



Show & tell

JEFF DARMANIN WEARS OUT HIS SHOE LEATHER WHEN HE COVERS SYDNEY'S ROYAL EASTER SHOW, AND IT'S A FAIR BET HE'LL SPOT SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN.



It's that time of year again – there's a whiff of fairy floss and cattle dust in the air, and if you listen very hard you might hear the sound of pocket money being recklessly squandered.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is heaven for people-watchers, and those painted sideshow alley clowns aren't the only ones doing that jaw-dropped, slow-necked swivel from side to side.

Jeff Darmanin's lens found plenty to gape at when he covered the show for Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper last year.

"The subject matter ranged from kids and the costumes and accessories they bought in the showbag pavilion, to the romance of the 100-year-old Ferris wheel," Darmanin says.

"There was daily judging of the weird and woolly, plus crowds and visiting Americans."

Darmanin's images capture showtime in all its romance and kitsch; from woozy rides swirling with brilliant colour, to the intense quiet during the very serious judging of cats and bunnies.

The "hard slog" of finding new pictures at



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an event with so many years of history isn't for everyone. "I know some people think I'm mental, but I enjoy it," Darmanin smiles.

Despite the hard yards – "you definitely wear your shoes out!" – the colour, the characters and their fascinating stories keep him coming back.

He says he's particularly intrigued by those who've made the show circuit their livelihoods, and their lives.

"There's so much good history behind these families that have been show families for years and years, carrying on traditions since their grandparents had rides," the photographer says.

Darmanin will most likely be covering the show again this year, so keep an eye out for him – chances are he'll have spotted something you haven't...

Clare Fletcher

1. Cop this. Tallulah Morton, 14, and cousin Luille McCall, 14, enjoy the rides.

2. Sideshow alley cowboys. Sean Napier and Kurt Zamo play around in some of the show fashions.

3. Therese Munro and partner Warren Berger share a romantic moment on the Ferris wheel.

4. He's feline fine. Judge Jane Dickeson holds Thomas the moggie, judged best companion cat.

5. Stephanie Smith, aka Lady Cannonball, with her American compadres here for the rodeo: Buck Harris and his son Who Harris, age 6, and Hugh Robinson from New Mexico.