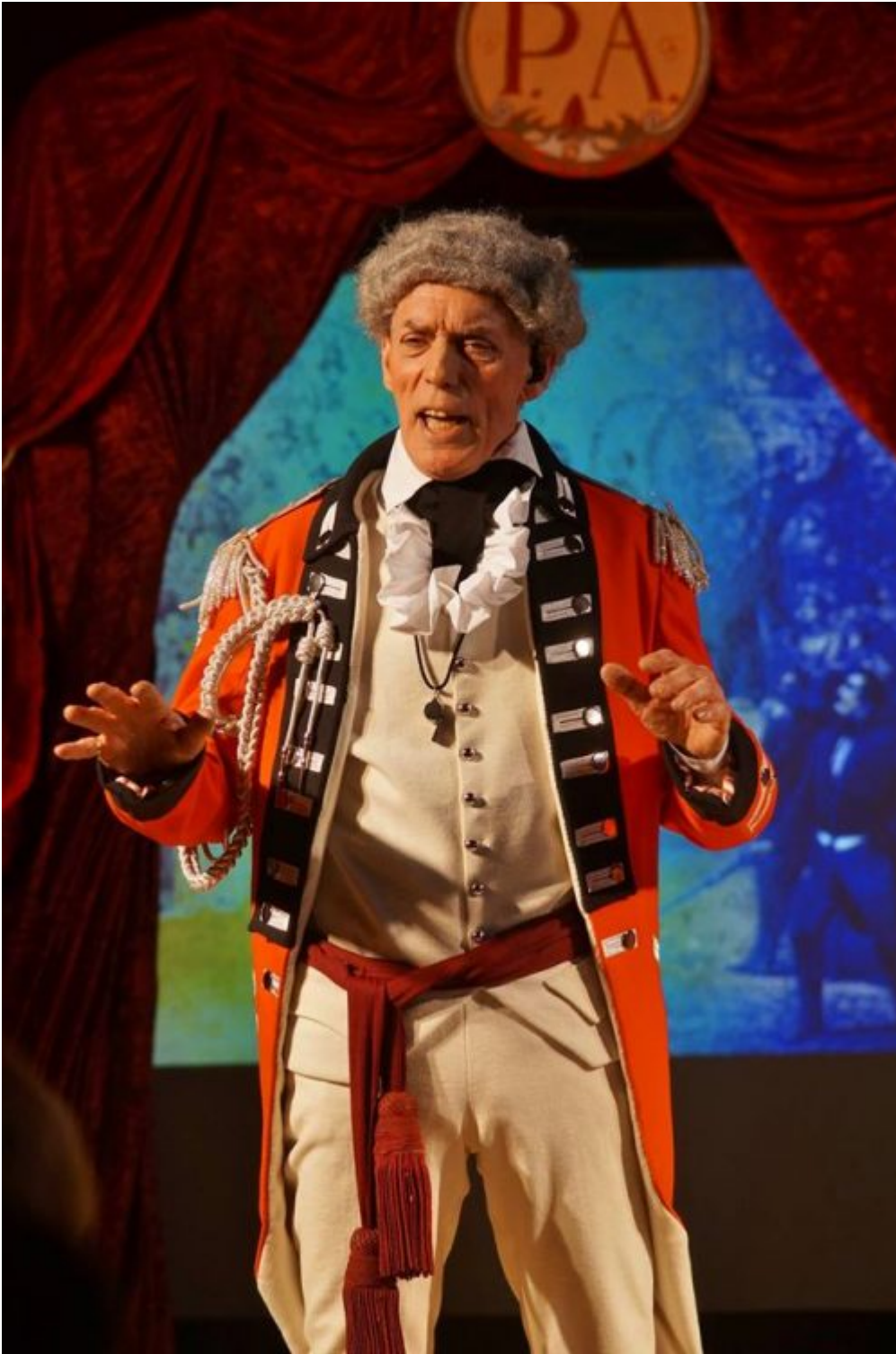


# Circus inventor Astley tells his own story at the Pleasance

AUDACIOUS Mr ASTLEY

Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33) 1st to 27th August

In this 250th Anniversary year of the world's first circus performance, and surrounded in Edinburgh by shows in many styles of circus presentation, who better to tell how the art form began than the 'father' of the modern circus, Philip Astley himself?



Swapping his red tail-coat and top hat for the uniform and wig of a 1760s hussar, and his microphone for a playwright's pen, modern-day ringmaster, circus personality and actor Chris Barltrop brings Astley to vivid, cantankerous larger-than-life to tell his own tale, accompanied by contemporary music and soundscapes.

Barltrop has painstakingly researched, written and performs to

tell Astley's story 'at first hand'. A unique account, a view of the dawn of the Classical circus by a respected life-long exponent who draws on his insider knowledge of circuses and their owners in a fascinating and highly entertaining presentation.

Audacious Mr Astley dissolves the myths to relate how the circus really began.

[www.pleasance.co.uk/event/audacious-mr-astley#overview](http://www.pleasance.co.uk/event/audacious-mr-astley#overview) / 0131 556 6550

The Centre for Circus Culture



presents

**AUDACIOUS Mr ASTLEY**

*How the Circus REALLY Began!*



Philip Astley, Esq.

A love of horses. A fall-out with father. An exciting military career. A reaction to inaction. A marriage, a son, an apprenticeship. A busy spot to begin. A lucky find! A lease purchased. A growing popularity.

Acrobats added. And a clown! A Royal Invitation. A conflagration (and another). Afloat on the

Thames. A salute from His Majesty. An Amphitheatre of Arts. Above all, Mr Philip ASTLEY!

*How a horseman threw his hat into the ring and rode into history...*

Booking: [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk) // 0131 556 6550

Performances daily at 11.45am  
from 1st to 27th August (except 14th August)

Pleasance Courtyard - Venue 33  
60 Pleasance, EH8 9TJ



A ONE-MAN PLAY  
written and performed by  
CHRIS BARLTROP

