

# Clowning Around

Special Double  
Issue - Fall 2025



**Dianna Hale**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

# World Clown Convention Boston



**GREATEST CLOWN CONFAB ON EARTH**

**Theme: Back to  
Bedrock of Clowning**

**Featuring  
Hilary Chaplain**



**Staring Ron Severini**



**Special  
Guest Stars  
EZ & Kozy**



**Boston Revere Hotel - King \$120 - Two Queen beds \$120 (Plus tax)**

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**Tell them you are attending the WCA Convention March 2nd-6th, 2026**

**WorldClown.com**

**March 2 - 6, 2026**



# News from your Editor

A big welcome to you from your team of directors and officers at World Clown association. We hope you will enjoy this special double issue.

Please take note that as a clown magazine we love to do things differently. We have two covers!! Saluting two super awesome clowns. On one cover is our super Clown of the Year – Lulu! On the other cover is our Lifetime Achievement designate – Smidgen!

Yay!! Congratulations to you both for your years of excellence and service. Two clown cover girls grace each of this magazine's covers. We love you both - Dianna "Smidgen" Hale & Louise "Lulu" Carnesale.

Another Yay!!! In Boston your special featured performer is Hilary Chaplain - A wonderful star in the art of clowning! We have an article on Hilary in this issue and watch for full article in the next issue on this star!



Prez. Cliff Hartmier

Speaking of international stars... Boston has a great line up coming together for our BIG SHOW. You will see articles on a few of our Asian Clowns who might be part of the festivities. Watch for your next issue to see previews of entertainers for that spectacular evening of entertainment from around the World of Clowning.

Boston will be terrific at the excellent Revere Hotel. Check ads and website for your special rates and remember - banquet tickets and theme party tickets for spouses need to be purchased three weeks before the convention. In previous years you could get them at the conference – but don't wait this year!

Our grand theme for the convention is Back to the Bedrock of Clowning. This includes our special salute to that classic cartoon – The Flintstones and the many years of laughter they have given children of all ages. You might consider dressing up in Bedrock gear for our theme party night!

A special welcome to our new president Cliff Hartmier – that Cool Canadian Clown! He will be a great president.

Special Thanks to past Editor Jackie Newman for your skill and excellence. Tip of the hat to awesome Shay who did wonderful graphic design on the past few issues. Thanks also to past managers Dolly Jones and Andrew Mohler for their assistance to W.C.A. over the years.

Special thank you to Leslie Ann Atkin for giving us two pages of educational content from [JestForClowns.com](http://JestForClowns.com). Check out her online publication of excellence in clowning.

A big thank you to Bruce "Charlie" Johnson - he's back with a heartfelt tribute to past WCA president Lee "Juggles" Mullally.

I hope you also like Ron Severini's salute to our other dear friend, Earl "Mr. Clown" Chaney.

**Make 'em laugh! - Norm B. Interim Editor – Clowning Around.**

## Clowning Around

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# THE WCA NEWS

## Ringling Mansion - Visited by WCA's Bob Neil

This fantastic home of the great showman, A.L. Ringling was the toast of the town for many years in Baraboo, WI. The city's elite would attend grand parties and events here in the elegant rooms.

Built in 1906, this wonderful home is filled with orate tiffany glass, lovely murals and hand carved woodwork. You can still visit today. This is now an excellent restaurant and brewery.

During the grand days of Ringling Brother's Circus, every year the parade would pass by before hitting the road. Today there are still Baraboo parades connected with with Circus World Museum that roll by with the elegant colored circus wagons and clowns.

The Mansion also offers overnight stays. You might enjoy a visit to Circus World in the summer with a stay here.



Your editor, Norm was here to hold the camera as we see Bob Neil in front of Ringling's Mansion. The porch is where people still watch the circus parade.

## Historic Meeting in Baraboo

We thank Dolly Jones our former business manager for giving all the WCA assets to Bob Neil who delivered this cargo from the Illinois Manager's Office and to Baraboo. Here the historic meeting was held with the esteemed Mr. Norm. This iconic passing of the WCA assets continued with a lunch and exchange the many boxes of World Clown artifacts..

These precious crates contained the entire collection of WCA medals, handbooks, magazines, letterhead and judging sheets. They were next housed in Mr. Norm's home until current WCA president, the honorable Cliff Hartmeir could decide what was needed for the upcoming Boston Conclave of clowns.

Much gratitude is extended to clown and historian, Mr Bob Neil for his efforts to keep the World Clown Association moving forward.



## Years of Circus & Clown Experience

The extraordinary and cheerful Bob Neil was a police officer in Illinois. He was often assigned to the Ringling Brothers & Barnum Bailey Circus as it rolled into his jurisdiction via railway. He loves to share many "Jackpots" of clowns and other performers who starred in the big top tent. Jackpots is circus lingo for stories with a great ending..

Bob currently guides tours on railway cars as a conductor character actor. His "performances" on trains are filled with humor and history. Thank you Bob Neil, you are a gem in WCA.

By: Norm B.



