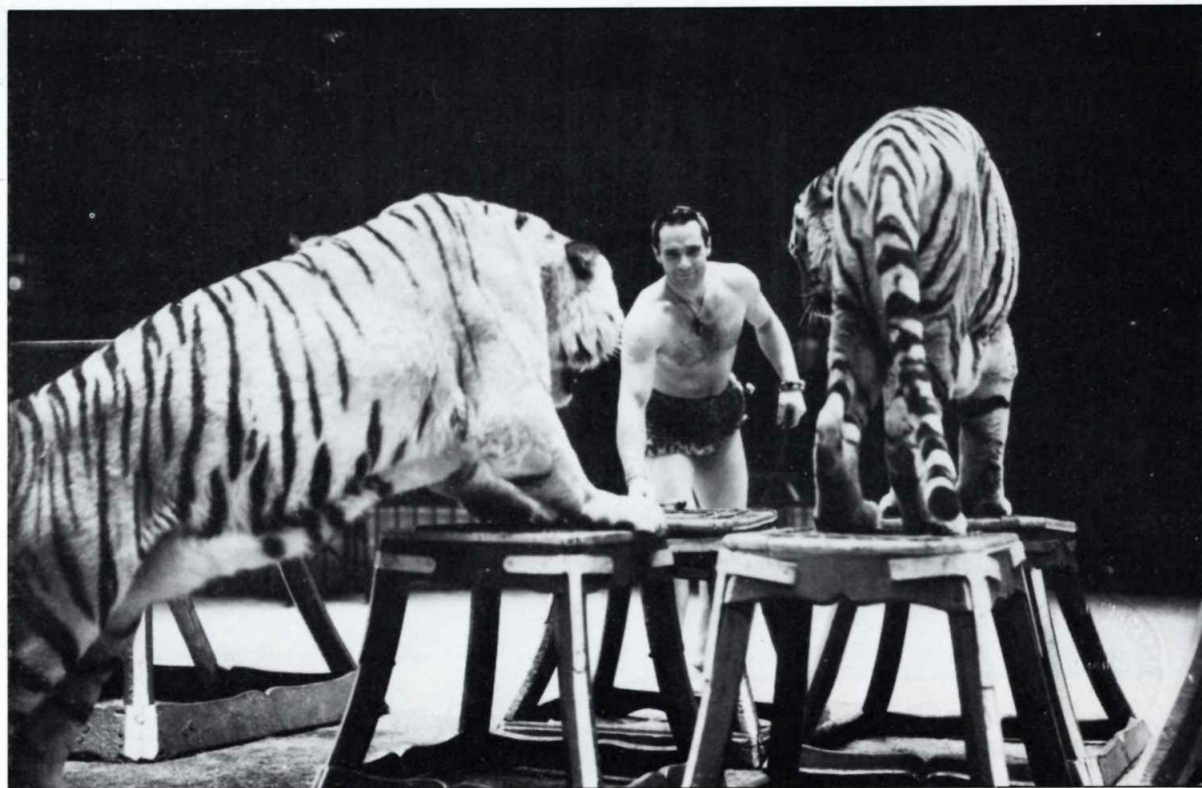
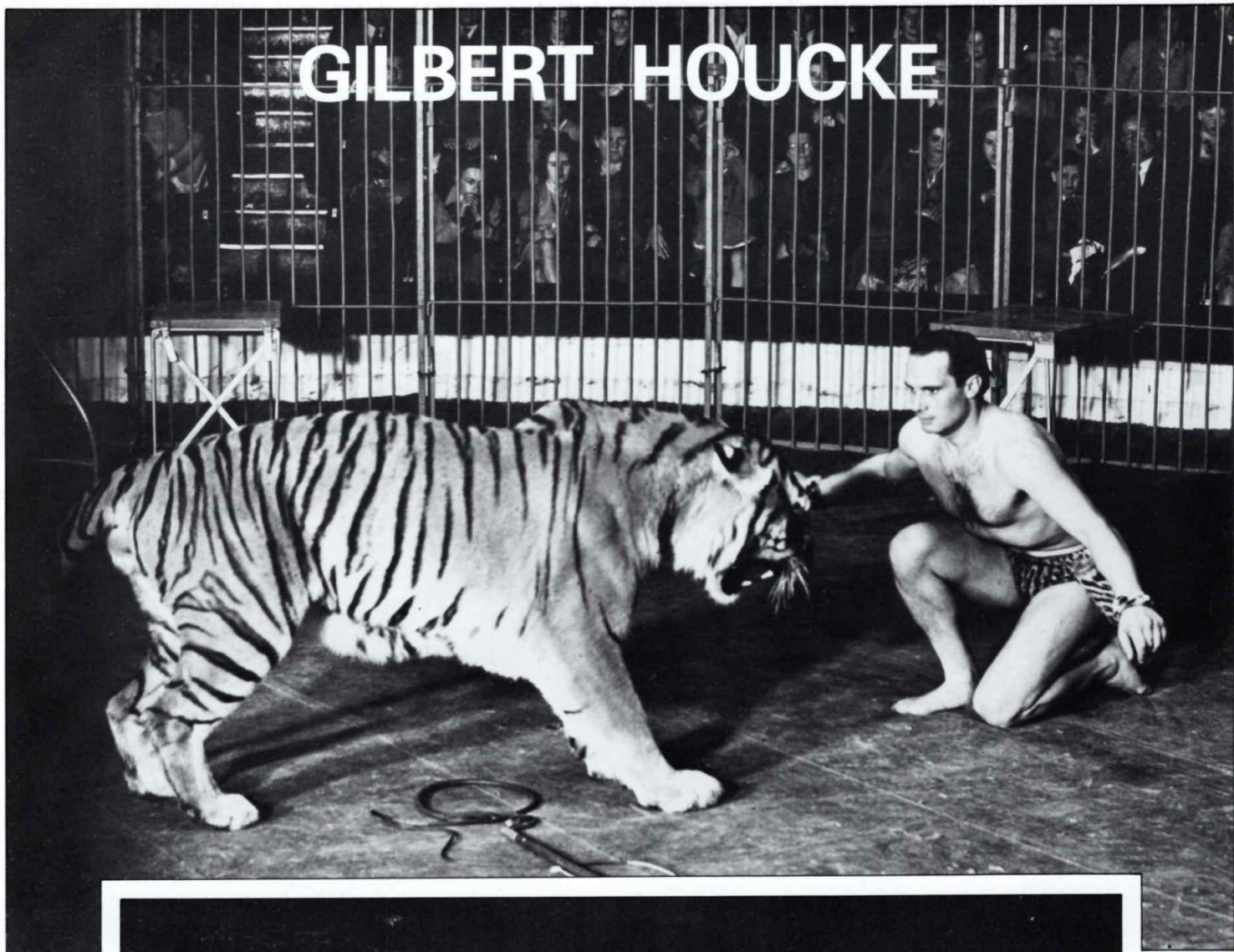


GILBERT HOUCKE



Born in Sweden, the son of the French circus director Jean Houcke, Gilbert Houcke became known as "The Adonis of the Ring" with his masterly presentation of Royal Bengal tigers in the rings of many of Europe's leading circuses. Like his father, sister Nadia and brothers Sacha and Maurice, he started working with horses, was an accomplished voltige rider and

demonstrated the riding act "La Poste". A pupil of Alfred Court, he showed lions, polar bears, jaguars, panthers, Himalayan bears and Great Dane dogs before specialising in tigers from 1942. Ill-health forced an early retirement from the ring. Our photos show Gilbert in his prime, at Belle Vue, Manchester (1947), Knie (1955) and Blackpool Tower (1950 and 1956).

