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INTERNATIONAL SALIERI CIRCUS AWARD

Legnago, Italy 27 – 29 September 2025

Report by Dr Steve Ward

Photographs by Gaby Merz

Question - What do you get if you mix circus, a live symphony orchestra, and a jewel of an Italian theatre? Answer -The International Salieri Circus Award.

Now in its 50th year, the event brought together 22 very talented acts drawn from over 500 applications. The artistes represented five continents and 20 different countries. It was truly a glittering international event and I was privileged to have been invited to sit on the Press Jury. The Technical Jury comprised of many well-known names in the international circus world, including Regina Bouglione and Daniele Togni, with special guest panellist Dr Alain Frère.

The contestants were divided into two different shows, the two shows being performed each day over the weekend. After these performances the competitors for the Gala Show were selected by the Technical Jury, after which the final awards were made.

In show one Axur were: Chris Pettersen (Norway), crescent slackrope; Metamorphosys Duo (Argentina), hair hanging; Fume (Italy/Australia), basketball juggling; Danimisima (Germany), hula hoop; Antoine Jacot (France), magical Juggling; Duo Fly (Taiwan), diabolo; Hero Brothers (Ukraine), clowns; Albert Amores (Spain), aerial pole; Maria Sarach (Russia), hand balancing; Winston Fuenmayor (Venezuela), magic, card manipulation; and Toy Toy Toy (Japan), Yo Yo.

In show two, Falstaff, were: Mitchell Eckert (Canada),



Albert Amores

aerial hoop; Elastic Kate (Belarus), contortion; Bubbles Revolution (Italy/Lithuania), bubbles and light painting; Luca Trimboli (Australia), aerial straps; Duo Variety (Ethiopia), bounce juggling; Joel Herzfeld (USA/Germany), hand balancing; Chen Tao (China), cyr wheel; Renata Barcellos (Brazil), dance trapeze; Nicolas Teusa (Colombia), pendular hoop; Vladyslav Golda (Ukraine), juggling; and Black Panthers (Kenya), acrobatics.

The final selection, Fume, were: Fume, Antoine Jacot, Duo Fly, Hero Brothers, Albert Amores, Maria Sarach, Winston Fuenmayor, Toy Toy Toy, Renata

Vladyslav Golda





Barcellos, Nicolas Teusa and Vladyslav Golda.

The awards were: Gold Salieri, Albert Amores; Three Silver Salieri to Toy Toy Toy, Nicolas Teusa, and Maria Sarach; Three Bronze Salieri to Winston Fuenmayor, Duo Fly and Antoine Jacot. The Public award went to Fume and the Press award to Antoine Jacot. The Music award went to Vladyslav Golda. The National Association for the Development of Circus Arts award was presented to Renata Barcellos. The City of Legnago award went to the Hero Brothers. A Platinum Salieri award for lifetime achievement was made to the Guest Star David Shiner.

Several other side events supported The International Salieri Circus Award performances. A display from the Togni family archive was presented in a local museum. An interesting presentation was given on Ferdinand Togni, 'From American Circus to White' - followed by the launch of the book with the same title. This was followed by 'The Queen of the Circus', a celebration of the life of Moira Orfei.

It was a magnificent weekend of circus and congratulations must be made to the artistic director, Antonio Girola, and his team for a well organised spectacular event. We look forward to 2026!

BOOK NEWS

By Don Stacey

The Great Carmo

I expected to wait a few months at least for Stuart McMillan's next book after his epic volume 'The History of Ginnett's Circus' which was reviewed in the September 2025 King Pole. But no, before the end of September I was in receipt of an advance copy of yet another outstanding historical work by the Glasgow circus historian, one which will appeal equally to circus fans and those interested in magic and illusion. Entitled 'The Great Carmo' this self-published volume is the ninth book by this remarkable author, who deliberately chooses subjects about which nobody else has written in depth, thus making his books a must-have for every circus enthusiast.

Over the years, it has been mooted that various writers were to write the ultimate story of Harry Carmo. However, no such volume appeared but now happily Mr McMillan has so ably filled this major vacancy in telling the history of a leading British performer, both as a magician and as a circus proprietor. I say British but Carmo was actually born in Australia in 1881, his father having emigrated from Glasgow to Melbourne. His real name was Harry Cameron. Early on he became a juggler with Ashton's

Circus and in 1907 was touring in British theatres. He appeared at the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome in August of that year, billed as 'The Carmos, Australia's greatest Herculean and novelty jugglers'. By 1911 he had become 'The Great Carmo' with juggling and conjuring feats and then soon morphed into the great illusionist he was to become famous as. He was performing major illusions on stage featuring wild animals and elephants long before the world had ever heard of the great Siegfried and Roy! McMillan's book faithfully records all his engagements. Carmo's musical-review 'Magical Moments' toured all Britain's number one theatres and some of the number twos as well. Carmo's cycling baby elephant worked for Bertram Mills Circus at Olympia in 1926.

It was in 1928 that The Great Carmo's Circus and Menagerie came into existence in Ireland. At Olympia, the following winter, Bertram Mills featured Carmo's lions presented by Togare and Captain Anker with Carmo's liberty horses. Bertram Mills and his sons were planning to take the Olympia circus on tour in 1929 but hearing that Carmo was launching his own even bigger show that season, it was decided to tour in conjunction with Carmo as Carmo's Circus with Cyril and Bernard Mills running the show in