**CLIFF HARTMIER**

**Your W.C.A. President**

**Greetings Clown Friends,**

Thank you for trusting me to be your president. I will do my best to promote clowning and to serve our members.. I have been busy compiling a new member list and also an up to date e-mail list. We hope to get the newsletter going soon. Many hours have gone into updates to serve you better.

This is an exciting time to be a part of your World Clown Association. I'm excited to see all the preparations for the big Boston Convention. It will be a blast that you won't want to miss.

Our Headliner, Hilary Chaplain will dazzle you with her World Class Clowning master class and her fantastic comical stage show. She is an excellent entertainer and a wonderful teacher.

The Boston convention schedule is super packed with over 35 lectures and workshops that will make it second to none. Louise has put together a great line up. Thank you Louise "Lulu" - you are a gem. We will also have a full line up of contests to show you a wide variety of clown styles.

I think you will enjoy the theme of "Back to the Bedrock of Clowning - a Salute to the Flintstones." The gala party will be very fun. We also have an All Star International Show that will delight you.

We encourage you to invite a friend to join the World Clown association this year. We have many exciting things happening in the upcoming months.

Remember our insurance is second to none. It is very important to have performance insurance. One mistake or unintended problem can cause trouble - even if you are a volunteer clown. Protect yourself, protect your client - and have peace of mind. Get insured with the World Clown special insurance provider.

Now, go out there and spread some humor, love and laughter. - Cliff

**Learn more at our website - [WorldClown.com](http://WorldClown.com)**

# Dianna Hale

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Dianna was put up for adoption by her abusive parents when she was two months shy of being nine years old. She was under weight and had never attended school. Due to the loving adoption parents she survived being in a coma; due to high temp from rheumatic fever. It was during this time that a clown visited the hospital.

Even though she couldn't move or speak, she could still hear. She heard the nurse tell the clown not to go in her room; one child was in a coma, and the other one was blind. She could hear the children laughing from across the hall.

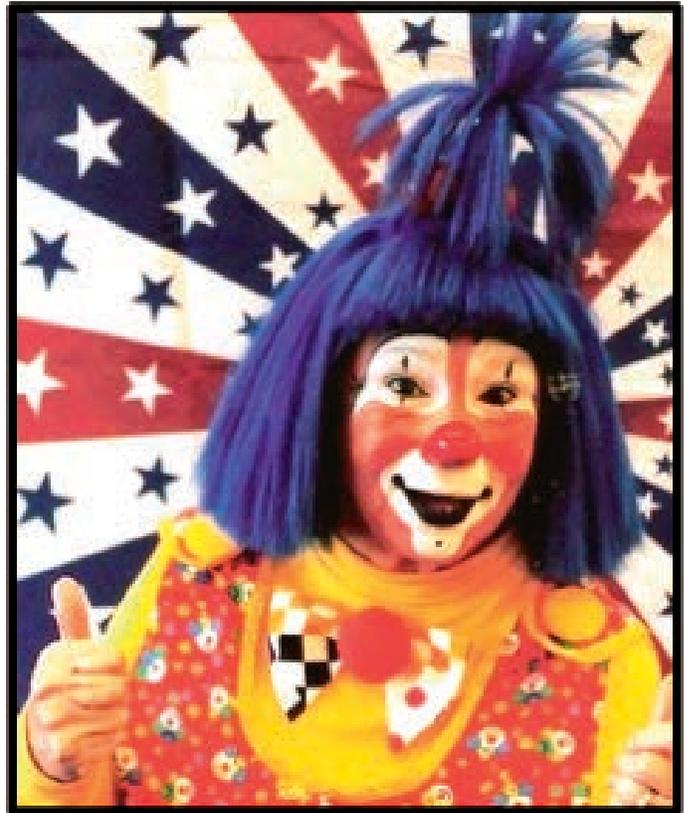
The clown then came into her room and spoke to the girl who was blind; he explained he was a clown. He allowed her to touch his face and nose. He balanced a feather on his nose and had her feel that too. It was at that moment the seed was planted for her desire to become a clown. She wanted to bring laughter to others just as he had done.

This clowning seed kept being squashed by adults telling her to stop clowning around, stop making those silly faces, or your face will freeze like that etc.

Growing up with her new parents worked for a construction company which meant frequent moves. One year she attended three different schools, in three different states.

While in DeLand, Florida, she saw a trailer with Carson and Barnes Circus. She mustered up enough courage to knock on their trailer door. She told them she wanted to be a clown. A huge burly man laughed at her. He shouted "Get out of here kid, you have to be born into the circus family". Again she squashed that clowning seed deep inside of herself.

Fortunately, she started and finished high school in Champagne, Illinois in 1965. My goal was to become a registered nurse.



**Smidgen**

Well, guess what? Nursing schools at that time had a height requirement of 5 foot (IV poles were not adjustable at that time). The years I spent hanging upside down on the bars of the swing set to lengthen my arms and legs just didn't work.

I had to accept the fact that I was not even 4' 11" , and weighed 92 lbs. So, I squashed the idea to be a nurse. When my boyfriend asked me to marry him; I started crying, blubbering I can't marry anyone or have children due to having rheumatic fever and heart murmur. He wraps his arms around me and said, well, let's just pray about it and trust God to handle the rest.

