

AND IN THE CENTER RING -THREE CRIME FIGHTERS







Hey, nostalgia buffs, if you liked "The Bobbsey Twins Under the Big Top," you'll love "The Mod Squadders Go to the Circus." This happens early next season, when The Mod Squad switches from repeats to first-run shows (until then, hold your breath). In the episode, the Mod Squadders join a circus as trainees. Julie, played by Peggy Lipton, is a "trainee" in a trapeze act. No dummy, Miss Lipton left the risky stuff to her double; did nothing more dangerous than bounce on the trampoline (above) between scenes. Pete (Michael Cole) is assistant keeper of docile elephants (far left), while Linc (Clarence Williams III) plays assistant lion tamer. At left, that's really Clarence—not a →

stuntman, and really a lion, not a stuffed toy. (It helped that the lion, named Major, "thinks he's a tabby cat," according to one observer. He had to be dragged out of his cage for this scene.) The episode—in which guest star Edward Asner plays a circus owner whose show is being sabotaged—was filmed at the Paramount Studio and at a minicircus built for the occasion at Devonshire Downs, a fairground in Northridge, near Los Angeles. For added realism, actual circus performers, as well as stunt men, were used. (The show, which was filmed in May,

took more time and cost more money than your run-of-the-mill Mod Squad episode—but if you were going up against Ironside next season, you wouldn't take chances either.) The script called for filming the trapeze stunts in a way that would make them real—and scary—to viewers. For how it's done, see below. At left, stunt cameraman wears camera-mounted crash helmet. (The black outline on his face shield is his view finder.) Right: bombs away—cameraman shoots the footage you'll see when Mod Squadder Julie takes the biggest fall of her career.

