

Seven Deadly Stunts

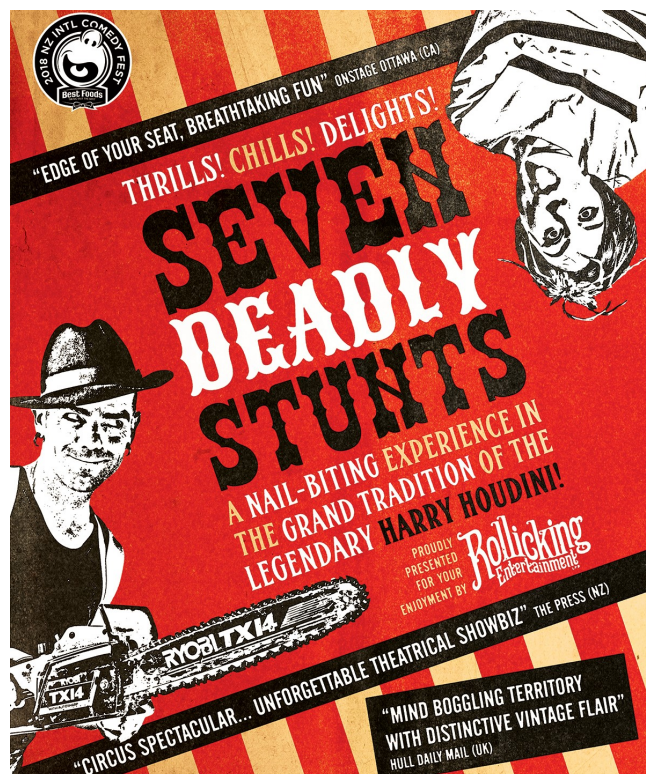
By David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache
Directed by Mike Friend
Presented by Rollicking Entertainment

Circa Two
17 April - 5 May

Tues - Sat 7.30pm, Sun 4.30pm,
\$25 - \$39

When I was a little girl we were only allowed to watch TV on special occasions (or if I had snuck round the corner to my cousin's house). And on those rare occasions, the most exciting programme of all was *Ripley's Believe It Or Not*- impossible human oddities and the darkly exciting glimpses of a carnival world that seemed to be full of smoky mystery and glittering danger. Harry Houdini was my hero. Later, I would devour Guinness World Record books, thrilled that people somewhere far far away from my Blenheim high school were still committed to preserving the art of the freaky and bizarre.

Little surprise then that when I grew up, married a carnie and started a theatre company, our shows were oozing with illusion and circus. My mission became thrilling an audience with the same techniques, real life danger and showmanship that Houdini and his peers used 100 years ago. But it has taken David and I three years of marriage to get to the point where we have enough physical and professional trust to do this particular show together! Pushing yourself- body and soul- to your absolute limit is one thing. Doing it while your spouse watches is another! And risking not just your own body but also your husband's if you get one moment wrong?



Both exhilarating and terrifying in equal measures.

This show is literally seven stunts- each an exercise in danger, trust and skill. But it's also seven stories- of the sideshow, the freak show, the music hall, vaudeville and big top. It's one real married couple. It's a celebration of what is possible. And it's for you- if you ever fell in love with the world of Houdini, of Carnivale, or The Night Circus.

The Messy Magic Adventure: Kitchen Chaos!

By David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache
Directed by Greg Cooper
Presented by Rollicking Entertainment

Circa Two
17 - 28 April - During the April School Holidays

Tues - Sat 11am
\$10 - \$15

Last year, Rollicking Entertainment brought our show *The Messy Magic Adventure* to Circa. It was a tale of two cleaners- using buckets, brooms, feather dusters and cleaning cloths to find magic, circus and slapstick in the everyday. To our surprise and delight, we sold out the season, then added another show, which also sold out, then we added another show which also sold out!

More seasons and festivals followed. I want to share this review quote with you, which is the single greatest praise we have ever received:

"For most of the time my eyes are on my son, who is laughing like I've never heard him laugh before. Big, glorious belly laughs wrack his whole body. He is so captivated by what is on stage he never has time to wriggle or flip his seat up and down. He simply laughs, and squeals, and sometimes stands to get a better look at the madcap antics on the stage." - Sarah McCarthy, *Theatreview*



This year, we knew we wanted to continue making gloriously silly magic with everyday objects. We wanted to continue telling New Zealand stories. We knew we had to provide the messiest fun possible, where it DIDN'T matter whether or not you were there for the original last year. The shows should be able to be experienced in any order- like *The Famous Five* or the *Hairy Maclary* series!

So this year's adventure is all about food- and the Kiwi kitchen! Inspired by everyone's first baking attempts, our heroes will try to bake the perfect cake. Expect milk all over the kitchen table. Flour on the floor. Whisks dripping puddles of batter... Water that won't stay put and the messiest juggling you have ever seen. Kitchen chaos! (oh and we still have waterproof covers to protect the front row, don't worry!)