We married in 1966 and needless, to say, three kids later and 48 years of marriage together. In 1976 the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was starting a new BS program in nursing. No height requirements now, so I entered college at age 28. It certainly wasn't easy being a mother of three, wife, and now student, but I love learning and my passion was to be a nurse. I truly believe there is a time and season for everything.

## **Dianna Hale** (continued)

### **Blessing others...**

One of my first patients in pediatrics was a boy in a coma; he would have a seizure every time his meds were given thru nasal gastric tube. No one was talking to him before inserting the meds. I don't know if all patients in a coma can hear; I do know, I could, and believe Michael did too.

After shadowing the nurse for one day, I had to create a care plan for Michael. First thing on the plan was; talk to him, tell him I was going to touch his arm with my hand before injecting the meds.

Guess what, Michael didn't have a seizure...Coincidence? I think not! I'm always a believer of a time and a season for everything; Dianna received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1979 from the University of Tennessee and passed the State Bar exam for registered nurse.

In 1979 Dianna and her husband Carl began teaching youth Sunday School classes, serving as counselors at youth camps, and going on 14 mission trips. She wore many different hats: being camp nurse, cooking along side Carl, and teaching.

Then in 1989 our church was going on an inner-city mission trip, and we were asked to do puppets and clowns. I jumped at the chance. A Shrine clown showed us how to set the makeup so we weren't complete grease balls. The inner city children and adults we ministered to had never seen a clown in person and they accepted us with open arms. Upon our return, our church requested we to do this ministry year round. "We Be Clowns" was organized for ministry.

In 1993 I attended my first clown school where the seed that had been planted years before could be fertilized to start growing. That experience was just the beginning of my clowning adventure. I was like a sponge taking notes as fast as I could write. It was during this week I found out about the other clown associations.



I joined WCA, COAI, and SECA and attended several of the regional and national conventions. In 1994 I co-founded the Magic Town Clown Alley in Birmingham and served as Secretary/Treasure, Chaplain, and President.

In 1995, my husband Carl had a heart attack and required bypass surgery. After one year of recuperating, we both decided to pursue retirement jobs. He opened a small engineering business and I opened Clown Express Ministry. Carl doesn't clown but has given his unconditional love, support, and made many props for me.

Clowning has opened many doors for us to participate in mission trips throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Malaysia. The 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Carl and I were part of the AIM (Atlanta International Missions) it was so amazing. We started each day at a rented building for outreach providing clean Free bathroom and water to those who came in.

# RUN FOR OFFICE OR SERVE



## WCA Needs YOU

Please consider becoming  
- A Territory Director  
We are doing a search for:  
Business Manager  
Editor of Magazine  
Publication Chair.  
Maybe you could be President  
or serve as Convention Chair..

**Please call the office to see where you  
might fit in! Thanks!**

**Please volunteer to help at the convention.**

## Insurance Update

You should have insurance. Now is the time to make sure you and your audience are safe. We recommend a top line company that gives excellent service. Please check your W.C.A. website for clown and entertainer liability insurance.

## CALLING ALL ALLEYS!

As the new Alley Director for WCA this year, I would like to remind you all that you need to renew your membership EVERY year! If you are a Lifetime Alley, there are no dues to pay. But, you must fill out the form on the website listing five WCA members in your alley, and their membership number. Update any change in officers, and contact information, and mail it to the Business Manager.

That's it! Easy Peasy! If you have any questions, any time, please email me at: **raviolitheclown@aol.com.**

## **Dianna Hale** (continued)

### **A Lifetime Lifetime of Clowning**

We did programs with other groups; puppets, mime, jugglers outside in front of the building. And then proceeded to walk the streets handing out pins, that had "More than Gold" printed on them, leaflets about AIM, Frisbees, and Bibles in many different languages.

We were asked to return for the Para Olympics which followed two weeks after the regular Olympics. George Jones, "Ruffles" and "Smidgen" got to walk behind the parade banner with all the Para Olympians, and continued into the Olympic Arena for the lighting of the flame. To watch as hundreds of young people and adults entered the field in wheel chairs or other special devices was heart warming. An eagle was released to encircle the arena and then returned to its perch. We watched as a Para Olympian scaled the tower to light the Olympic Flame; Christopher Reeve than gave a heart warming speech.

Little did I know that 15 years later in 2011, my own son at age 40 would become paralyzed from the waist down due to multiple myeloma cancer. I became Brian's primary care giver. Very difficult time for all of us, but God was with us every step of the way. My son Brian passed in 2013. He's healed and in heaven now.

One year to the date of Brian's passing, my husband, Carl had to have a LVAD (left ventricular assist device) implanted in his heart. Which meant he went from having a heart beat, to having constant blood flow from his heart to his body powered by a controller with batteries. Two batteries set inside the controller bag, an alarm would indicate need for a fresh battery. Four other batteries set on the charging unit at all times.

God gave us four months to enjoy life to it's fullest, and many comical memories of life to enjoy with a husband on battery power. We met as teenagers, dated 3 yrs, engaged 1 year, and married 48 years. The love of my life passed in 2014 and joined our son in heaven.



