



NO JOKE: Lee Dorflinger ran away with the circus at the age of 16, but performing has always been in his blood since he was a child growing up in New Zealand. PICTURE: KYLIE REGHENZANI

Life's a circus

CLOWNING around comes as no joke for Lee Dorflinger.

Life on the road for the circus clown can be exhausting, but he's done everything from working in a lolly shop to making furniture and looking after children.

And although he ran from the circus when the "wrong girl" stole his heart in early adult life, he said he was always destined to perform.

At the age of 16, he left school and became involved in the Webber Bros Circus in New Zealand and was recognised while doing a back flip on a half pipe on rollerblades.

"An acrobat saw me and said I was pretty neat and that I should come to the circus," the 29-year-old performer said.

● KYLIE REGHENZANI

"My parents knew the advertising agents of the circus at the time and had been talking to them and I left the show not knowing that I had already been recruited."

He started out shovelling animal faeces with the circus and was promoted to an intermission clown, but soon became bored with holding signs, so introduced a number of gags into his performances.

But when he ran from the circus, he missed the adrenalin of life on the road and, akin to the nomadic life of a circus performer, moved house 37 times in a six year period.

He now works with a team of 25 people in the Loritz Circus out of Africa where he

has been tent boss and clown for the past three years.

"Anything outside of the circus is really boring," he said. "I have to have constant change of pace and location."

"Life in the circus is amazing," Lee said.

Growing up in a country town in New Zealand's North Island, Lee said all of his family played a musical instrument and were into theatre.

"I owe a lot of my clowning to my parents," he said.

When he tires of being the circus clown, he'll find something else to juggle. But for now, he's just happy clowning around.

The Loritz Circus is in Cairns at Munro Martin Park until July 11. To book phone 0439 247 287.

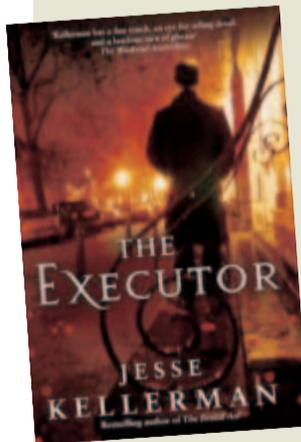
SUN READ

THE EXECUTOR
JESSE KELLERMAN (PUTNAM)

The Executor is narrated by Joseph Geist, a philosophy student who, in the midst of a break-up and a failing course, answers an ad in the paper for a "conversationalist". His debates with the sly but mysterious Alma Spielmann in her house begin healing this tortured character, but Alma's illness and the sudden appearance of her shifty, manipulative nephew, Eric, are the catalysts for an horrific downward spiral rendered in incredible internal and external detail by Kellerman's sharp prose.

Verdict: A highly cerebral, gorgeously detailed and extremely gruelling portrait of personal apocalypse.

Rob Farquhar



LORITZ CIRCUS OUT OF AFRICA

First Ever Australian Tour

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SHOW TIMES
Tue 6 July 4pm
Wed 7 July 4pm 7.30pm
Thur 8/ Fri 9 July 4pm 7.30pm
Sat 10 July 4pm 7.30pm
Sun 11 July 12pm

BOOK NOW

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TO BOOK

www.LoritzCircus.com
Prices from Child \$18 Adult \$26

\$2

OFF TICKET PRICE PRESENT VOUCHER AT BOOKING OFFICE

No Caged or Exotic Animals

Conditions apply. Not available on Family Pass

OUT & ABOUT

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

CONTEMPORARY jazz artist John Nicol is an indigenous Australian who hid his true identity for decades while he developed his hugely successful international musical career. The boy from Bowen combined his ability to entertain and musical talent to burst through the doors of prestigious venues like The Hacienda in Las Vegas, the Ilikai in Honolulu, the Fontainebleu in Miami and clubs throughout the UK, Europe and Far East. Critics acclaimed him the "finest jazz guitar stylist in Australia" and "our own George Benson". A regular on television's *Midday Show*, Nicol will appear in a Las Vegas style concert at Cairns Civic Theatre on July 17 with Delilah, Gavin Ware, Simone Stacey (Shakaya), Robbie and Pattie Larkin, David Hudson, Kirk Steele and their show band. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets \$30 adult, \$25 concession, \$15 child. Book at Ticketlink on 1300 855 835.

