

thecheckerboardguy



THE GO ANYWHERE DO ANYTHING COMIC DAREDEVIL



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● PRESS RELEASE ●

With a comic twist built into such stunts as **The Six-Foot Unicycle of Death**, **The Tight Rope of Death** and his signature piece, **The Flaming Leap of Death**, is it any surprise that The Checkerboard Guy is known around the globe as a Comic Daredevil!

Over two decades of manipulating everything from flaming torches, thirteenth century battle axes and even stinky shoes, often while balancing on top of unicycles, tight ropes or unsupported eight-foot tall aluminum ladders (and we're not talking step ladders here) mean that an incredibly high level of skill is second nature. Quite simply stated, this guy has his act down cold!

Were this a show strictly of tricks it could end up being dry and quite boring, but that's not the case with this physical comedian. The tricks that this guy presents are only the means to an end...comedy! The key to the success of this entertainer is the relationship he develops with his audience and the unscripted surprises that happen along the way. The Checkerboard Guy, armed with his razor sharp wit, brilliant comedic timing and keen fashion sense, will have you busting a gut every time and leave you wanting more! This may explain why some people come back to see his show again and again and again.

It's no wonder this one-man entertainment extravaganza has been a hit Internationally for years performing his award-winning show in just about every venue imaginable. If you're lucky he might even sculpt a muscle man out of a balloon for you!





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● BIOGRAPHY ●



World Expos in Osaka, Japan, Seville, Spain and Tae Jon, Korea, North American representative on the inaugural World Street Festival tour of Australia, invitations from producers around the world, a performance for the Prime Minister of Canada, The Checkerboard Guy's career has spanned more than two decades and four continents.

David Aiken credits his success with the fact that he loves what he does. This love and joy for making people laugh transcends culture and language. Hey, the fact that he can do his show entirely in English, French and Japanese and dabbles in Spanish and Korean also helps.

Even though this guy studied theatre in university and has performed literally thousands of shows all over the globe, he still gets the biggest kick when the audience throws him a curve ball. Like the time he was performing his Evel Knievel parody The Flaming Leap of Death on his mini-motor scooter and a guy drove into the center of his audience on a very large, very loud Harley Davidson to contest who had the cooler motorcycle.

The ability to roll with the punches and leave them rolling in the aisles time and time again may explain why The Checkerboard Guy is in such high demand wherever producers are interested in making people laugh!

● STATS & AWARDS ●

Formal dramatic and theatrical training at the University of Ottawa
Skills training at juggling conventions in Canada, USA and France
People's Choice Award Winner at the Ottawa Buskers Festival
Co-Winner of The Most Original Act Award at Buskers Halifax
Three-time Winner of the People's Choice Award at the
Kingston Buskers Rendezvous
Two-time Winner of the Best Over-All Act at the Kingston
Buskers Rendezvous





• SHOW OPTIONS •

So... What does this **Checkerboard Guy** do exactly... Well here's a quick list of some of the skills he's developed over a career that's spanned more than two decades -

- *Juggling everything from balls, clubs, ping pong balls (with his mouth), bowling balls (not with his mouth), torches, medieval battle axes and even stinky shoes*
- *Manipulating everything from cigar boxes, shaker cups, spinning balls, cracking whips, and balloon animals*
- *Mounting and/or riding six-foot (and taller) unicycles, stilts, free-standing ladders, tight ropes, and super-stunt scooters*
- *And let's not forget the ancient arts of ken-dama and knibbling!*

The skills are only part of the story. The unseen and most important skill that this talented performer has is his ability to know exactly which skills are right for each situation. With a few hour's worth of material to choose from, The Checkerboard Guy is able to walk into any situation and have just the right combination of tricks and stunts to keep any crowd laughing uncontrollably for his entire performance. To top it all off he has three completely different comic daredevil finales so he can even do three completely different shows if desired.

On top of an enormous amount of proven material, this guy also has a sixth sense that allows him to leave it all behind and create new material on the fly based on how an audience is reacting. This ability to improvise and respond to the audience means that each show is unique and every performance a custom-tailored experience.



**THE SIX-FOOT
UNICYCLE OF DEATH**



**THE TIGHT ROPE
OF DEATH**



**THE FLAMING
LEAP OF DEATH**



• OTHER SHOWS •

Over the years The Checkerboard Guy has challenged himself to come up with completely different shows. Sometimes these shows are just for fun, sometimes they're commissioned by festival producers, and sometimes he just wants to try something completely different. Here is a short list of some of the "Side Projects" - some of which are posted on-line at: www.checkerhead.com



2000 The Kong Show: David collaborates with Richard Berg to debut a new show at the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival. During the show audience members play key roles in the story that finishes with King Kong being launched to the top of the Empire State Building with a mini-teeter board.