The clowning seed that was planted back in 1956, has been fertilized yearly by attending clown camps such as Advanced Studies with Leon McBryde, Jim Howe, David Bartlett, CoCo, Jackie LeClaire and many others willing to share their craft with others.

I enjoy giving back educationally by teaching at the TN, AL, and GA Creative Arts Festivals. I've taught classes at TNT in Toccoa, GA. Also by serving as President of SECA in 2007 and again in 2023. I was able to share my passion for clowning at Fellowship of Christian Magicians this year. I am truly blessed; can't wait for the Harvest!.

MEMBERSHIPS: 1993-Present WCA  
1993-Present COAI 1993-Present Fellowship  
of Christian Puppeteers 1994-Magic Town  
Clowns, Birmingham, AL  
1994-Present SECA  
1996-Joined the  
Fellowship of  
Christian  
Magicians



# Earl Mr. Clown Chaney

Remembered by Ron Severini

We've been friends for 50+ years! We started performing together on Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus' BLUE UNIT in 1973. Toured together for several years, then Earl left the Ringling Circus while I stayed on The GREATEST SHOW on EARTH!

He could pretty much "do it all" and during his lifetime, he has! Graduate of Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in 1972; Toured with Ringling for several years. Worked with the best of the best, including Leon "BUTTONS" McBride, as well as one of the greatest painters of Clowns, the one and only Jim Howle!

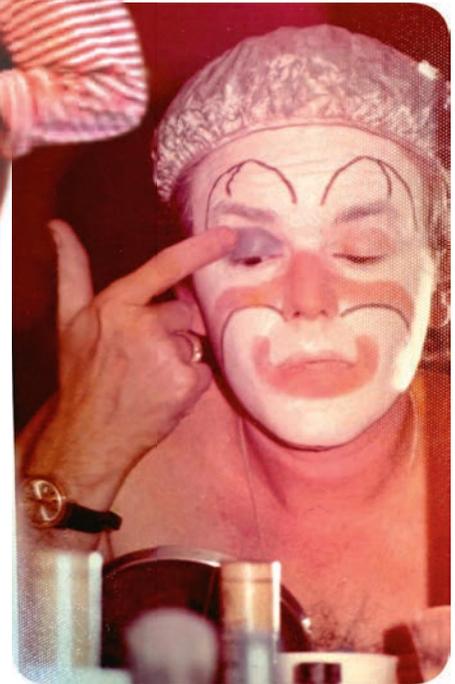
Earl was extremely proficient in magic, actually created and owned one of the best Magic Shops ever - located in Las Vegas, called: PLANET MIRTH!

He was also a juggler, a stilt-walker and a very fine comedy gag creator.





Monica, Earl & Rick Chaney



Earl in the Ringling Clown Alley prepping for the big show.

During his career he was one of the very first RONALD McDONALDs in the USA. He's performed on major TV shows, in circuses, theaters, and toured across the USA performing in most every MALL that hired live comedy stage shows.

As testament to his lifetime achievement thusfar, Earl was bestowed the great honor of being inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame.

Love him as my brother. We recently both lectured together at America's BEST CLOWN TRAINING program, MOOSE BURGER CLOWN CAMP in Minnesota. Earl has dedicated his entire life to clowning and good clean live family entertainment. I'll let the photos attached tell the rest of his story!

Legenday Clown Ron Severini & Earl Chaney at Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp 2025



Report by Ron Severini - Layout Norm B.



