

Marawa

On roller skates

On Britain's Got Talent

Spinning around

When Marawa Ibrahim learnt how to hula hoop, she never imagined where it would take her

Spinning and WINNING!

Moving her hips in a circle, the young circus performer tried her hardest to keep her hula hoop spinning but it was trickier than it looked.

Time after time, the hoop clattered to the floor. Luckily Marawa Ibrahim persevered and, when she got the hang of it, she couldn't stop.

Now 43, Marawa is a multiple world record holder – and she owes it all to her hoops!

She says, 'Like all kids, I was always on my feet and loved running around. After school, I did rhythmic gymnastics.'

But it was only when she began to train as a circus performer – getting a degree in circus arts – that her love

affair with hula hooping began.

'It was actually a lot harder than I thought,' she explains. 'When you use a hula hoop during rhythmic gymnastics, you don't spin it around your waist. But, practising every day, it clicked into place.'

And, realising she was good at it, she took it to the next level, first adding more hoops to her routine and then setting her sights on a Guinness World Record.

'I'd always been obsessed with *Guinness World Records*,' she says. 'So I thought, *Why not try to get in it myself?* If I was going to become the best hula hooper, a world record would cement that status.'

As she flicked through an edition of the book, she saw

there was a world record for the most hula hoops spun simultaneously.

Not content with just having a go at breaking it, she added the extra pressure of trying to do it on live TV.

'I went on *The Paul O'Grady Show* to try to spin more than 101 hoops,' she says.

After narrowly missing it, she was determined to try again and, thanks to hours of practice, she smashed the record three years later – spinning 160 hula hoops at once.

'I was thrilled to bits,' she says. 'In the run-up, I realised everyone who'd held the record previously was taller

than me, which gave them an advantage. But I managed it!'

By now Marawa had another obsession – roller-skating – and that kick-started a new goal.

'I thought, *Why not try to break some world records on wheels?*' she recalls.

'Why not try to get in it myself?'

She's done that all right! Over the years, Marawa has claimed 12 Guinness World Records, including spinning 50 hula hoops while

suspended from the wrists, travelling 43.2m on high-heeled roller skates while spinning eight hula hoops, zipping 100m on high-heeled roller skates in 26.1 seconds, and completing the fastest mile hula hooping by a female

in eight minutes 0.4 seconds.

Now living in London, Marawa has set up her own roller-skating troupe, the Majorettes, who have broken two records – spinning 299 hula hoops simultaneously, and passing a hula hoop 26 times by the feet in a minute.

When she's not making her way through world records, Marawa is busy appearing on TV shows including *Britain's Got Talent* where, as Marawa the Amazing, she made it to the semi-finals of the fifth season, writing a book, running her gear shop and teaching lessons in hula hooping and roller-skating.

'If I had more time, I'd spend all day doing world record research and trying to see how many I could break,' she laughs. 'I think a lot of people don't believe me

when I say I have that many world records.'

'I was getting my nails done once and a boy came in with his mum. As he was waiting, he was looking through *Guinness World Records* and when he got to the page I was on, he did a double-take. He couldn't believe it was me!'

As for the future, Marawa has no intention of stopping.

'For a while I've been trying to get my husband involved so we can break some duo world records,' she says. 'But for now they're top secret.'

We can't wait to see where her spin-spiration takes her next!

● *Guinness World Records 2026 is on sale now (RRP £22). To find out more, visit guinnessworldrecords.com*

Heels on wheels