

**MEDIA RELEASE**

February 2018

**Puppeteer sorts boxes, ties up Loose Ends for island audiences**

*The Australian Government in collaboration with Country Arts WA are excited to be touring Loose Ends to Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands this March and April.*

Join the inventive and kinetic performer Jens Altheimer in this one man show as he takes you on a magical journey, full of twists and surprises. Loose Ends is a story about friendship, loyalty and inventiveness. A man thinks he can organize all his life in boxes – boxes for everything; nails, shoes, plants, but also courage, fun or pain. It's a highly visual, touching and unpredictable tale that will capture the hearts of children and adults alike.

The performance combines custom built contraptions, clowning, puppetry and circus. Jens, a master of creation, makes all sorts of inventions and machines, adding a quirky edge to traditional puppetry. The set is built from hard rubbish and op-shop treasures, transforming discarded household items to give them a new lease on life.

Presented by the Australian Government and Country Arts WA, Loose Ends will be touring to the Indian Ocean Territories between March and April 2018 kicking off with two shows on Christmas Island before heading over to perform on Home Island and West Island in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Country Arts WA Executive Director, Paul MacPhail said it was important to ensure everyone had access to quality performing arts, regardless of where they lived.

"It's fantastic we can extend our regional reach to presenters on Christmas and Cocos Islands," said Mr MacPhail.

"Our statewide presenting program gives all communities the opportunity to build their capacity to deliver shows and strengthen connections and creativity in their towns.

"We're keen to see a diverse range of artforms take root and grow in our regional communities, and this program's presenter-driven model is a great way to encourage that growth.

"The community's choice to bring Loose Ends to the islands will provide plenty of entertainment for audiences young and old."

All performances are free with the aim of making the event accessible to all community members.

The show is Jens' most recent touring success, gathering wide acclaim through Victoria and South Australia - including a nomination for the Adelaide Fringe Award for Best Children's Production.

Loose Ends will be locally presented by Arts and Culture Christmas Island, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School

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**Media Contact**

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**Australian Government**



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**



# SUPPORT MATERIAL

## Tour Dates

### Christmas Island

#### **Performance 1**

Christmas Island District High School  
Sunday 25 March 2018, 7pm  
Info: 0407 089 433  
Locally presented by Arts and Culture Christmas Island

#### **Performance 2**

Christmas Island District High School  
Monday 26 March 2018, 1:20pm  
Info: 0407 089 433  
Locally presented by Arts and Culture Christmas Island

### Home Island, Cocos Island

Community Centre  
Wednesday 28 March 2018, 7pm  
Info: 08 9162 6649  
Locally presented by Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

### West Island, Cocos Island

Scout Park  
Sunday 1 April 2018, 6pm  
Info: 08 9162 6649  
Locally presented by Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School

## Review Quotes

“Full of handmade gadgets and contraptions that will leave children in awe.”  
– **The Advertiser ★★★★★**

“Uplifting, endearing, and simply delightful”,  
– **The Barefoot Review ★★★★★**

“There are plenty of life lessons, and some great insights on offer for kids of all ages.”  
– **Radio Adelaide ★★★★★**

“A magical children’s theatre show filled with fascinating surprises.”  
– **The Clothesline**

“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**

## **Audience Suitability**

Ages 5-12 years old, families

## **Presented by**

Country Arts WA and The Australian Government present  
Loose Ends - by Jens Altheimer and Auspicious Arts Projects Inc

## **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 project 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 back in Europe include the Philippe Genty Company and the National Theatres of Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

## **Awards and Nominations**

Winner 2013 Adelaide Fringe Award – Best Presentation for Children  
Nominated 2017 Adelaide Fringe Award – Best Presentation for children

## **Country Arts WA**

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by our regional membership as the only arts body with a state-wide arts and cultural brief driven by the needs of all regional communities in Western Australia. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of these regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector to be even more diverse, sustainable, relevant, and celebrated.

Our services are aimed at coordinating and linking the regional arts sector in a state-wide network of upskilled and resourced artists and organisations sharing their collective and individual success to lead WA's narrative.

## **Presenting**

Country Arts WA presents professional performing arts productions throughout regional Western Australia through a variety of touring 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.