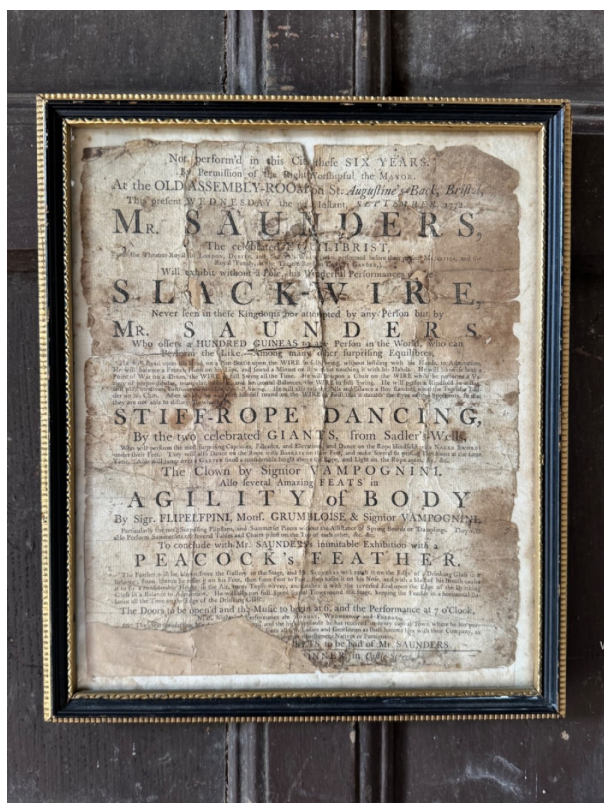


SA1227759

A Rare George III Handbill Advertising a Performance by Samuel Saunders, Celebrated Equilibrist and Slack-Wire Performer

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1227759****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

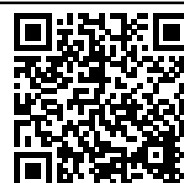
Description

A rare surviving Georgian handbill advertising a performance by Samuel Saunders, one of Britain's most celebrated eighteenth-century equilibrists and a leading member of one of the families whose careers helped shape the development of the early British circus. The performance was in Bristol on Wednesday 30th September 1772. An equilibrist was a performer whose speciality was the art of balance. Unlike a traditional tightrope walker, Saunders performed upon the slack-wire—a wire suspended with a slight sag rather than stretched tight. Because the wire continually moved beneath him, it demanded extraordinary balance and control. The supporting performers on this handbill demonstrated stiff-rope dancing, performed upon a tightly stretched rope and involving dancing, jumping and acrobatic movement. The distinction was well understood by eighteenth-century audiences and the handbill proudly advertises both disciplines, with Saunders himself as the principal attraction. Printed for a performance at the Old Assembly Room, St Augustine's Back, Bristol, on Wednesday 30th September 1772, this remarkable survival records one stage of Samuel Saunders' extensive national ...

Seller Details

Rob Hall Antiques

Northamptonshire United Kingdom



Tel: 07858 820345

International Tel: +44 7858 820345