2001 The Peach Boys: David teams up with Iori Mikumo from Japan to retell the Japanese folktale of Momotaro. Once again audience members play the starring roles in the story. The show debuts at the Shizuoka Diadogei (Street Performers) Festival and is a **HUGE** success!



2002 The Executives: David and Iori join forces with John Ulyatt to create another show that debuts at the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival. This time around the format is less story oriented and based more around toys all three members have always wanted to play with.



2003 Labantics: David partners with solo clown extraordinaire Shannan Calcutt for a show in which a round, egg-laying chicken inspires the new science of "Circology." Three different nests produce three different kinds of eggs. Each of these eggs then gets placed onto "The Circlatron," a machine that shows how, working together can achieve truly amazing results.

2004 Professor Checkerhead and his Marvelous Case of Musical Wonders: A musically minded David flies to Norfolk Virginia to play with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. In this new show, David uses his variety skills to visually describe musical concepts such as tempo, scales and rhythm.



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• SOME OF THE CLIENTS •

A SELECT LIST OF CORPORATE CLIENTS

Air Canada, The Bank of Montreal, TD Canada Trust, Investors Group, The National Capital Commission, Jaguar of Canada, Honda Canada, Finning Canada, West Coast Energy, Safeway, The Canadian Football League (CFL), The National Hockey League (NHL), Imax Corporation, Canada Tour Systems Inc., The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Skills Canada

SYMPHONY SHOWS, THEATRES, AND CRUISE SHIPS

The Virginia Symphony Orchestra	Norfolk, VA, USA
The Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra	Biloxi, MS, USA
Queen Elizabeth Theatre	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Arts Club Review Theatre	Vancouver, BC, Canada
MacPherson Playhouse	Victoria, BC, Canada
MacLab Theatre	Edmonton, AB, Canada
Grand Theatre	Kingston, ON, Canada
Manitoba Theatre for Young People	Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Princess Cruise Lines (Alaska Cruise)	The Sun Princess
NYK Cruise Co., Ltd. (Around the World & Alaska Cruises)	M.S. ASUKA
Celebrity Cruises (Caribbean Cruise)	THE ZENITH
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line (Californian Baja)	THE MONARCH OF THE SEAS

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS AND JAPANESE CLIENTS

World Expo '90 "Hana Haku"	Osaka, Japan
World Expo '92	Seville, Spain
World Expo '93	Tae Jon, Korea
World Expo '94 "Matsuri Haku"	Ise, Japan
Niji No Sato (Theme Park)	Shuzenji, Japan
Hokkaido Marine Park	Noboribetsu, Japan
Canal City Shopping Complex	Fukuoka, Japan

COMEDY CLUBS & COMEDY FESTIVALS

Yuk Yuks Comedy Club	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Vancouver International Comedy Festival	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Brisbane International Comedy Bananaza	Brisbane, QLD, Australia
Kelowna International Comedy Festival	Kelowna, BC, Canada
Comedy Arts Festival	Edmonton, AB, Canada

INTERNATIONAL FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVALS

Edmonton International Fringe Festival	Edmonton, AB, Canada
Winnipeg International Fringe Festival	Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Saskatoon International Fringe Festival	Saskatoon, SK, Canada
Vancouver International Fringe Festival	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Victoria International Fringe Festival	Victoria, BC, Canada
The Adelaide International Fringe Festival	Adelaide, SA, Australia



MUSIC FESTIVALS

Dawson City Music Festival	Dawson City, YK, Canada
Frost Bite Music Festival	Whitehorse, YK, Canada
Riverbend Music Festival	Chattanooga, TN, USA
Summerlights Music Festival	Nashville, TN, USA
Montreal Jazz Festival	Montreal, QC, Canada

CHILDREN'S FESTIVALS

Vancouver International Children's Festival	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Vancouver Island Festival for Young Audiences	Nanaimo, BC, Canada
Canadian North Children's Festival	Prince George, BC, Canada
Regina International Children's Festival	Regina, SK, Canada
Winnipeg International Children's Festival	Winnipeg, MB, Canada

EXHIBITIONS/AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

Canadian National Exhibition	Toronto, ON, Canada
Western Fair	London, ON, Canada
Ottawa Exhibition	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Red River Exhibition	Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Calgary Stampede	Calgary, AB, Canada
Pacific National Exhibition	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Royal Easter Show	Sidney, NSW, Australia

