Please watch the first episode (Episode 1: The First of May) of the PBS series, 'Circus': http://www.pbs.org/opb/circus/video/

You can choose to watch from the beginning, or you can skip ahead to where we left off in class.

**In-class assignment:** Please come to class with a one page, double spaced, typed response to the following prompt. You one page write up should be divided into two paragraphs. I have given specific instructions for each paragraph below. It is due in class on Wednesday.

**Prompt**
Thus far in the semester we have read about entertainment in Rome, and the emergence of the circus in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century America. The video that you have watched documents the lives of circus performers and workers in The Big Apple Circus in 2008-2009 (it aired on PBS in 2010). After you have watched the video, please respond to the following questions.

**Paragraph 1:** How does the modern circus reflect changing--or not!--norms of gender, class, and race? In order to answer this question, you will have to consider what we have learned from the first two readings about the treatment of women, working class (workingmen), and African Americans in late 19th, early 20th century America.

**Paragraph 2:** Although capitalism and industrialization, and, specifically the rail system in the US, led to several significant changes in the circus in the twentieth century--most notably division of labor and the necessity of conforming to the rail schedule, which led to squeezing as much labor as possible from a worker--it is possible to identify some similarities between the entertainment of the Romans, whose society was not bound to capitalist structures, and the circus. What are these similarities? How are these similarities meaningful, i.e. what do we learn about Rome and/or America from these similarities?