

New Caledonia Interview 2011

Questions :

How, when and where did you begin your career ?

When I was 13 years old I saw a street performer juggling and making people laugh. It was the first live show I ever saw and I fell in love with it. After watching several shows over the whole summer, I knew I wanted to do my own street show. After three years of practice I performed for the very first time in the same spot where I saw my first show and it just got out of control from there

Since the beginning the thing I enjoyed most was making people laugh. Even now in my work I use my circus skills to elicit laughter more than applause. If you come to see my show Circus Incognitus hopefully you will laugh as much as applaud and most importantly be surprised.

You've been part of the Cirque du Soleil, how was this experience like ?

I am happy to have had that experience, but I am now doing what I most enjoy. The most difficult and rewarding experiences I have had in my life were creating my solo shows Typo and Circus Incognitus. Both of which toured extensively all over the world and were nominated for Drama Desk Awards for runs in New York City in 2006 and 2011.

Do you consider yourself as a clown, as a comic or as a equilibrist ?

I consider myself a clown. A clown is often a comic, equilibrist, failure, winner, musician, dancer, poet and orangutan all at the same time. My clown happens not to wear make-up and wears a grey suit, but he expresses himself with physical comedy to tell a story that has many emotions.

What is your relationship to the audience like ?

A clown alone on stage sees the audience as a partner. There is no barrier (fourth wall) between the clown and audience. The clown performs an action, which causes the audience to react, and then the clown reacts to their reaction. So the story can go in any direction at any time and often does. This is how the same show can be performed hundreds of times and yet it still seems fresh and as if it is being shown for the first time.

How would you describe your personality ? What kind of temper does a person need to have to be a clown ?

Anyone could be a clown. Everyone is funny, dramatic and beautiful in there own way. The only difference between the clown on stage and the clowns in the audience is that the clown on stage is laughing at their own faults and putting them on display for others to enjoy too.

Is it the first time in New Caledonia and in the South Pacific ?

I have been to Australia and New Zealand before, but this is my first time to New Caledonia. I already hoping it will not be my only visit to your beautiful island.

How do you imagine our island ?

From what I have heard I have high expectations and I am sure they will be fulfilled.

Are you going to pay a visit to the local circus school ?

I didn't know there was a circus school, but now that I know, it would be wonderful to make a visit. Perhaps this old dog could learn some new tricks!