Earl, Rick & Monica Chaney



**"Hey Earl, how long does it take you to put on your makeup?"**  
**Earl: "How long do I got?!"**



Photos: Ron Seveerini  
and Monica Chaneyi

# Spotlight on YOU!



## World Clown Competition

**Get Ready, Get set!!! Compete in 2026**

**Join one of the contests of your Dreams!**

Let's see your **Awesome Single Skit - 4 minute limit.**

**Dazzle the Crowd with your Dynamic Group Skit - 4 minute.**

**Bring your best Face Painting, Balloon art or Variety Art skills.**

**Must be at least 4 people in each category to award Prizes.**

**Get your friends to sign up. Complete Rules at [WorldClown.com](http://WorldClown.com)**

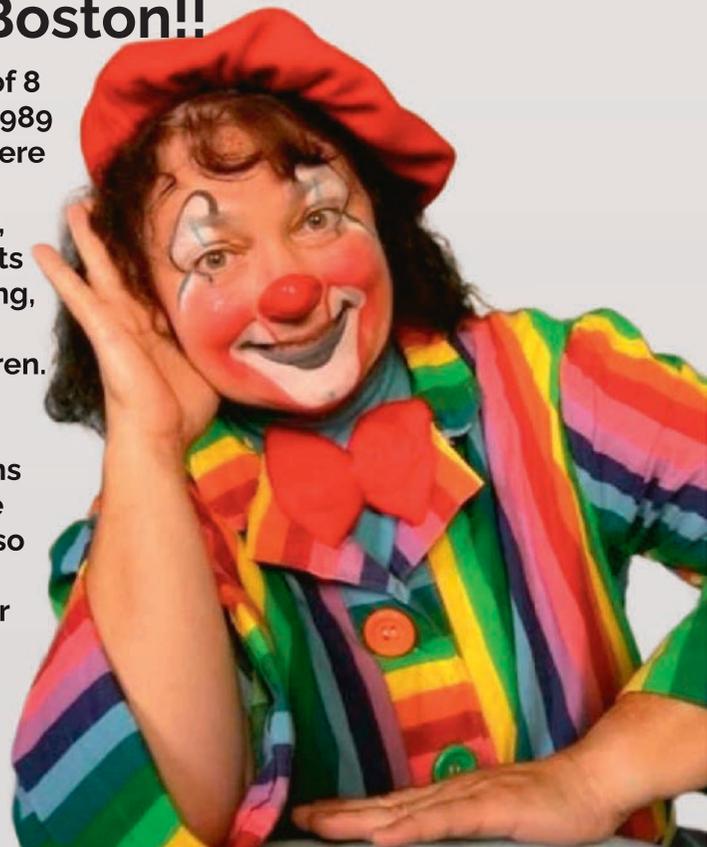
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## Barb Feld to Lecture in Boston!!

Barb Field is a certified teacher and mother of 8 grown children. Her clowning career began in 1989 while on a two-week mission trip to Mexico. There she discovered a love for the art of mime.

Over the years she has performed at schools, nursing homes, libraries, fairs, community events and parties. She has done walk-around clowning, face painting, and balloon twisting. She has combined science and clowning to teach children. She has done hundreds of Christian Ministry performances in clown and mime.

Barb has worked on a regular basis for Clowns on Rounds in hospitals and nursing homes. She has organized and taught at workshops, and also taught at WCA, COAI, TNT, and Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers. She has a real passion for teaching. When she teaches, she emphasizes working from the inside out. Her classes are hands on. Don't miss the fun in Boston 2026!!



# DONNY NGU - NEW WCA SOUTHEAST ASIA DIRECTOR!



**Donny Ngu from Malaysia, Winner of the Skit Competition at Lippo Mall, Kuta, Bali, Indonesia Clown Convention.**

**Donny was recently appointed as the WCA Southeast Asia Director this year at WCA Texas Convention.**

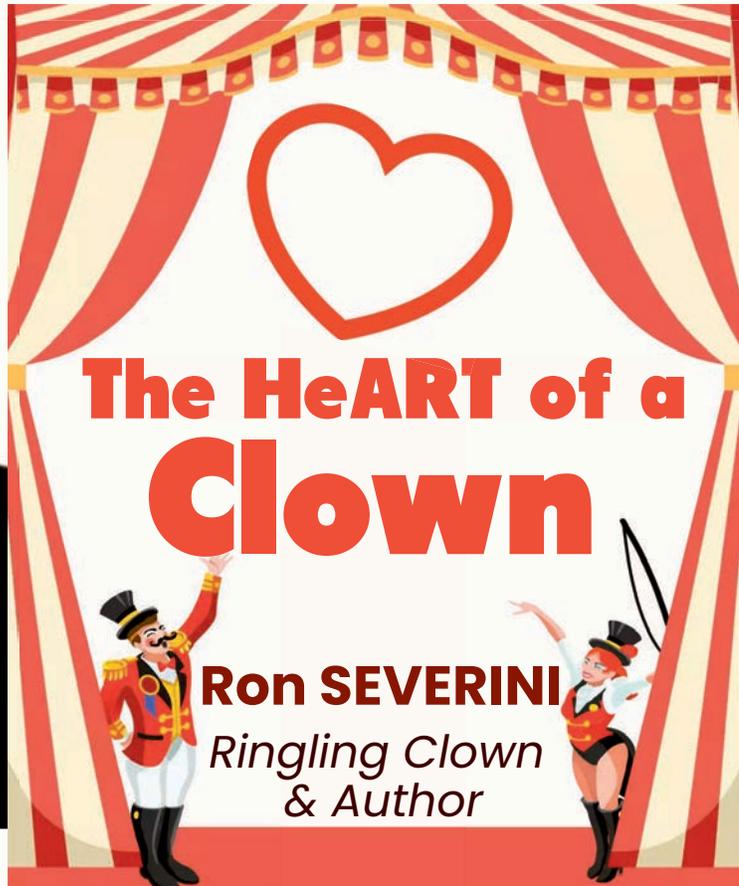
## Boston

### March 2-6, 2026

[WorldClown.com](http://WorldClown.com)



# Featured Lecture Boston 2026



## Special Guest Star Ron Severini

"The HeART of a Clown"  
With Master Clown  
Ron SEVERINI

Sharing secrets, tricks of the trade and "words of wisdom" from some of the greatest clowns of all time, Ron Severini presents a 60-minute, heart-felt, in-depth lecture & discussion, on the creation and development of a clown's unique character, from the inside - out.

It all starts at  
"The HeART of the Clown!"

**Make Plans for  
Boston NOW!  
WorldClown.com**



Ron Severini is a Master Clown, Author and Ringling Clown College Dean.

