brady, Cornell Capa, Charles and Ray Eames, and even Stanley Kubrick — and included some of the earliest color photos ever taken of the circus from the 1940s and ‘50s. We’ve shared several of those images past the break, thanks to website [Easy Dreamer](#). Relive some old-time circus magic, below.



Image credit: [The Circus Book: 1870-1950](#)