

LOOSE ENDS

MARKETING KIT 2018

PERFORMANCE AND COMPANY INFORMATION

Performance Title: Loose Ends

Producer / Company name: Jens Altheimer

Devised by: Jens Altheimer and Hayden Spencer

Performed by: Jens Altheimer

Music and soundscape: Carl Polke

Creative Input: Chris Bennett, James Pratt and Carita

Farrer

Running Time: 60 mins, optional 15 - 20 min post show Q&A or demonstration

Interval: no

Ages 5 -12

Key Themes:

Friendship, Inventiveness , Social Acceptance, Moral Ambiguity, Loyalty,

Education Links

Interpersonal Development, The Arts, Communication, Design, Creativity and Technology, Thinking Processes

PRODUCER MARKETING CONTACT

Jens Altheimer

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Loose Ends Marketing Toolkit



SYNOPSIS & SHOW COPY

Marketing Tagline:

Out- of- the- Ordinary Visual Theatre, set in a Wondrous Tinkering Heaven

Short Synopsis: (128 words)

Makers, creators, and story lovers; dive into a theatrical adventure that feels like the magic box of a bygone trickster!

Journey to an eccentric place where gadgets are poetic, puppets naughty, machines untamed and circus tricks pop up when you're least expecting it! This is a world where music appears from lemons, carrots and bunny's bums, monsters go crazy and birthday parties are ferociously celebrated.

Loose Ends is the story of a man who thinks he can organise all his life in boxes, and has a knack for getting into mischief. Can this tinkerer learn enough about real friendship to keep him out of trouble?

This breathtaking show is highly visual, emotional and unpredictable. It makes inventions and machines fun and adds a few quirky edges to puppetry.



Long Synopsis: (233 words)

Makers, creators, and story lovers; dive into a theatrical adventure that feels like the magic box of a bygone trickster!

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Loose Ends is a family show, combining custom-built contraptions, puppetry, circus, shadow projection, music and transformed objects. It is a story about friendship, loyalty and inventiveness, in a whimsical world of half-mechanised thingamabobs and headstrong puppets.



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Built from hard rubbish and op-shop treasures, the set is a celebration of the capricious: household items are transformed and given new uses and contexts, offering a humorous and surprising look at things.

This breathtaking show is highly visual, emotional and unpredictable. It makes inventions and machines fun and adds a few quirky edges to puppetry... Ever wondered what Elmo would look like without his fur?

The show has a sneakily educational post-show component, where a few of its tinkering and technological elements are explained and experimented with.



COMPANY INFORMATION

Jens Altheimer, who relocated from Europe to Melbourne in 2009, is a performer, director and teacher in theatre and circus, trained at the Lecoq International School of Theatre in Paris. Zealous frontman of his one-man shows, quirkologist, established collector, inventor and transformer of thingamabobs and other wondrous oddities of day to day life.

Jens Altheimer is touring his productions Squaring the Wheel and Loose Ends nationally and internationally. He was the 2013 winner of “Best Presentation for Children” at the Adelaide Fringe Festival and was nominated for the same award in 2017. He also has been running community arts projects and workshops around the concept of kinetic installations with different organisations (Creative Victoria, Science Works, Art is... Festival, The Village Festival, Artplay, Theatre Kimberley) and as an extra component to his tours.



REVIEWS AND PRESS

“A Magical Children’s Theatre Show Filled With Fascinating Surprises” *The Clothesline*

“full of handmade gadgets and contraptions that will leave children in awe” *The Advertiser*

“a fanciful journey of friendship with raw emotion and laugh out loud comedy” *What’s on in Adelaide*

“ really draws you in, encourages you to use your other senses, and engages your imagination.”
Play and Go Adelaide

Nominated: 2017 Adelaide Fringe Award Best Presentation for Children

SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: www.jensaltheimer.com

Facebook



PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

High Resolution and web prepared images (including the hero image) can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oc8mninw1xnvgxz/AAAZFodk7Xw6dVrKzSdL5nV1a?dl=0>

VIDEO LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwdlLsX33wE&feature=youtu.be>

POSTER & FLYER TEMPLATES

A Poster and a Flyer Template in Indesign format can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oc8mninw1xnvgxz/AAAZFodk7Xw6dVrKzSdL5nV1a?dl=0>



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MARKETING STRONG POINTS

- Loose Ends is an unusual theatrical experience full of surprises! It is rich in visual variety, and audiences will be stunned by the contraptions coming to life before their very eyes in this curious world.
- Jens has worked for months on the ‘machines’ that appear in the show. It will appeal to those who love to ‘tinker’, invent, play with LEGO, building blocks, or the kid (or adult!) who loves to take things apart to see how they work.
- Venues can choose to include a Q&A session after the show where kids can ask questions about the performance. Jens is also available to mingle in the foyer and discuss the work in more detail.
- Loose Ends features contraptions, tricks and quirky characters, but it’s also a story about friendship, acceptance and loyalty. Plenty of entertainment with a dose of emotion.