# Ringling Tent Hammer

## FOUND AT HAMMER MUSEUM IN ALASKA

By: Cliff Hartmier - W.C.A. President

Deanna and I decided to take an Alaskan cruise back in September this year. The four ports of calling were Sitka, Juneau, Haines, Ketchikan. One port that caught my interest was Haines, Alaska. Considering that I have a hidden talent of being the home handyman, there was a museum that caught my interest. This port is the home for the "HAMMER MUSEUM." This unique place offers tourists a tour through tool time! Especially the hammer.

There are about 7,000 hammers in the collection with about 2,000 on display. The museum was started by Dave Pahl in 2002 and became a non-profit in 2004. They have worked with the Smithsonian Institute for identification purposes.

But the crowning glory of a "HAMMER" within the museum was from the RINGLING BROS and BARNUM and BAILEY Circus. I believe this hammer was used in the setting up of those famous circus tents. I am aware of some members who have travelled with this circus and perhaps this is a flashback of the good times?

On another note, if the outside hammer were made of foam and had some balsam wood for reinforcement, it would be a GREAT CLOWN PROP!



# ROCKIN' THAT CLOWN VIBE

With Randy Christensen

In the Autumn of 2024, I enjoyed a wonderful time at the Midwest Clown Association "Round Up" in Indianapolis, Indiana. Incredible clowns gathered for celebration, training, fun and learning. With it being the 50th anniversary of the Midwest Clown Association, I decided to enter various competitions. I enjoy a wide variety of clown performance, but my favorite competition in which I participated was the "paradability" competition.

Thirty years ago I had an idea for a clown prop which I'd never seen anywhere else. It was inspired by that hip-swinging King of Rock and Roll, Elvis. I took that song lyric, "Rock Around The Clock" literally. I found a wooden silverware case at a rummage sale. The interior was already lined with flannel. I painted the outside black. A paper clock face image was found at an educational supply store. I cut some poly foam with a scissors, scoring it into the shape of a rock. Though it's not the best way to color foam, I went for a temporary solution and used some spray paint to color it grey. I glued the polyfoam onto the interior of the case and glued the clock face on top of it. I now literally had a ROCK around the CLOCK.

My father was an incredibly talented painter and freehand sign letterer. I did pick up some of the skills and techniques from him. I lettered the outside of the case with bright colors and also added some musical notes. Adding the musical notes would help direct the thoughts of observers towards the Elvis' song: It helped set up the visual joke.

I pulled together a simple costume with a giant collar and a black rubber "wig." I used my best Elvis impersonation voice as I asked, "You wanna rock around the clock?!" Then I'd open the case and reveal the surprise. People often laughed and clapped. So, of course I said, "thank you...thank you very much," as Elvis did.



I believe I had such a great response because: 1) it was a recognizable beloved character, 2) most of the audience at the convention were older folks and they'd recognize the "Rock Around The Clock" reference, where today's younger audience probably wouldn't have a clue what I was talking about, 3) it's a simple presentation. It didn't need to be explained. It was quick. It was visual.

I perform many classic routines and walkarounds, but I also enjoy doing my own unique creations at times. I was honored to hear a lot of laughs and also receive a first place recognition for this performance at that convention.

--

Randy Christensen  
Children's Specialist / Edutainer

...and another thing...

from the *Mad Mind* of Christopher Hudert

© Christopher Hudert - 2021

Originally published in [JestForClowns.com](http://JestForClowns.com)

# DON'T BE FUNNY, BE ENTERTAINING



Okay, so the title is a bit of a misnomer. This is not really about not being funny, it's about being more than just funny. How often have you heard something to the effect of "Hey clown, do something funny!" or "Make me laugh?" Doesn't the demand to "be funny" often drain the comedy right out of us? Every joke, every comic bit of business, every iota of fun takes wing and we end up doing or saying something lame. And to make matters worse, we pretty much make the same demand of ourselves and our fellow clowns through our words or actions.

I say don't cave to the pressure. And the easiest way is to remember and practice not being funny all the time!

Oh, I can hear the wails of protest going up now. "But we're clowns. We're supposed to make people laugh." Okay, I'll give you that, but that is only a part of what we are truly supposed to do as clowns. What I'm talking about is a far cry from not being funny any of the time, or trying to be funny all the time. It's about the vast territory between the not funny and the genuinely funny, and how to mine that territory for diamonds, gold, and jewels of every kind.

The bigger picture, the whole picture, is we are first and foremost entertainers. As entertainers, if we are always only reaching in the funny bin, we are neglecting the many levels of entertainment at our disposal - including the different levels and kinds of funny. Why be one dimensional, even as a clown, and only explore one emotion or

thought process? I believe it is vital we bring moments of wonder, suspense, awe, beauty, joy, gentle smiles, and more than a few eye rolls and groans, along with the various levels of laughter we share. Those other moments serve to make the laughter stronger and stay with the audience long after your show is over.

