

BASIC INSTINCT

The challenge of the theatre is what keeps this talented young actor coming back for more. *Deadly Vibe* chats with rising star Luke Carroll.



All smiles: Luke is loving his return to the theatre.

Famed American actress Rosalind Russell once said: "Acting is standing up naked and turning around very slowly". It's a tough profession; the type which requires a thick skin and

plenty of courage. The life of an actor can be excruciatingly cruel one moment and overwhelmingly fulfilling the next.

Because of this, actors are most certainly a special breed. It takes something instinctive and intrinsic to be a truly successful and gifted actor. For Luke Carroll, who began acting at the age of nine, the profession is by now second nature.

After recent stints on the television series *The Alice* and *Remote Area Nurse*, Luke recently enjoyed a return to the theatre with the lead role in Louis Nowra's stage adaptation of Xavier Herbert's compelling Australian novel *Capricornia*.

While Luke has savoured his success on the screen, *Capricornia* has been a welcome return to theatre after a two year hiatus.

"It's awesome," he says. "I love the theatre. The beauty of acting is that there are so many areas that you can go into. I mean, you can be on TV, in film or theatre, and they're all different. Theatre is another experience within itself."

While only 27, Luke is somewhat of stage veteran, having already appeared in a range of productions, including *Conversations with the Dead*, *The Dreamers*, *Riverland* and *The Cherry Pickers*. So it's not surprising he adjusts so easily between different acting mediums.

"It does take a week or two to get back into the groove of things," he admits. "I mean, acting for TV is a lot different to acting in theatre. TV is such a rushed atmosphere; you're always trying to make deadlines, but with theatre you get weeks to rehearse.

"For *Capricornia* we had about a week and a half where we just went through the script and made a few changes. In theatre you're able to break down each scene, take the time with each scene and really get into your character. With TV, you don't really get that luxury."

As well as the benefits of having more time to prepare, there are also particular challenges about the theatre which Luke relishes.

"Learning your lines is definitely one of the most challenging things about theatre," he says. "With TV, you get your scene and you usually learn your lines that night. With theatre you need to know the whole play before you can do anything."



ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the large, bold heading (Basic Instinct), the sub-heading (The challenge of the theatre is what keeps this talented young actor coming back for more. *Deadly Vibe* chats with rising star Luke Carroll), and the photographs on page 4.

1. Why is the title Basic Instinct effective?

2. What keeps Luke Carroll coming back to theatre?

3. Explain some reasons why acting is a "tough profession"

4. What is the main purpose for including the photograph on this page?

ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. How old was Luke Carroll when he started his acting career? _____

2. List two television programs that Luke has acted in.

3. List four theatre productions that Luke has acted in.



ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE

1. How does the use of quotes from Luke Carroll make the report less formal?

ACTIVITY 4: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

In the grid below, compare and contrast the challenges of acting for television and acting for the theatre.

Television	Theatre

Which one would you prefer? Why?

ACTIVITY 5: WRITING A PROFILE

Imagine that you are Luke Carroll and you have been asked to submit an outline of the main achievements of your acting career so far.

Include the names of the programs and plays that you have appeared in and the skills that you have learnt during your career.

