

ARTS & EVENTS

The Everyday Spectacular: Circus INcognitus



Jamie Adkins

YOU CAN GO ahead and laugh at Jamie Adkins; it won't bother him. In fact, the performer and star of "Circus INcognitus," which comes to the Kennedy Center this weekend, encourages it.

"I've done it since I was 16," Adkins said. "I was always doing tricks and getting applause, but I was really trying to get that laughter."

Adkins has devoted his life to juxtaposing the drama and theatrics of a circus with the grace and spontaneity of a street performance. He's done this through time with the Pickle Family Circus, Montreal's Cirque Eloize and "Typo," the first theatrical show he wrote. It all began when he saw his first street performances at age 13.

"There's 200 strangers breathing together, laughing together and applauding together, and he would pass his hat and disappear, and it's like it never happened," Adkins said of that experience. "Twenty-some years later, I've retained some of those ideals."

With "Circus INcognitus" — Adkins' second made-for-stage creation that uses a ladder, a piece of paper, a grape and a fork to create "circus numbers out of everyday objects" and encourages the idea of creative solutions — Adkins hopes to draw audiences of all ages.

"I think if people come to the show, they'll be surprised," Adkins said. "You bring your father and your child — all three generations — and they'd be ecstatic. And if you don't like the shows, I give out lemons and you can throw them at me."

Written by Express contributor Roxana Hadadi

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