

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Children of All Ages, It's Circus Time!

The 2008 Edition of The Joey Kelly Circus is coming to the Old Munichburg Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 27, with shows at noon and 4 p.m.!

Joey Kelly is the grandson of the most famous clown in the world, Emmett Kelly, "America's Favorite Clown!" You would expect coming from a family of clowns, circus performers, and show business folks dating back to Vaudeville Days that he would quite naturally be a performer, and he is. It doesn't matter whether he's in the spotlight or with a small group, performing is what makes him happy!

With a grin on his face, he will tell you that he was the consummate "class clown" throughout his school years. He never thought about running away with the circus because he grew up in Peru, Indiana, the "Circus Capital of the World." He has always been around the "Big Top" both as a spectator and performer. His "family tree" is firmly planted in the center ring. It's no surprise that he has sawdust in his blood. His relatives comprise an enviable list of "Who's Who" in the circus world.

As a youngster, Joey enjoyed performing as a clown. He also mastered Hanging Perch, Three-lane Cradle, Adagio, Teeter board as well as being the "Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze." Joey's life has come full-circle. Now, he has his own family circus and sports a red nose, having traded trapeze for humor.

New this year is their tripod aerial rigging that towers 20 ft. tall. It's the centerpiece of their new show. Suspended underneath their specially designed rigging, Bethany will present her aerial ballet, attractively entwined within her fabric and trapeze routines.

Ring Mistress Lindy will open this year's performance with her new Comedy Bell routine, a first-time solo performance right in the heart of Jefferson City. Last year, Lindy got her clown shoes wet as Joey's capable sidekick. More importantly she impressed those in attendance with her quick wit and charm. Lindy (along with Bethany and Nate) was a "First of May" last year, a first-time performer, but you wouldn't know given their performances.

Nate will likely dazzle you with his charm, good looks, and his Diabolo routine featuring difficult and amazing tricks. He shows his versatility by adding Juggling Pins, Balls, Rings, and the Rola Bola to his performance this year. With Nate handling the skill toys and his sister floating like an angel overhead, The Joey Kelly Circus is growing into a very nice, small, family circus that means to please and garner your applause and favor.

Penny, their cute little baby lion, okay, their Pomeranian trimmed to appear like a lion, may or may not perform this year depending on her stage fright. Children will still be able to enjoy her presence this year as she will (hopefully) be seated upon her lion's perch, in plain view, throughout the entire performance.

Last, but certainly not least is Joey, Emmett Kelly's grandson, the namesake of the circus. As Ring Mistress, Lindy does most of the talking, which works fine with Joey. Having a Ring Mistress and fellow clown as his front person, allows him the opportunity to return to pantomime. This year, Joey is presenting "The Bird," an original routine that he created in the 1980s. It is one of his original "signature" routines.

You'll want to attend this show for all the right reasons. As if the new acts to be performed aren't enough, you'll not want to miss another first-time performance when Joey performs an adaptation of his grandfather's routine, "The Spotlight."

For the first time ever, as a tribute to his most favored and beloved clown, Joey will perform one of the greatest clown gags in circus history. Joey hopes to see his grandfather smiling at him from above.

The Joey Kelly Circus comes to town ready to please! The only thing they need to make their performance a success is your attendance. Be sure to grab a bag of peanuts, a friend, and maybe a lawn chair or two, and "come on down" and view one or both shows on Saturday. More than anything, Joey and his family encourage you to enjoy the show.