

Caring Clowns International



Working With Other Clowns

Banter

When more than one clown is “working,” either in an orchestrated gag or playing informally with people, each clown should be constantly aware of the other, looking for the right moments to interject, making fun of the other, playing with and/or supporting the other clown(s).

If the interaction is verbal, questioning the other clown, planned interrupting with a funny question, feigning not understanding, etc are all appropriate.

Create Contrast

One of the elements of clowning that creates interest and excitement is the contrast that two or more clowns create as they work together. Contrast allows two clowns to play off each other.

Consider and orchestrate how clowns will act differently in gag situations. Examples of contrast are: slow vs. fast movement; emotional opposites- grumpy vs. happy, jovial vs. serious, laughing vs. moody; laid back vs. aggressive, dumber vs. smarter, fast gate vs. slow gate, dullard vs. quick witted, sleepy vs. alert, loud vs. soft spoken, etc.

Engaging the Audience

It is also funny and keeps things interesting for one clown to “take the audience into his confidence- let them in on the secret” as if the other clown doesn’t see it: Such as, stepping off to the side from the gag in progress, looking at the other clown, then to the audience, holding up his hand to “hide” his face, turning to the audience and saying “watch this! He’ll (the other clown) never get it! (Snickering to the audience)”

Never Upstage or Seriously Butt In or Interrupt

These things are never done. If you approach another clown working a group, never interrupt him/her or ruin his stride. Stand off or move away as to not draw attention to yourself and away from the clown performing.

This is a universal courtesy, never to be broken. It is respect for the other clown and his connection with the audience.