



Photo provided / Bruce Leseur

Tomáš Kubínek came up with the idea for his leg extensions while doodling a cartoon in Belgium.

KUBINEK

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music acts and while still in his teens, he made that inauspicious circus debut.

Working any and all jobs related to showbiz, Kubínek was able to travel to Europe to study with some of the world's greatest theatrical teachers, including Monika Pagneaux, Pierre Byland, Jaques Lecoq and Boleslav Polívka. Those studies, combined with his own experiments in the art of live performance, led to the creation of his solo stage show.

"I started doing street theater and improv in comedy clubs," Kubínek says. "I worked with a theater company in England for a year and worked in the circus and all of those things came together in my pool of experience and passion. I draw on all of those aspects when I entertain people."

At the start, he did standard tricks, traveling by bus with a suitcase full of eggs and handkerchiefs. Now that he's 50, his repertoire has expanded to involve a contraption that allows him to walk with six feet.

"I was in Belgium and I was just doo-

IF YOU GO

What: Tomáš Kubínek: "Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible"

When: 7 p.m. Saturday

Where: Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor

How much: \$15-\$30

Contact: 927-1221 or lmcmainstage.org

Artist info: www.kubinek.com

dling and imagined a cartoon of extensions on my legs and extra shoes that I could walk on," Kubínek says of that particular gag. "I draw a lot of pictures and scribble things on envelopes and that's how it begins. As I get deeper and deeper in my experience there's a greater freedom to go to wider edges of the island. Like any skill that becomes second nature you don't have to think about the technical aspects of it and can focus on the art of it."

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