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Adrenaline and Bedazzline: An Ethnographic Analysis of ISU'S Gamma Phi Circus

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**ADRENALINE AND BEDAZZLINE: AN ENTHNOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF ISU'S
GAMMA PHI CIRCUS**

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Through the use of visual media and collaborative ethnographic research as a method of inquiry, this poster presentation aims to gain insight into the culture of circus performance at Gamma Phi Circus of Illinois State University. Participant observation and informal interaction with the circus performers allowed me to work collaboratively with the students to create both text and images that define Gamma Phi as a unique community. This research highlights a structured atmosphere of student-driven teaching and learning that works to foster a strong sense of trust and community. These dynamics combine in a way that is necessary for the execution of the aesthetic ideals of circus performance and the creation of a show that is visually interesting and meets the standards of the group's audience, performers, and historical reputation.