Do more and be more. Reach for the *ah* and the *aha* moments besides the *ha ha* moments to enhance your performance. When you perform, where are the moments of beauty, the moments of discovery, the moments of loss and failure (and occasional triumphs) that are common to humanity and make your moments of fun and funny even more memorable? Do you purposefully build them into your shows and other performance regularly? If you don't, and don't make a habit of it, you are leaving out an essential element of both comedy and entertainment.

Think of your show as building an exciting roller coaster ride. There are twists, turns, builds—slow and fast, drops—small and large, suspense, maybe a loop or two, some flat track and an exciting finish that levels off and leaves them wanting more. Remember, there are different kinds and sizes of roller coasters, from kiddy sized to "killer" coasters. So your shows can vary too by who you are entertaining.

What about pathos? Do you have to be a tramp clown to use it? No, absolutely not. Truth is you should explore different levels and types of emotion no matter what type of clown you are, so when you perform, you entertain your audience on many levels—from laughter to tears

*Scoot over for the big finish . . .*

to laughter again.

Elements in your show that include a “wow, that was cool” aspect, or an “aww, that was sweet” aspect, or a “wow, that was incredible” aspect, all benefit a show. Pathos can create a moment of beauty that captures a pearl of the human experience that will remain long after your performance is done. In a longer piece, there would be moments of laughter as comic relief, but just as likely as not, there may be a tear in the eye.

The two most engaging emotions are laughing and crying. They draw people to them or repel people from them, like magnets. People automatically want to know what others are laughing or crying about. If they empathize with and share in an idea, they are further drawn in. If they don't, they are pushed away. Comedy, to a large degree, utilizes both ends of the spectrum.

Interspersed between your funny moments, you build the fun (and the funny) with other interesting and entertaining moments, bits, gags, jokes, and... skills! Yikes, I said the “S” word—*skills*. Bring your other skills to the

clown table. I can almost hear the plaintive cry, “But I don't have any skill I can use in clowning.” Really?

Can you perform a magic trick? Make a balloon sculpture? Juggle? Okay, great, you can work those skills into a show in a comic and/or entertaining manner. But how about playing an instrument? Paper cutting or folding? Singing? Telling stories? Balancing objects? Belly dancing? Standing on your hands? Skipping double dutch rope? Can you Yo-Yo? Hula hoop? Play string games like “cat's cradle?” Walk? Talk? Chew gum? Do you have a pet that does tricks? These things may not seem to be clownie at first glance, but they are skills that can certainly be worked into a show.

Where is the line between just being funny and being entertaining? Is it a fine line or a broad brush stroke? Being more entertaining and enhancing your performance means using more of the tools at your disposal. From mini *ha ha*'s to many *ha ha*'s, the best clowns know how to get big laughs and little laughs—and use everything else in between. So, I challenge and encourage you—*don't be funny, be entertaining.* **JFC**

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# BEBOP'S WORLD

## THE BIRTHDAY PARTY: A CHILD'S SPECIAL DAY!!

By: Aurora "Bebop" Krause, WCA Past-President

I enjoy doing birthday parties; they're the first celebration children learn about, events that will be remembered for a long time. So I want the child to know that I'm honored and excited to be a part of their special day. Regardless of how many birthday parties I've done, I give my very best to every single one. The birthday child is expecting a clown to add fun to his special day so I've prepared accordingly. I may also be the very first clown some of the children at the party have ever seen. So it's my duty to make this a special memory for them.

For Bebob, any opportunity to clown is an opportunity to honor the Art of Clowning, so a birthday party in someone's home is just as important as a stage production at a local museum. As I prepare for my birthday party I remember that I will be celebrating with the birthday child, their friends and their family so my audience will likely enjoy some multi-level entertainment. I have designed my show for the little ones but I will consider all in attendance when it comes to providing entertainment.

These are some of the guidelines I set for myself when it comes to birthday parties:

