



Some Thoughts on "Clown Demeanor"

When you are in "Clown Gear," you are representing the tradition and history of Clowning. By your actions, you are in a position to enrich the perception of clowns and clowning, or create the opposite impression, however unintended and unconscious.

Here are some general thoughts to be aware of that may help.

- ♥ When you are made-up and in costume, maintain your poise as a clown. Be natural and inviting in your words, your mannerisms and your actions. Stay in character.
- ♥ While in public, clowns in grease paint and costume do not swear, smoke or drink alcohol.
- ♥ Be ready to love what you are doing and to embrace people mentally when you are clowning. Your attitude will "speak" to your audiences and put them more at ease.
- ♥ Honor children. You are much bigger than the smallest child. Let children enter your space as they wish. Don't impose yourself into theirs. Do not "run" to a child.
- ♥ Some children and adults have a fear of clowns. As you approach everyone, be sensitive to this. If they pull back or if a child cries, honor them and walk away, keeping your front to him/her. Smile. (You may want to find a friendly adult to "hide behind" and be shy behind as you face the crying child.) That child may warm to you and become your next best friend.
- ♥ When entertaining at events where there is food, only partake in food when invited to do so by your host/hostess. (Many of us politely decline, since we are not there to eat, and it is a break from our clown persona to eat while entertaining.)
- ♥ Do not upstage other clowns. Always "give way" to other clowns, and when possible support what they are doing.
- ♥ When you are in costume, stay in your persona no matter how your day goes. Turn it into a skit and laugh at your situation and yourself. Laugh, no matter what! Think - how would a Caring Clown handle a bad day?
- ♥ Clowning in hospitals and hospices *and other cultures is sometimes challenging and different. Before doing this, seek out clowns experienced in these areas for guidance on unique considerations in these environments.

*A good source for more on hospital clowning is "The Hospital Clown-A Closer Look," by Patty Wooten and Shobhana "Shobi" Schwebke, ISBN 09675320-1-9. Contact ShobiDobi@hospitalclown.com.