

Flying High

The circus is three times the fun in Melbourne this month.

Over 2500 performing artists from across Australia and the Commonwealth are descending on Melbourne this month for the largest free cultural festival ever held in Australia – Festival Melbourne 2006.

The festival is an integral part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and offers 11 days of non-stop music, dance, circus, street theatre and visual arts in a range of venues across the entire state of Victoria.

As a celebration of what the nations of the Commonwealth share, and what makes us different, Festival Melbourne 2006 offers an insight into the diversity of cultures involved in the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

One of the most exciting shows on offer involves three very talented groups of young acrobats from Australia and South Africa.

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus from Albury Wodonga, the Brewarrina Youth Circus from Brewarrina in outback New South Wales and Zip Zap Circus from Capetown in South Africa have joined forces to create *3wayXchange*.

Directed by The Flying Fruit Fly Circus' Artistic Director Kim Walker, with Associate Directors Brent van Rensburg (Zip Zap Circus) and Kate Reid (Brewarrina Youth Circus), the show highlights the individual and collective skills of these companies at their finest.

"When we were developing the show, we tried to find a common link that we all shared,"

says Kim. "We're all such unique companies from such different places, but what we do have in common is that we all travel all over the world to tour. So we decided to set the show in an airport transit lounge."

Combining aerial artistry, acrobatics, percussion and comedy, *3wayXchange* is, as Kim puts it, a celebration of "the exuberance of youth".

"We imagined all the sorts of things that go on in a transit lounge," he says. "The boredom, the comings and goings, the passing pop stars."

"There's a lot of flying through the air, acrobatics and floor work using things like chairs, and other circus skills like juggling. For instance, we have one young girl who can juggle things like suitcases with her feet!"

In the spirit of the Commonwealth Games, the collaboration between these three companies has offered a unique opportunity for cultural exchange that will redefine and reshape the ideals of these young artists for the future.

If you're interested in getting involved in circus arts, check out the Flying Fruit Fly Circus website at www.fruitflycircus.com.au.

"We run a lot of outreach programs," Kim says. "In fact, the Brewarrina Youth Circus grew out of a program we ran for the Aboriginal community in the area."

"Circus arts are great for building self-esteem, and for learning to set and attain goals."

ACTIVITY 1: READING FOR MEANING

Circle the correct answer

1. How many performing artists were at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne?
 - a. just under 1000
 - b. over 2500
 - c. almost 1500

2. What wouldn't you find at Festival Melbourne 2006?
 - a. dance
 - b. circus
 - c. performing seals

3. Why was Festival Melbourne an important part of the Commonwealth Games?
 - a. people got to see the circus
 - b. it was a chance to share Australia's diverse cultures with the rest of the world
 - c. there was lots of music

4. In what order did these things happen?

Write the number from 1 to 3 in each box to show the order.

 - The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Brewarrina Youth Circus and Zip Zap Circus travelled to Melbourne
 - 3wayXchange practiced their circus skills before travelling to Melbourne
 - 3wayXchange performed at Festival Melbourne 2006

5. What are two things that Circus arts are really good for?

ACTIVITY 2: LANGUAGE

Which word is correct?

For each gap in the text, colour in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. The circus is three _____ the fun in Melbourne this month.

- time
- times
- timing

2. The festival _____ an integral part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

- is
- are
- was

3. One of _____ most exciting shows involves the circus groups.

- a
- some
- the

ACTIVITY 3: SPELLING

Which words are spelt correctly?

For each gap in the text, colour in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. ...performing artists from _____ Australia

- accros
- across
- accross

2. ...descending this _____ in Melbourne

- month
- mounth
- munth

3. ...non-stop music, dance, circus, street _____ and visual arts

- thetre
- theater
- theatre





ACTIVITY 4:

Imagine you were one of the performers at Festival Melbourne 2006. Write a description of what it was like, how you felt and what happened.

- use descriptive words and phrases to describe actions and sounds
- describe sights and feelings
- use words that make a picture.

Just for fun!

Always wanted to learn how to juggle, just like the performers in 3wayXchange? For free Juggling Instructions go to www.jugglenow.com/juggling-instructions.html Print out these instructions so you can easily read through them on your own time, off the computer.