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ASTONISHING DIFFERENCES

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A pin ?

In this brand new edition of Astonishing Differences, our famous reporter is giving us the opportunity to discover a famous Freak Show performer through an exclusive interview. Best known for his roles in circuses and shows all around the US, but also for his controversial participation in the American movie Freaks, it is time for us to introduce Schlitzie.



Having proved his dedication and fascination to give humanity back to disabled people after the Freak Show's fashion declined, Léo Briet is a trustworthy and serious author who always investigates the stories related to Freak Shows, performers and former Freak Show performers. He is known for his very accurate interviews, which almost feels like slipping into those people's lives for a minute.

Dear readers, please keep in mind that, to give the most accurate interview possible, the author himself refused the presence of a spokesperson and wished to only have the answer formulated by Schlitzie himself.



LB: Good morning ! Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts and questions with you. First of all, we heard people often refer to you using both "him" and "her" pronouns, which one do you want us to use during this interview ?

Schlitzie : I like him.

LB : We will use "him" then, how are you feeling today.

Schlitzie : Good, I am happy.

LB : This is great news ! As of right now, you have been employed and performing for multiple shows, such as the great Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and you still are performing aren't you ?

Schlitzie : Yes I do.

LB : Based on the information we have collected, you turned 50 last month ! Happy birthday, even if it's a bit late, but is it still enjoyable for you to perform in such conditions ?

Schlitzie : I enjoy it, I like people.

LB : Oh so you like the audience ? I indeed heard you liked being the center of attention. You have been called many names since you debuted as a "freak", are there any of those you can remember and explain to us ?

Schlitzie : I like when people look. I was "The Monkey girl", because of my tiny head and dress.

LB : And how did you deal with it ? Was it something painful to hear or was it just part of your job to you ?

Schlitzie : It was fun, I don't care.

LB : Wow ! It's amazing if you weren't hurt by people's comments on your appearance, even if your disability is still considered "freakish" and "abnormal".

Schlitzie : People are mean, they don't know who I am.

LB : Exactly ! We have spoken to some of your old relatives, people you have performed with for example, they all agreed you were a very affectionate and cheerful person, it looks like nothing in their words can change this. [laugh]

Schlitzie : [nods and laugh as well]

LB : Also, we heard about the american movie "Freaks" you participated in, do you have any feedback or anecdote to tell us ?

Schlitzie : I really liked playing. In the movie.

LB : Do you think it was banned because "Freaks" played in the movie, or do you think it was really "shocking" for people to watch ? I've heard some threw up and left the room in the middle of the movie !

Schlitzie : I don't think it's shocking. It's us. We are human beings too.

LB : I agree with you, don't you think it's a bit ironic how the movie was seen as "disgusting" whereas the Freak Shows were seen as "fascinating" ?

Schlitzie : I think people changed. Fashion changed. But we are still here.

LB : That's a very thoughtfull answer, shows stopped existing because people got tired of it, and yet people are disguted by your bare existence.

Schlitzie : It's unfair. But we knew it from the start.

LB : Yes I get what you mean.

Schlitzie : People are mean.

LB : I understand better now. One thing we haven't spoken of yet though, is your actual disability in daily life and perceived by yourself. Care to explain to us your thoughts on the matter ?

Schlitzie : I can't live alone, and I don't know how to cook.

LB : Oh so you have someone to help you ? It must be hard to take care of yourself then.

Schlitzie : Yes, George is helping.

LB : Oh, that's great ! Then, are you ever feeling unhappy because of your disability ?

