



Magical Realm



Cirque du Soleil is back with *Saltimbanco*, a well-loved theatrical classic. Artistic director Neelanthi Vadivel tells us more.

What is the most challenging thing about being an artistic director?

With an average of 60 to 70 hours' work a week — time management. Yet, managing 50 young artists and balancing their cultural differences, performance backgrounds and varying degrees of "artistic temperament" is probably the biggest challenge of all. But I enjoy every minute of it.

What do you do when you have "artistic-director's block"?

I meet with my artistic team every day. I also make a point of spending time backstage with the artists to continually challenge, discuss and hopefully, inspire. I like to think that one of my functions is to never run out of ideas! The show *must* continually evolve.

Do you think talent can be nurtured?

If you're born with it, more power to you. If not, anything can be learned if you work hard enough. I was told repeatedly throughout my ballet education that I had not been blessed with the "right" body. I still managed to have a solid professional dance career for over 13 years. Our artists continually challenge themselves to go above and beyond.

What is *Saltimbanco's* unifying motif?

The incredible feats that the human body can accomplish and the joy of living in harmony.

What's most impressive about the show?

The massive, chaotic House Troupe that makes up the heart of the show. They perform three group acts per night (Chinese Poles, Bungees and Russian Swing) — they rock!

What does a *Cirque du Soleil* show always have?

Something for everyone.

Saltimbanco is on 21 April–21 August in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart, Newcastle and Wollongong. Tickets from Ticketek 132 849.

Classic Fighters
Omaka 2011



Fun in Fall.

Jazz up your autumn with a multitude of cool events

WORDS BELINDA WAN



Tutankhamun
and the Golden Age
of the Pharaohs



Turn the Music Up!

8 APR–15 MAY NEWCASTLE MELBOURNE
ADELAIDE PERTH GOLD COAST
Turn the Music Up!

Join the bubbly Hi-5 team as they roll out the live stage version of their TV show. Kids will love the singing and dancing of the happy five, as well as tunes from their latest album *Turn the Music Up*. Tickets from Ticketek 132 849 (and others). Details on www.hi-5.com.au

8 APR–17 JUL MELBOURNE
**Tutankhamun and the Golden Age
of the Pharaohs**

Tutankhamun of the 18th Dynasty (1555–1305 BC) was the last king of Egypt's most powerful family. He died at 19, but left behind more than 50 of his burial objects, many of them 3,000 years old. Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton. Tickets from Ticketek 132 849.

8–17 APR PERTH
The Monk USA Craft Beer Week

Savour USA craft beers with daily samplings and tapping of kegs. Yummy beers will come from award-winning Ballast Point Brewing, and The Lost Abbey, Firestone Walker Brewing Company, Stone Brewing Company, plus more. The Monk Brewery and Kitchen, 33 South Tce, Fremantle, tel: +61 (8) 9336 7666.

9 APR–7 AUG SYDNEY
Rituals of Seduction: Birds of Paradise

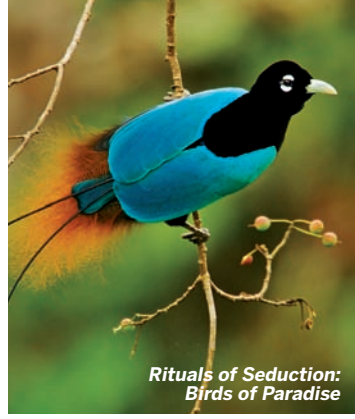
Bird lovers should flock to see this exhibition, with gorgeous birds of paradise from the rainforests of New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia. It centres on the birds' mating rituals as they try to attract a mate. The males even perform dance moves! Australian Museum, 6 College St, tel: +61 (2) 9320 6000.



The Monk USA Craft Beer Week



Queenstown Bike Festival



Rituals of Seduction: Birds of Paradise

12-17 APR QUEENSTOWN
Festival of Colour

New Zealand's most well-known writers and artists, as well as local, national and international acts convene at Lake Wanaka for an unforgettable festival. Expect to be treated to theatre, dance, art, film and music, including two world premieres amid a beautiful landscape. Tel: +64 (3) 443 4162.

14-27 APR SYDNEY
2011 Sydney Royal Easter Show

Australia's largest yearly event is back with a bang over the long Easter weekend. There's something for all — from food and farming to pure thrills. Toast to agricultural excellence, and have the best of carnival entertainment too. Sydney Showground, 1 Showground Rd, Olympic Park, tel: +61 (2) 9704 1000.

16-25 APR QUEENSTOWN
Queenstown Bike Festival

This inaugural event is where world-class tracks, roads and Central Otago's alpine scenery all merge at this bike festival for families. See the most beautiful countryside via coffee rides and wine trails, and hardcore cross-country and downhill races. Details on www.queenstownbikefestival.co.nz.

22-24 APR CHRISTCHURCH
Classic Fighters Omaka 2011

Hop on the shuttle bus and head north to Marlborough for this airshow. Witness famous heritage aviation on display, with fab shows like Twilight Extreme kicking off an action-packed weekend. See more than 70 aircraft flying every day. Omaka Airfield, Aerodrome Rd, Blenheim, tel: +64 (3) 579 1305.

Free as a Bird



Susie McLachlan is on a skydiving mission for ladies. We caught up with her on land.

Why did you choose skydiving?

Skydiving chose me! My father, Dave McEvoy, is a long-time skydiver, and one of the early pioneers of the sport in Australia. He managed to get my mum to skydive in the early '70s. I did two jumps inside Mum's tummy — so it's in the blood!

How was your first skydiving attempt?

My first "real" skydive was a tandem jump at our Toogoolawah drop zone, harnessed onto my dad. Tandem skydiving was new to the world then, and so it was the country's first father/daughter tandem. Dad was chuffed! I felt safe with my dad, and didn't really feel any fear. It was all too exciting at the time.

Can anyone skydive?

Anyone over 14 years and under 100kg can go for a tandem jump. Jumping on your own is a whole different game! Of course you need to have a basic level of fitness and flexibility, but more so this sport is a "head trip". As soon as you can control your crazy thoughts, skydiving is really quite easy, and you can become quickly addicted! The most unlikely people make great skydivers — the goofy people, the unpopular kids and the geniuses.

What would you tell ladies who are too scared to skydive?

I'd say "life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away". So for ladies who are too scared to skydive or try new things, you are missing out on gaining a certain twinkle in your eye, a little spring in your step and a new level of happiness. Give yourself a personal challenge and accept it!

Do you have any fears or phobias?

I'm scared of heights. Sounds crazy, but many skydivers are! I can't get up on a roof, and I shake standing on a ladder, even balconies!

Join 100 of Australia's most impressive skydivers at the 2011 Skysisters Convention in Toogoolawah, Queensland from 22-30 April. Details on www.skysisters.com.au

Upon Approval Please Sign	
Date and Time	