



□ KEITH ANDERSON: A few deft strokes with a makeup stick and your ordinary man in the street becomes Keith the Clown, orange wig and all.

Back to ring

Legend of trapeze takes to clowning

LEGENDARY high-flying trapeze artist Keith Anderson is back in the sawdust ring nearly 40 years after he first thrilled circus crowds with his death-defying act — this time as a clown.

Capab's scenic designer's beard — early pictures of him show him with a luxuriant facial growth that would do Blackbeard proud — is pretty grey now, but somehow, with a bit of clever makeup and an orange wig, he makes a pretty convincing clown. Of course, the outsize shoes and candystripe suit help.

But it is not really as a clown that Keith Anderson is in the ring. He is the presenter of *Little People's Circus*, a production for children at the V & A Waterfront which will run from Wednesday to January 16 with shows at 11am and 2pm daily.

Little People's Circus only happened

■ A legendary high-flying trapeze artist is back in the ring — this time as a clown. A *Weekend Argus Reporter* tracked him down at the Waterfront.

when Capab decided to bring back *Hair* and Keith discovered that there was nothing for children over the festive season, but even though it came together as a last-minute production, professional help was close to hand.

It was as if they were waiting in the wings — Brent van Rensburg, Mo Marais and Victor Gericke and their wives.

Brent, Mo and Victor were all "graduates" of Keith's trapeze school and followed very successful circus careers in Europe and America. Their wives are all circus artists and have also been roped in. And while they were on the subject of

roping in, in came Nick Taylor who provided the seating and ring.

The *Annie Get Your Gun* set was the source of the decor. Capab's Puppet Company provided the sound equipment and the Maritime Museum provided the venue.

Two schoolboys, Gerd Niehaus and Ryno Mulder, old hands in Nico Malan productions, were asked to give their services on the trapeze and well as juggling and riding unicycles.

Mathew Devine, the stiltwalker from *Chiwele and the Giant* will be a ringmaster with a difference — on stilts.

Keith's son, Mark Allen, and Mo and Anlike Marais will be giving circus classes at the venue for children who are daring enough to try, while the Van Rensburgs and Gericke's will run their *Dare to Dream* venture started earlier this year at schools to teach children skills they never thought were possible.

And to make everything even more exciting, the best pupils will be invited to be guest stars in the show.



□ HILARIOUS: One of the hilarious acts in *Little People's Circus* in which a trampoline and athletics horse are used to great effect. Some of the performers are 10-year-old veterans.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.