

"Josephine Joseph"

Josephine Joseph, born in 1913, supposedly had a body that was split down the middle, one side female and the other male. She claimed to be a true hermaphrodite, but was most likely just a very skilled male/female impersonator.

Like most sideshow hermaphrodites this would have been portrayed with the "half and half" trick; woman on the left and man on the right. One side of the body would be exercised, have hair trimmed, and tanned in the sun; the other side would be covered and unexercised, making it pale and flabby, so the chest resembled a woman's breast while the hair was grown out.

Josephine is most prominently remembered for a role in the Tod Browning classic *Freaks* at the age of 19. Although she only had two lines, she still appeared in a number of scenes, most notably when "Josephine" gives an alluring look towards the strongman to which another performer responds "I think *she* likes you, but *he* don't!"