

AYTAHN ROSS

THE GREAT BALANZO



About the Performance

The Great Balanzo is building himself a new house and, as he does so, keeps finding things he can balance, juggle, or just plain do something fun with. Eventually, he gets the house built but only with the frequent aid of audience members. Join *The Great Balanzo* in this fantastic adventure as he builds a new home and perform his juggling in this strange and exciting new neighborhood.

About the Artist

Aytahn Ross is a comic gentleman known for his silly elegance, his authenticity and his charm. He is university educated and a classically trained actor, whose passion for circus & comedy have made him one of Canada's top circus personalities.

A contemporary vaudevillian who presents a gourmet mix of circus & comedy that's been seen live by more than a million people around the world over the last 20 years.

He has presented performances at most of the biggest and best events in the country. A few of these include repeat invitations to the Just for Laughs Festival Galas and Tours, VIP Events on Parliament Hill, and a command performance for Canada's Governor General.

Aytahn has played most major theatres and concert halls in Canada, including the world famous Massey Hall in Toronto, the Orpheum in Vancouver. He's also produced and performed in sold-out shows at the National Arts Centre of Canada, competed mainstage concerts, and once John Cleese of Monty Python said "Hello" to him.

THEMES:

- *Balance*
- *Clowning*
- *Comedy*
- *Concentration*
- *Eye-hand coordination*
- *Focus*
- *Juggling*
- *Movement*
- *Narrative*



Activities

K-7

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES (40 minutes max.)

*Define "house" – How does it differ from "home"?

*Create skits about finding a new home.

What would the challenges be?

*Demonstrate a personal talent to the class:

Music, song, dance, recitation, slight of hand.

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES (20 minutes)

*Discuss how building a real house differs from the way Balanzo does it. What elements of actual house building are used in the show to comic effect?

*Share opinions about Balanzo's talents.

Which one was most entertaining?

What part did humour play?

*Learn and practice juggling with two objects. Add a third object when ready.

