

**ZDF**

## **From clown to cowboy**

### **Press Release / ENGLISH**

Timo is eleven years old and is part of Cologne's traditional circus "Caroli". About 50 people work in this circus and they are all related to one another somehow. Timo was only three years old when he stood in the arena for the first time. Traditionally children start off as clowns in the circus "Caroli", and hitherto Timo has only appeared as Pepino the Clown.

But now Timo is getting old enough to choose a new part to play in the circus. He is not very interested in dog-training or tightrope balancing. Timo wants to become a cowboy! In order to do this, he must learn knife-throwing and handling the lasso. His brother-in-law Manuel, who has been playing the cowboy part, teaches him all he needs to know to become a circus cowboy.

We accompanied Timo from spring to summer of 2006 and were with him when the clown became a cowboy. Not everything went entirely smooth in the course of this. Handling the lasso was an unpleasant obligation for him and success did not come easy for him with it. Timo would have preferred to dedicate all his time to knife-throwing, but his brother-in-law was a strict teacher.

We also got to know quite a bit about circus life, for example how school education is carried out.

Timo made it, in August his father lets him into the arena as a cowboy for the first time. Find out in "From Clown to Cowboy" whether all the practising has paid off and whether his sister got through the the knife-throwing.