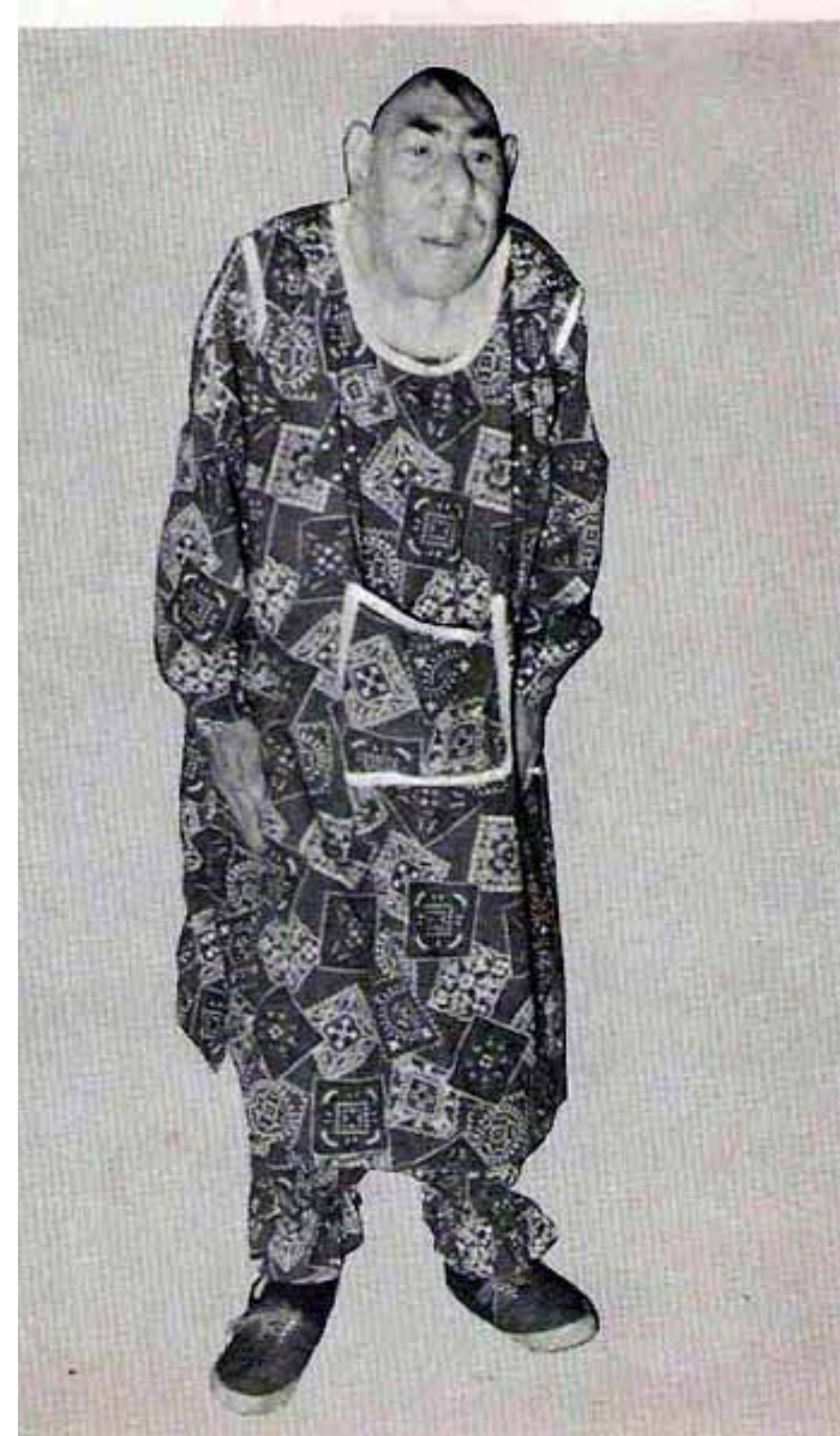
Schlitzie : No, people are here for me and I am happy.

LB : Wow, I think it puts an end to our question line, so does our interview. Anything you have to add ?

Schlitzie : I enjoyed the interview, thanks for coming. I like answering questions.

LB : It's all thanks to you ! We're really happy to have had the opportunity to meet and talk with you ! Thank you so much for your presence, and we wish you the best for the next few years !

Schlitzie : Thanks.



Schlitzie, a year before the interview, 1950.

Thanks for buying this edition of Astonishing Diffeferences, today we interviewed Schlitzie, he was born with microcephaly, a now recognized neurodevelopmental disorder which causes him to have a tiny skull and brain, also impacting his intellectual capacities. Thus, he has a very limited elocution and is unable to fully care for himself.

Any newspaper bought is directly helping him, because half of the benefits are given back to Schlitzie himself. As to help him live a good life and be helped throught the difficulties caused by his disability.

Sources :

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