

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### European quirkologist brings inventive gadgets to regional WA

***Country Arts WA and Act-Belong Commit are excited to bring the award-winning show Loose Ends to regional WA this May and June as a part of Shows on the Go.***

Join the versatile and kinetic performer Jens Altheimer in this one-man show as he leads a magical journey through a tinkering wonderland of puppetry, shadowplay and invention.

Loose Ends tells a story about friendship, loyalty and inventiveness where a man thinks he can organise his life in boxes. The result is a highly visual, emotional and unpredictable entertainment experience that will capture the hearts of children and adults alike.

Built from hard rubbish and op-shop treasures, the Loose Ends set is a celebration of the unorthodox, as household items are transformed and given new uses and contexts, offering an enchanting, fresh look at everyday objects.

Loose Ends' regional WA tour follows a string of successful shows around the country, including performances throughout regional Queensland, country Victoria and multiple seasons at the Adelaide Fringe, where the show was nominated for Best Children's Production.

Country Arts WA Executive Director, Paul MacPhail says the Shows on the Go program's success is due to its community driven-model, developed to take professional productions directly to regional and remote WA - where they would not travel without support.

"Country Arts WA is proud of our Shows on the Go program which has been running for over 20 years, supporting up to 40 communities and reaching more than 5,000 people each year. The demand for Shows on the Go is increasing throughout regional WA, with more community organisations, local governments, community resource centres and venues wanting to bring high quality performing arts to their town more than ever."

"Loose Ends was voted by regional communities as one of three Shows on the Go to tour in 2018. As part of the program, we support local presenters to build and engage their audiences and maximize the value of each visiting performance."

The Shows on the Go program is presented by Country Arts WA and Healthway, promoting Act-Belong-Commit.

Healthway's Chief Executive Officer Susan Hunt PSM said that the organisation has proudly supported Shows on the Go since inception and this year will provide \$110,000 to deliver the Act-Belong-Commit mental health message throughout this and other programs.

"Being active, having a sense of belonging and purpose in life all contribute to happiness, good mental health and wellbeing.

"Creative and engaging shows like Loose Ends offer a fantastic way to encourage families and young people to come together and reflect on their friendships, explore their creativity and find out what it means to Act-Belong-Commit," Ms Hunt said.

Mr. Altheimer – who took his previous show Squaring the Wheel around regional Western Australia in 2014 as a part of the Shows on the Go program – said he was thrilled at the opportunity to return with his new production.

“Regional Western Australia is one of my favourite places to perform,” he said. “I had so much fun taking Squaring the Wheel to communities all over the state and meeting many great people on the way from the Kimberley to the South West, and I’m looking forward to sharing my new creations in Loose Ends with even more communities.”

For more information on Loose Ends, visit [www.countryartswa.asn.au](http://www.countryartswa.asn.au).

End.

**Media Contact – Country Arts WA**

Weng-Si Cheang, Communications Director

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 | E: [wcheang@countryartswa.asn.au](mailto:wcheang@countryartswa.asn.au)

## SUPPORT MATERIAL

### Tour Dates

#### Lake Grace

Wednesday 9 May, 5.30pm  
Lake Grace Shire Hall  
Bookings: Shire of Lake Grace & Lake Grace  
Post Office, 9890 2500  
Locally presented by Lake Grace Artist Group

#### Wickepin

Thursday 10 May, 2pm  
Wickepin Town Hall  
Bookings: Wickepin CRC, 9888 1500  
Locally presented by Wickepin Community  
Resource Centre Inc.

#### Kondinin

Friday 11 May, 6.30pm  
Kondinin Town Hall  
Bookings: Kondinin Community Resource  
Centre, 9889 1117  
Locally presented by Kondinin Community  
Resource Centre

#### Esperance

Monday 14 May, 6pm  
Esperance Civic Centre  
Bookings: Esperance Civic Centre, 9071 0666  
Locally presented by Esperance Civic Centre

#### Kambalda

Wednesday 16 May, 6.30pm  
Kambalda Community Recreation Facility  
Bookings: Good News Agency Kambalda,  
Kambalda Community Recreation Facility  
Locally presented by Kambalda Cultural and  
Arts Group

#### Southern Cross

Saturday 19 May, 6pm  
Southern Cross Community Centre  
Bookings: Shire of Yilgarn, 9049 1001  
Locally presented by Shire of Yilgarn