GLOBAL COMEDY PHENOMENON

THEY'VE faced off against George Negus, performed for the Queen at the Royal Variety Performance and appeared on the *Tonight Show* with their second biggest US fan Robin Williams. The Umbilical Brothers are a global comedy phenomenon, and they are performing their Perrier Award nominated smash hit *Heaven* by Storm at Cairns Civic Theatre on July 16. In *Heaven by Storm*, they die on the way to the theatre and when it comes time to enter *Heaven*, there is only one spot left. Phone Ticketlink on 1300 855 835 or visit www.ticketlink.com.au.

HANDS ON FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

KidsOE10 is a new media and performance exhibition for young artists up to 13 years of age. The project involve workshops leading to a two-week exhibition at crate59 Gallery, with young artist participants associated with the artist run crate59 gallery and On Edge festivals. The project is about recognising young people as artists in their own right, and the important role they have as creators and consumers of contemporary art. KidsOE10 takes place at Crate59, 59 Sheridan St, from July 10-22.

SHAMELESSLY GLITZY WORK

ON Edge festival presents one of Sydney's most dynamic new performances, *Shamelessly Glitzy Work*, after rapturous presentations at Performance Space in Sydney and Art-House in Melbourne. *Shamelessly Glitzy Work* looks at lies and illusion, manipulation and the sheer power that comes with working a crowd. It is spectacular, hilarious and terrifying. Presented by Sydney-based company "post", it borrows from theatre, dance, installation and performance art. Zoe Coombs Marr, Mish Grigor and Natalie Rose formed post in 2004. *Shamelessly Glitzy Work* is at CoCA, Abbott St, July 8-9. Tickets from Ticketlink 1300 855 835 or visit www.ticketlink.com.au online.

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CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY

LUNCH FOR THE TRADES

An exhibition that extends tribute to those who work in the trades. Exhibition launch Friday 9 July 5.30pm. Exhibition on display until 29 August.

INTERTWINED:

Indigenous Fibre Art from North Queensland A showcase of work by the most experienced and creative weavers of the region. Exhibition on display until 15 August.

BEGINNERS ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

5 week terms commence 19th July.

Tutored by Keith Scanlon.

Afternoon or evening sessions.

\$120 per person - bookings essential.

Tel 4046 4888.



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the Naked Nut

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NORTHERN EXPOSURE 2

FRIDAY 9 JULY

Double header w. KAMERUNGA and TRIBE OF JUBAL - both fearless, tropical, fusioners putting fresh & funky spin on Australian/Melanesian music - & wowing audiences round the nation (Byron Bluesfest-Port Fairy - Woodford) with their sound.

COST: \$15 / \$10 (PG) Tickets at door ONLY SHOW: 7.30PM

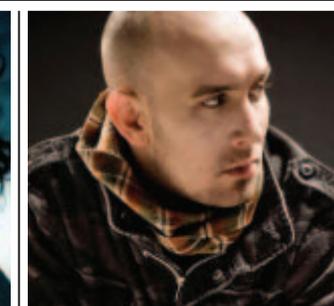


DEBORAH CONWAY

SATURDAY 10 JULY

One of the country's most articulate & individual voices, Deb Conway & husband Willy Zygiar showcase their new album & some much loved, old favourites, too.

COST: \$35 / \$30 (PG) SHOW: 7.30PM



PHRASE, M-PHAZES & ILLY

FRIDAY 16 JULY

3 of Australia's leading hip-hop artists - hot off Big Day Out, Splendour in the Grass + Groovin The Moo, now bring-it to Cairns for 1 night only. Be quick - this'll sell out!!

COST: \$25 / \$20 (CONC) (PG) SHOW: 7.30PM

tanksartscentre.com

All tickets available through ticketLINK ticketlink.com.au