

# Caring Clowns International



## Your Clown Persona

The heart of the clown is showing him/herself to others; honestly, sincerely, empathetically and humorously.

The clown always makes fun of himself and other clowns, and only jokingly makes fun of his audience – never seriously embarrassing the audience or being seriously angry with them.

The clown can act befuddled and falsely intelligent, and can tend to screw things up. He will fake knowing what he is doing, and try to convince other clowns and the audience that he really knows what he is doing, all the while faking it and making a fool of himself in his attempts to do things. Sometimes he can misinterpret things and winds up going completely in the wrong direction, but will never admit it.

The comedic goal of the clown is to totally break from expectations- deflating his own dignity, doing the absolute absurd and unexpected, goofing it up, and not taking things too seriously. The more he makes a fool of himself, the more fun it is for those watching and interacting with him.

The clown does this through his physical movement and facial expressions, how he interacts with other clowns and the audience, and with the props he uses. The idea is not to do things as one would expect a normal person to do things.

As an example, when walking, the clown will add his unique style of walk, using interesting and unusual unexpected gestures- doing anything but being pedestrian or normal or boring in how he moves and in his facial expressions.

To walk from point A to B as a normal person is boring - straight line, head up, simple repetitive gate and movement- normal. But the clown may use a special and unique gate in his step, trip once or twice (and turn his head to giggle to the audience), yawn, wobble around, fall down (and brush himself off), walk into a wall, move with passion and urgency, move with power, etc. He will be anything but normal. He will be a bit off, and a bit absurd in what he does.

### Considering Your Clown Face

Makeup should be used to emphasize your natural facial lines and expressions.

In the mirror, practice different facial expressions that express emotions (sadness, happiness, anger, surprise, anxiousness, grief, etc), and note where the natural contours in your face are. These are the natural lines to emphasize using makeup.

Makeup should be used to emphasize who you are, enhance your persona and help with facial gestures. Make up should not be used to hide behind.

Most novice clowns use way too much makeup, and tend to use it too heavily. Consider softening your makeup look by using brushes to blend your makeup.

As you clown more and allow the funny you to emerge, you will develop your own clown persona and your own style in how and what you do.

Once you decide “who you are,” show your personal character in your motions and emotions (your walk, your facial gestures, etc).

There are no mistakes in clowning. Just let yourself be your clown self – freely and without restrictions or expectations or encumbrances. (The only mistake is to not let yourself go and to feel constrained by “normal.”☺)

Part of the joy is the discovery of who this other “Clown Self” that is you... is, .and see where it takes you.

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