STREET PERFORMERS FESTIVALS

Halifax International Buskers Festival	Halifax, NS, Canada
Ottawa International Buskers Festival	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Kingston Buskers Rendezvous	Kingston, ON, Canada
Waterloo Buskers Carnival	Waterloo, ON, Canada
Windsor International Street Performers Festival	Windsor, ON, Canada
Edmonton International Street Performers Festival	Edmonton, AB, Canada
New York Street Performers Festival	New York, NY, USA
Los Angeles Street Performers Festival	Los Angeles, CA, USA
Sheffield International Buskers Festival	Sheffield, England
World Performance Festival @ Tempozone	Osaka, Japan
Shizuoka Daidogei Festival	Shizuoka, Japan
Tokyo Theatre du Rue Festival	Tokyo, Japan

FINE ARTS FESTIVALS

Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival	Fort Worth, TX, USA
Festival of Spring	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Fest De Ville Arts Festival	Nashville, TN, USA
Utah Arts Festival	Salt Lake City, UT, USA



● SHOW SPECS ●

The Checkerboard Guy's greatest strength is his ability to work in just about any environment. The following information will help ensure that you get the most from his performance.

The Show/Languages ~ Shows can last from five minutes to an hour depending on what is required. International travel has helped The Checkerboard Guy create a non-verbal show which is accompanied by music, or he can easily perform his show in English, French or Japanese.

Performance Space ~ Typical performance spaces include: outdoor festival environments, theatres, convention centers, gymnasiums, night clubs, and banquet halls. Please keep site lines in mind - if the performer's actions cannot easily be seen by the whole audience a lot of the comedy is lost.

Sound System Requirements ~ The Checkerboard Guy usually performs with his own head set microphone and has a couple of different sound systems suitable for audiences of up to a thousand people. Should the venue/event necessitate more technical support, arrangements can be made. It is possible to provide show music on either Mini Disc or CD.

Physical Space ~ A lot of what The Checkerboard Guy does requires a certain amount of ceiling height... It is, for example, hard to ride **The Six-Foot Unicycle of Death** in a venue with only an 8 foot ceiling. Each of his three finales have different requirements, as follows ~



- ***The Six-Foot Unicycle of Death*** - Minimum performance area: 8 feet x 12 feet. Minimum ceiling height, 12 feet. Ground surface must be clean, reasonably level and dry.
- ***The Tight Rope of Death*** - Minimum performance area, 12 feet x 30 feet. Minimum ceiling height, 16 feet. A strong fixed structure is required to secure one end of the tight rope (ex: a telephone pole or tree). Again, ground surface must be clean, reasonably level and dry.
- ***The Flaming Leap of Death*** - Minimum performance area, 24 feet x 50 feet. Minimum ceiling height 16 feet. Because the scooter requires distance and speed to execute the jump, this trick is best suited to large outdoor venues.



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• TESTIMONIAL LETTERS •



"Quite simply, it was a pleasure doing business with you. The show was excellent and everyone in attendance was thoroughly entertained. It is quite apparent that your show knows no age boundaries. Regardless of the diversity, you obviously have and innate ability to connect with an audience and I was particularly impressed with that."

Chris Browton - Communications Coordinator
Skills Canada

"Your incredible juggling talents are awesome enough, but coupled with your clever banter and audience participation antics, this show is perfect for our corporate clients... This was evidenced by the standing ovation following your hilarious performance!"

Debbie Maslowsky - Senior Account Manager
The Bowering (International) Group Inc.



"I am very pleased to have had Mr. Aiken aboard the M.S. Asuka and would recommend his performance on any stage."

Robert M. Tanaka - Cruise Director
NYK Cruises Co., Ltd. - M.S. ASUKA

"It's two thumbs up for the Checkerboard Guy. He reaches new heights every time he performs and dazzles his audience with his gravity defying feats and infectious personality."

Christa Donaldson - Executive Producer
The Regina International Children's Festival





● NEWSPAPER REVIEWS ●



"The strength of the man is his genuinely witty sense of humour, which allows him to take advantage of every quirky nuance of human behaviour."

Craig Spencer

The Sunshine Press (Sechelt, BC, Canada)

"This Guy walks a fine line between alternative theatre and sickly-sweet Disney material somehow managing to appeal to both little Joey and the jaded Gen Xer - kind of like a live-action episode of The Simpsons."

Tom Zillich

The Westender (Vancouver, BC, Canada)



"David Aiken can do it all. He juggles. He walks tight ropes. He climbs free-standing ladders. He sculpts muscle men from balloons. He tells jokes. He acts in commercials. And he does it all - at least everything but the acting - clad head to toe in checkerboards, hence the name."

Mark Weidmer

Chattanooga News-Free Press
(Chattanooga, TN, USA)

"Now there's a good reason The Checkerboard Guy has won the award two years running. It's because his show is filled with juggling tricks, silly jokes and other wacky stuff. He includes lots of audience participation that keeps the crowd in stitches for more than 45 minutes."

Ian MacALPINE

The Kingston Whig-Standard (Kingston, ON, Canada)

