

GERMAN CLOWN IN TOWN

My mask opens a gate for children to enter my fantasy world; it doesn't hide anything," says the world renowned clown Shiven. And that's true. Watch the performer in action making his audience laugh with his tricks. The German entertainer performed in town on Thursday at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sector 47 and Shivalik Public School, Mohali as part of the Festival of Germany in India was organised by the ICCR. Clown Shiven is an original and it is not histricks, but his style that's a class apart. He's a joker who enjoys his job and that's his USP. A professional clown since 1977, his act is all about romance and innocence, he reminds you of a bygone era when circus coming to town was entertainment No 1 for kids.

Gunter Bennung; Shiven is the name Osho christened him with, born in Berlin in 1939, living in New Zealand, claims he can communicate in every language of the world-"I speak the language of love"; he simply listens to kids' response and knows the magic has worked when he sees hundreds of faces lighted up with sunny smiles.

In fact one can't help lamenting the loss of this world to technology. Watch his tricks and you realise that today's kids who're hooked on to video games and internet several hours a day are missing out on the simple pleasures of life.

This is Shiven's fifth visit to India and his first to the city. The next stop on his itinerary is Amritsar where he'll be performing on Saturday. "I have enjoyed my trip to this country. The family tradition of Indians has touched my heart", says this amazing performer.

—Indu Saksena