#### Jurien Bay

Tuesday 22 May, 6pm  
Jurien Sport & Recreation Centre  
Bookings: 0474 496 462  
Locally presented by Jurien Sport & Recreation  
Centre

#### Cue

Thursday 24 May, 6pm  
Cue Community Hall  
Bookings: Shire of Cue, 9963 8600  
Locally presented by Shire of Cue

#### Newman

Saturday 26 May, 5.30pm  
The Beach Indoor Play Centre  
Bookings: Red Desert Events, 9177 8290  
Locally presented by Red Desert Events

#### Tom Price

Tuesday 29 May, 3pm  
Tom Price Community Hall  
Bookings: The Nintirri Centre Inc., 9188 0500  
Locally presented by the Nintirri Centre Inc with  
Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto

#### Paraburdoo

Wednesday 30 May, 4.30pm  
Karingal Function Centre  
Bookings: [www.karingalcentre.com.au](http://www.karingalcentre.com.au)  
Locally presented by Karingal Neighbourhood  
Centre with Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto

#### Carnarvon

Friday 1 June, 1pm  
Camel Lane Theatre  
Bookings: [www.carnarvonciviccentre.com](http://www.carnarvonciviccentre.com)  
Locally presented by Shire of Carnarvon

#### Exmouth

Tuesday 5 June, 6.30pm  
Ningaloo Centre  
Bookings: Idaho Boutique, Ross St Mall  
Exmouth or 0419 205 505  
Locally presented by Exmouth Cultural Arts  
Centre Inc.

#### Onslow

Thursday 7 June, 11am  
Shire of Ashburton RM Forrest Hall  
Bookings: 9184 6062  
Locally presented by Shire of Ashburton and  
Chevron

#### Pannawonica

Saturday 9 June, 10am  
Pannawonica Community Hall  
Bookings: Pannawonica Community Hall  
Locally presented by Shire of Ashburton,  
Pannawonica Gala Committee and Rio Tinto

#### Port Hedland

Tuesday June 12, 7pm  
Matt Dann Theatre & Cinema  
Bookings: 9158 9368 or [mattdann.com](http://mattdann.com)  
Locally presented by Matt Dann Theatre &  
Cinema and Town of Port Hedland

#### Broome

Thursday 14 June, 6pm  
Broome Civic Centre  
Bookings: [www.broomeciviccentre.com.au](http://www.broomeciviccentre.com.au)  
Locally Presented by Shire of Broome

## Biography

### Jens Altheimer - Performer

Quirkologist, award-winner, collector of oddities and inventor of wondrous gadgets, Jens Altheimer is the creator of unusual visual theatre and the uncontested frontman of his one-man shows.

Specialising in theatre for families, Jens developed his own personal style of clowning, combined with the use of contraptions, puppetry and elements of circus. He also likes to adventure in community arts projects around playful concepts of kinetic installation and poetic machines. One day, he would like to know what to do with his shipping container full of whatchamacallit.

Trained at the Lecoq International School of Theatre in Paris, he relocated from Europe to Melbourne in 2009. His show 'Squaring the Wheel' won the 2013 Adelaide Fringe Award for Best Children's Presentation and toured nationally and internationally, being performed more than 250 times. Loose Ends, his most recent show, was nominated for the 2017 Adelaide Fringe Award for Best Children's Presentation and was performed around 90 times in four different states. Former collaborations in Europe include the Philippe Genty Company and the National Theatres of Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

## Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by regional membership. We are the only western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. The organisation was established in 1994 and is supported by State and Federal Government funding. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector around key outcomes of diversity, sustainability, relevance, and celebration.

Our services to the regional arts sector include investment and advice to produce and present projects; the development of programs and strategies to encourage growth; the communication of strong, positive storytelling; and the networking of regional hubs and leadership programs across the state.

[www.countryartswa.asn.au](http://www.countryartswa.asn.au)

## Presenting

Country Arts WA presents professional performing arts productions throughout regional Western Australia through a variety of programs, ensuring all Western Australian communities – no matter what size, or how remote – have access to high quality performances.

The presenting program brings performing arts to communities that would not otherwise have regular access to live professional performances through a community voting process. These shows include theatre, dance, music, circus, puppetry and comedy and provide great entertainment to local audiences and galvanise shared community experiences.

Country Arts WA assists a diverse array of communities to source, promote and present professional performances by coordinating tours and providing support and advice to community groups and touring artists.