

School of the circus

A PASSION for performance continues to pay off for Brompton man **Stephen Noonan**.

The freelance performance artist was recently recognised for his work in South Australian schools by claiming a prestigious Education and Arts Ministers' Award. Mr Noonan, 39, works as an "artist in residence" in schools throughout Adelaide and country regions, demonstrating various forms of theatre and dance.

He said he was thrilled by the honour, which was presented at a SA Youth Arts Board function last month.

"It was a great surprise," he said.

"It will give me the chance to undertake a two-week professional development course at the Lincoln Centre (Institute for the Arts in Education) in New York next year.

"And that will be fantastic.

"They've pioneered a lot of the work into how artists work in schools."



HOOPLA: Circus teacher Stephen Noonan, with Louis, 7, and Emily, 5, has won a study trip to New York. 105563

Originally starting his working life as an industrial valuer, Stephen decided he had "more to offer beyond facts and figures" after a visit to the Cirkidz youth circus troupe in Brompton 18 years ago.

"I decided that was something I really wanted to get involved with.

"The money would definitely have been better (as an industrial valuer), but I

feel I'm much happier."

His teaching work incorporated all forms of theatre and dance, depending what individual groups wanted to focus on.

"A school in Renmark recently (was) looking at stunt fighting and slapstick, whereas another one in Victor Harbor was more interested in more traditional circus routines."

DAVID GOLDSMITH