SNAP FACTS

(Appetisers that can be used when people ask about the show)

Loose Ends is an entertaining and unusual show, melding gadgets, puppetry, circus, contraptions, shadows and lots of fun!

Loose Ends makes science and technology cool – it inspires kids and adults alike to tinker with machines, and make their own contraptions and inventions.



The performance is a visual feast, and keeps kids on a roller coaster of surprises throughout the show.

This is the perfect family show, where kids and adults alike will have a great time, though little ones under the age of five years might be scared in some scenes.

Be sure to watch the promotional video to catch a glimpse into the strange world of this eccentric show.

The show runs for 60 minutes with no interval. There is audience participation and the opportunity to check out all the contraptions after the show!

Performer Jens Alzheimer won “Best Presentation for Children” at the Adelaide Fringe Festival for his previous show ‘Squaring the Wheel’



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TARGET AUDIENCE

Key Audience Segments & Possible Approaches

School groups

A range of workshops are available to complement the performance. Links to the curriculum include performance, science and technology, design and creativity, as well as moral lessons around the importance of friendship and acceptance.

Families

Loose Ends is a great family show – it's a lot of fun for kids and adults, as there are elements to the onstage action that can be appreciated on different levels. Loose Ends also opens up conversations around 'how did he do that?!' and inspires follow up activities like DIY inventions and contraptions.

If your venue has presented Jens' previous show, Squaring the Wheel, be sure to contact those patrons and invite them to Loose Ends.

CALD Families

Loose Ends is presented with reduced verbal interactions, and relies on its visual content to tell the story. It could thus appeal to families who speak English as a second language. There are plenty of excellent production photos that can be used in marketing materials to give the flavour of the show, and its quirky creations to ensure marketing is mostly visual rather than text heavy when targeting this segment.



Tech Heads / Amateur Inventors

Loose Ends is full of elaborate gadgets, inventions and contraptions. It's a great show for people who love to know how things work. Look into contacting junior science or design fairs, young inventor groups, or consider a competition where kids design their own machine, and submit a drawing and a description of what it does. The best/most creative entry wins a double pass to the show, or a meet and greet / backstage tour.

Lovers of puppetry

Loose Ends sees many everyday objects manipulated and transformed into unexpected puppets with lifelike expressions and personality!

Offer a simple 'make your own shadow puppet' workshop in the foyer pre-show, or use social media to share simple tutorials on transforming everyday objects into quirky puppets.

Encourage kids to put on a puppet show with their toys for their parents/carers before the show to get a first-hand experience of being a puppeteer!

Fans of Circus

Jens is a trained circus artist, and his work is heavily influenced by circus and physical theatre. While it is not a classic circus show, there are elements of circus throughout Loose Ends that would appeal to circus lovers. If your venue also hosts circus events, contact past patrons to encourage them to book for this show.



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PROPOSALS

- Jens will be available post-show for photo opportunities, and to talk with kids about their inventions or ideas for machines and gadgets.
- Consider running workshops to coincide with Jens' performances.
- Encourage kids (and adults!) to bring along something that they've made to show Jens for his professional opinion.
- Create a series of shapes out of cardboard, paper, foil or other materials and make your own 'Centre for Creativity and Innovation'. Each child could have a name tag with 'Professor' and their name on it, and make a simple contraption to take home.
- *Loose Ends* addresses themes of friendship and loyalty – place a blackboard in the foyer with the prompt, 'A good friend is...' or 'My best friend is wonderful because...' and have audience members write answers in chalk.

A BRIEF Q&A WITH JENS ALTHEIMER

What do you love most about what you do?

