

Rollicking Entertainment presents

Seven Deadly Stunts

By David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache
Directed by Mike Friend

Circa Two
17 April - 5 May

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

Part of the 2018 Comedy Festival



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Lane

Sideshow stuntwoman: From nerd to modern day Houdini

What drives someone to walk on broken glass, swallow fire or juggle a chainsaw? In *Seven Deadly Stunts*, real life married couple David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache celebrate seven of the most notorious stunts in carnie history, along with the stories of how and why they exist. The couple will put their bodies- and their marriage- on the line. Performing each of the seven stunts live, every night, requires total trust. They hope to make it through the season with no major injuries... Unlike the inventors of each stunt! But that's another story.

For Lizzie, it was an unexpected journey from a child who was afraid of everything, to the mysterious, dangerous world of circus and sideshow. A nerdy weirdo, who graduated Seventh form at the age of 16, Lizzie went from breakdown to bartender to actor to carnie in 12 months, through a series of bizarre coincidences in the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquakes. Lizzie now performs sideshow stunts everywhere from WOMAD and Splore through to the Dubai International Comedy Festival and UK university tours. She is also the creative director of Rollicking Entertainment.



Photo Credit: Emma Brittenden

In the tradition of Tollemache women, Lizzie proposed to David in 2014. (It was in a Spanish amphitheatre. That's also another story...) and after 3 years of marriage they now makes shows that risk his neck as well as hers. Lizzie believes that performing these dangerous stunts, acts as a release or catharsis for the audience... and also for herself.

"Before I discovered circus, everything scared the bejeezus out of me but I had no outlet for the fear and tension. My mental health was all over the place. Now, we take all our day to day stresses- running a business, paying our mortgage- and transfer them into a physical focus. Catch the spinning chainsaw. Control the fuel, flames and bare skin. Then the adrenaline rush when you take your bow and you made it, you survived? Facing and conquering a very real threat burns away all the day to day anxiety."

Come and experience the release for yourself. In the tradition of an old-world carnival, *Seven Deadly Stunts* is exciting, terrifying and genuinely funny.



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Lane