



Shiven performing at the Vikhe-Patil Memorial School in Pune on Thursday

'WE LOVE SHIVEN THE CLOWN'

A STAFF REPORTER

"WE love Shiven The Clown," scream students of Vikhe-Patil Memorial School gleefully. Waving their hands in unison, in response to his antics, they ask for more.

The energetic 61-year-old clown keeps up with their excitement, singing, dancing and celebrating.

His do-it-yourself tricks ("which will break just 18-19 plates") are an instant hit with the jubilant youngsters. Dressed in colourful overalls and over-sized boots, Shiven, with his brightly coloured face rules the roost.

"I love to see you smile," Shiven tells the crowd, "only if you are happy you will be able to spread happiness."

Juggling with dolphins, boxes and plates, the

clown becomes a child among children. He laughs with them, sings and above all responds to their energy and excitement. Sprinkling water from plastic flowers, he has the children clamouring for more. His impromptu song "I thank you from the bottom of my socks, because that is deeper than my heart" is a hit with the students, who join in, thanking the clown from the bottom of their socks.

After a whirlwind tour of the city, where he brought smiles to over 2,000 faces, Shiven is ready to make an exit.

But don't fret, the good-natured clown will be away for a short while.

As soon as he recharges his soul in the cool climes of the Himalayas, he will be back once again, laughing, singing and, of course, spreading good cheer.