

# Under the Big Top

*Bo Bennett's Big Top Bonanza* has reached Sarasota, Florida – the final stop in its 1952 tour. After a nine-month tour, performers and staff are making plans for a restful and rewarding off-season. To celebrate, impresario dwarf JoJo Bones was to hold a banquet within his *Exotic Emporium of Enigmatica* (part of the *Bonanza*).

Tragically, however, JoJo was killed last night. His body was found early this morning in the lion's cage, mauled by lions Gladys and Mountjoy. Since JoJo's mauled body reeked of alcohol, preliminary reports are that the dwarf wandered into the cage in a drunken and fatal stupor.

Bo Bennett, the owner and ringmaster of the *Bonanza*, has decided to go through with the banquet in honor of JoJo.

And so the selected performers and staff of *Bo Bennett's Big Top Bonanza* will assemble for the last time before dispersing for the off-season. This will be their last chance to seal their fates for the future...

Will Bo Bennett be able to get out from under his financial burdens? Who will be appointed the new manager of what was JoJo Bones' *Exotic Emporium of Enigmatica*? Who will stay with the *Bonanza*, and who will seek other employment? Where are the Van Horten jewels, and Wassily Kandinsky's "Tension in Red"? And was JoJo's death really just a tragic accident?

**Roll up! Roll up!**

## What do you get with *Under the Big Top*?

- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Character booklets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, rules, and special abilities.
- Item cards for each guest
- Handouts and other essential items.
- The solution!

## How many people are needed for *Under the Big Top*?

*Under the Big Top* is intended for 12 to 15 guests – plus one host (the game coordinators). The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit if you have fewer than 15 guests (you do need at least 12). Here's how this works:

Number of guests	Male characters	Female characters	Characters that can be played by anyone
12	4	4	4
13	4	4	5
14	4	4	6
15	4	4	7

And if you have even more guests, we have a few free extra characters for *Under the Big Top* available when you download the game files.

## How does *Under the Big Top* work?

*Under the Big Top* runs over the course of four or so hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. The host is the Circus Hand, and acts as organizer, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly. The host does not count towards the minimum or maximum number of players.

The guests are contestants, crew, guests and locals with their own goals. How they choose to achieve those goals is entirely up to them. *Under the Big Top* is an evening of blackmail!

*Under the Big Top* contains mature plot themes and is suitable for older kids only.



*Another great evening thanks to **Under the Big Top**, everyone got very into character and there were some great costumes. Can't wait for our next murder mystery. Jessica and the York St John drama society, United Kingdom*



*I started hosting murder mystery games a few years ago, and most recently I've done **Death on the Gambia** and **Under the Big Top**. My friends and I agree, your games have been the most intriguing, most delightful, and most successful of all our murder mystery parties. Now we budget in an extra two or three hours to thoroughly enjoy all of our gossiping, plotting, two-timing, and back-stabbing! It's the side plots that truly make your games. Everyone isn't just staring at the ground, magnifying glass in hand, searching for murderous footprints. They're manoeuvring a complex web of secrets and connections, buried pasts and devious ambitions, free to approach any issue in the manner they feel most beneficial for their character's particular gain. In fact, you could take out the murder and still have a great time! Freeform Games is my go-to for the highest quality murder mysteries. Tatyana, United States*



*We had a wonderfully funny time last night at **Under the Big Top**. I have to say that some of the costumes we saw were not only imaginative, but wildly funny. I am so proud of all of my friends who went out of their way to make the evening a success.*

*Many of them expressed concern that they would never be able to learn all the information they were given ahead of time, but the party ran quite smoothly. The laughs never stopped and continued well into the wee hours of the morning. We just couldn't stop.*

*We used a white plastic tablecloth roll alternating with rolls of red wrapping paper on the walls to make it look like the inside of a tent. Rolls of red and white crepe paper went from the corners of the room into the center of the ceiling for the roof. We had a balloon arch, curtains hung in doorways, and balloons everywhere. It looked super and the decorations certainly added to the fun. Debi, United States*

### **Where can I purchase *Under the Big Top*?**

*Under the Big Top* is available from <http://www.freeformgames.com/>. We accept all major credit cards and Paypal.

When you purchase the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it right away.

We will also email you a download link and password, so you can collect your game later if that's more convenient.

### **What if I don't like *Under the Big Top*?**

We offer a cast-iron, no quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with *Under the Big Top*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.