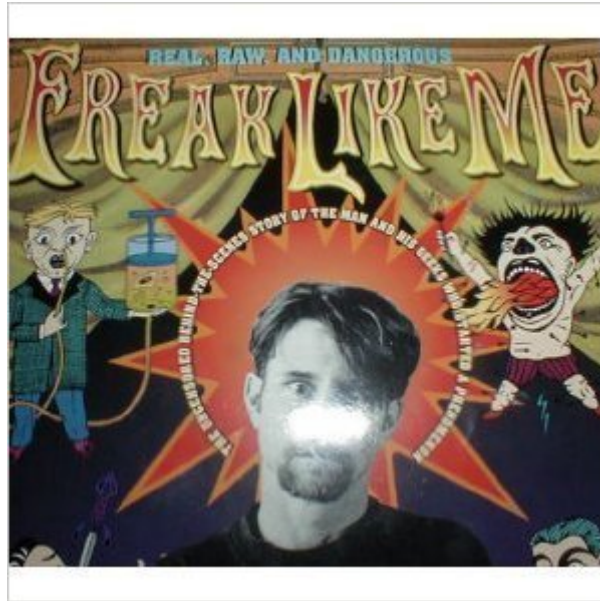


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# Freak Like Me (Real, Raw & Dangerous): Inside The Jim Rose Circus Sideshow



## Synopsis

Offers an uncensored, behind-the-scenes look at the country's most popular sideshow troupe, formed by the author, whose act includes eating razor blades, and featuring the talents of the Amazing Mr. Lifto and the Human Pincushion.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,583,694 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #161 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus #9360 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Communication & Media Studies #128792 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment

## Customer Reviews

I first became aware of Jim Rose on the "Humbug" episode of The X-Files. From then I was hooked. I scrounged around for all the info I could find on the man and his Circus. Through The Jim Rose Circus website, I found out about Freak Like Me. I ordered the book within days--and regretted nothing when I began reading it. Freak Like Me is written in the candid, humorous tone that reflects Rose's performing demeanor. His book is open and honest without being graphically nasty. Yes, he is "graphic" in explaining what manipulations he and his roustabouts perform, but not unduly so. He takes his reader along for the ride, and what you encounter, you encounter. Rose makes no apologies. But he also doesn't gross you out just for gross-out's sake. I was not disappointed by Freak Like Me in the least. Actually, I was pleasantly surprised to find Jim Rose to be a compassionate (and passionate) performer--which was surprising not because I didn't think he would be, but because I had hoped he would be and didn't want to be disappointed! Jim Rose is a fascinating individual and a man dedicated to his art. And though some may not think of having one's face stuck in glass while someone else stands on your head as "art," Jim Rose's memoir shows that life and art are what you make of it. You say tomato, he'll hammer a nail up his nose. Thanks for the opportunity to write about this wonderful book!

Why would a man assemble a group of modern-day, self-made Freaks and tour the world, making people faint and throw up? Written by the group founder/leader, Freak Like Me covers Rose's childhood in Phoenix, getting teased for being cross-eyed and always being tied up while playing cowboys and Indians. Years later, working as an exterminator, Rose hands in his bug sprayer and heads to Europe, picking up the fine art of street performing along the way. Freak Like Me covers the birth of the Jim Rose Circus Sideshow in 1991, and follows it through various incarnations up to the tour with Nine Inch Nails in 1994. The book has tons of pictures and descriptions of plenty of things you shouldn't do at home: as Rose intones in his show "go over to your friend's house to practice until you get really good." A bit Rose-centric at times, this is nevertheless an excellent look at the post-modern sideshow.

From the beginnings in Arizona, to Seattle, to Lollapalooza, a very nice person who took a very different path in life than most might 'approve' of. (hint: he doesn't want your approval, but if you puke, he considers it a compliment)--and as I said on the review of the VHS...he's a very nice, sweet guy.

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