That I can do exactly what I like to do: inventing stuff, creating shows, tinkering, all in my own time and, even better, without a boss! Then, there's the traveling bit that takes me to all kinds of different places, meeting all kinds of people. I still enjoy seeing a beautiful sunset while driving from one show to another, thinking it makes part of the job! And I've never stopped loving to hear all the rewarding feedback from people after the show.

Have you ever gotten tangled up in all those contraptions during your show?

They try to attack me constantly, but so far (except a bit of blood now and then or a sprained thumb or ankle or shoulder), I manage to escape in one piece.

How many people do you think you've performed for in your career?

To way more than a million. Well, the biggest part of that came from the Portuguese World Expo in 1998, when I performed in a huge stadium four times the day in a XXL show over a period of a few months. Squaring the Wheel, my previous show has been seen by more than 20,000 people so far, all over Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Pretty good for a one man show! *Loose Ends* is still in its beginning, trying to catch up.

What is your background? Science or Theatre?

I started off as a circus performer, but after a few years of performing complicated juggling tricks, I got a bit bored by just throwing lots of objects in the air and trying to catch them again. So I decided to go through a two years training in a theatre school in Paris, starting to mingle circus and theatre. At one point, I became interested in our relationship with all the machines and objects around us and how quite often they complicate straightforward things. That was the start of my tinkering career, building silly machines and dragging them onto stage with me; definitely complicating life, but also making it more fun and generating new ideas.

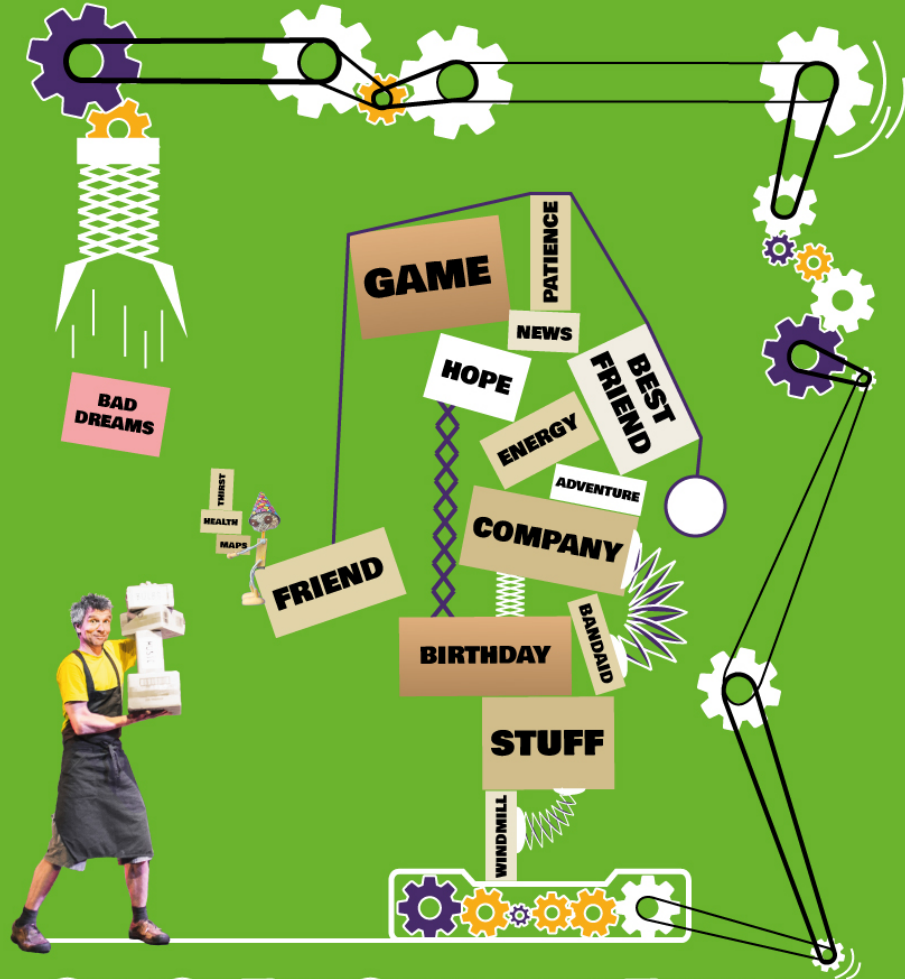




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LOOSE ENDS

WHERE NAUGHTY PUPPETS MEET WACKY CONTRAPTIONS



**OUT OF THE ORDINARY THEATRE
FOR FAMILIES**