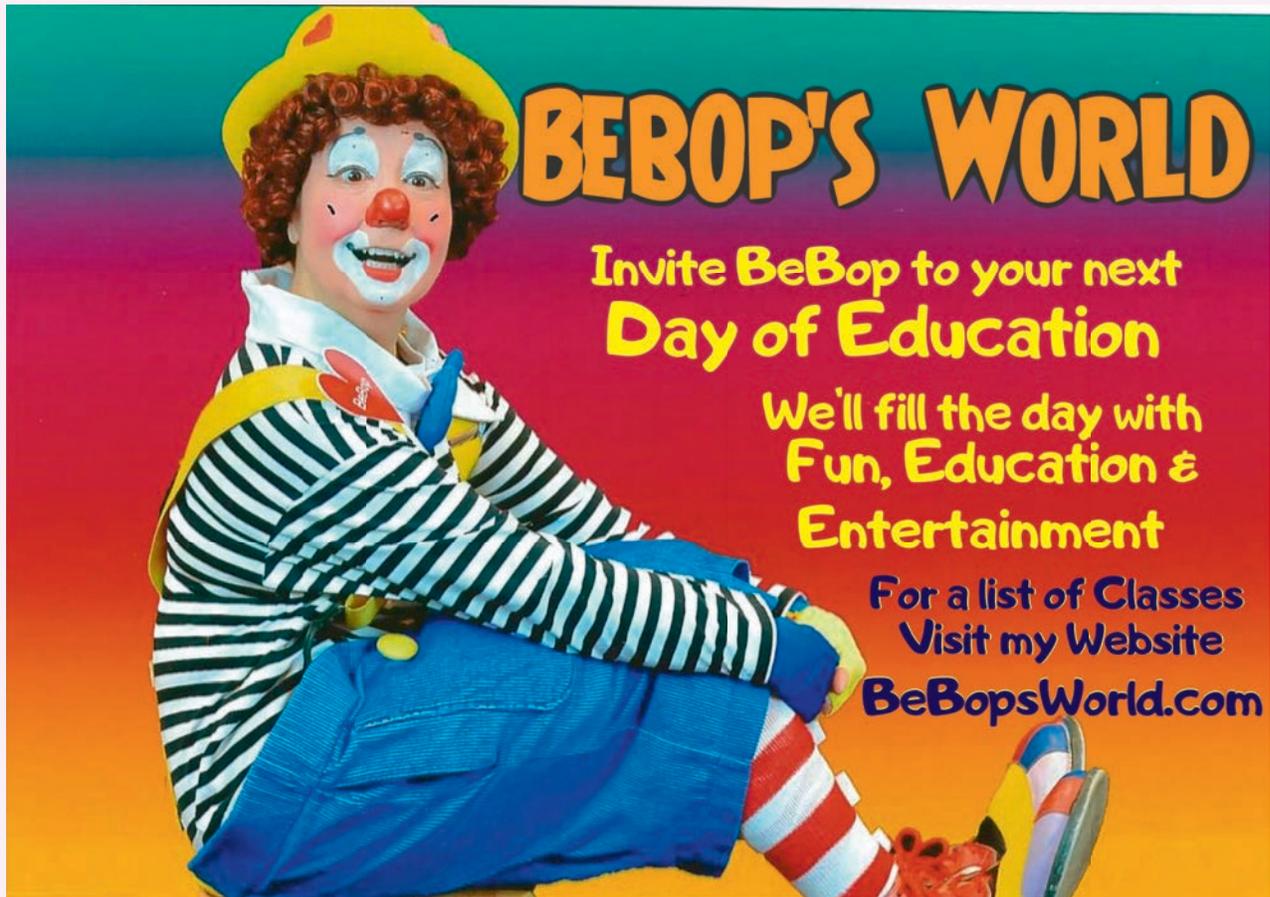
- \* My birthday parties are designed for children seven and under. Older children have seen too much and can take the fun out of an entertaining clown show.
- \* The party is typically 1-hour long. This includes a 30min. clown show with a balloon and glitter design for each child.
- \* I don't do more than two birthday parties a day. If I plan on doing two parties I make sure they're spaced well enough so I'm not rushed from one party to the other.
- \* After the initial call I send an e-mail to my contact containing a 'Letter of Agreement'. This document details the particulars we've discussed and agreed on, I request confirmation but do not require a deposit. I ask for such things as space to do the show in and table space to set-up for glitter designs, but I work with what I get when I arrive.
- \* I'm at the party 15 minutes before scheduled starting time in order to set-up and greet the children before the show.

- \* I arrive with a large birthday bag filled with balloons, one for each child. I ask the mother to hold on to the balloons 'till after my clown show.
- \* I begin my 30 min. clown show on time and it unfolds as follows:
  - It starts with upbeat music
  - Strong magic routine
  - Audience participation routine
  - Musical number
  - Comedy routine
  - It ends with upbeat music
- \* The balloons are distributed while I set-up to do glitter designs for all the children and I place my business cards on the table.
- \* I allow myself to have 10 to 15 minutes after the assigned time in case it's needed and before I leave I'm paid with cash or a check.

My interest in clowning at any celebration is to provide a clown performance that will add fun and positive memories for all in attendance. When it comes to birthday parties it's easy to get complacent but I mustn't let that happen. It's most important to remember that it's a child's big day and BeBop has been invited to add fun to this special event, I'm honored and grateful, I always strive to give a child's birthday party my very best.

Please share your ideas with me, I enjoy hearing from you.

- Visit BeBop at: [www.bebopsworld.com](http://www.bebopsworld.com)



# Europe & Africa

## Jester Jim Neil

### Clown Platform



*The Clown Platform is a Gathering of people who would like to share their skills in clowning and performing arts with other people. It also includes an invitation for people who want to explore our world to attend part or all of the 4 day meet ups*

*In the past when Andy Davis had his event in England he had one or two people attend for part of the week who were exploring what clowning is. At least two of them have gone on to be part time clowns.*

*The name Clown Platform came about as Hazel ( my wife) and I saw the event as a stepping stone to try out new ideas, like stepping out into new territory or the unknown but in a safe place with fellow clowns and friends.*

*The event this year had a show on Thursday evening,,in it were two simple sketches that included most of the performers being involved and had been put together during the 4 day meet up. We also had sketches from all the individual clowns, some working with a partner and also solo acts.*

*For myself I learnt a lot being in a routine with Andy Davis*

*Most of the performers. travelled up to the hos town following the Annual clown service in London on Sunday.evening.*

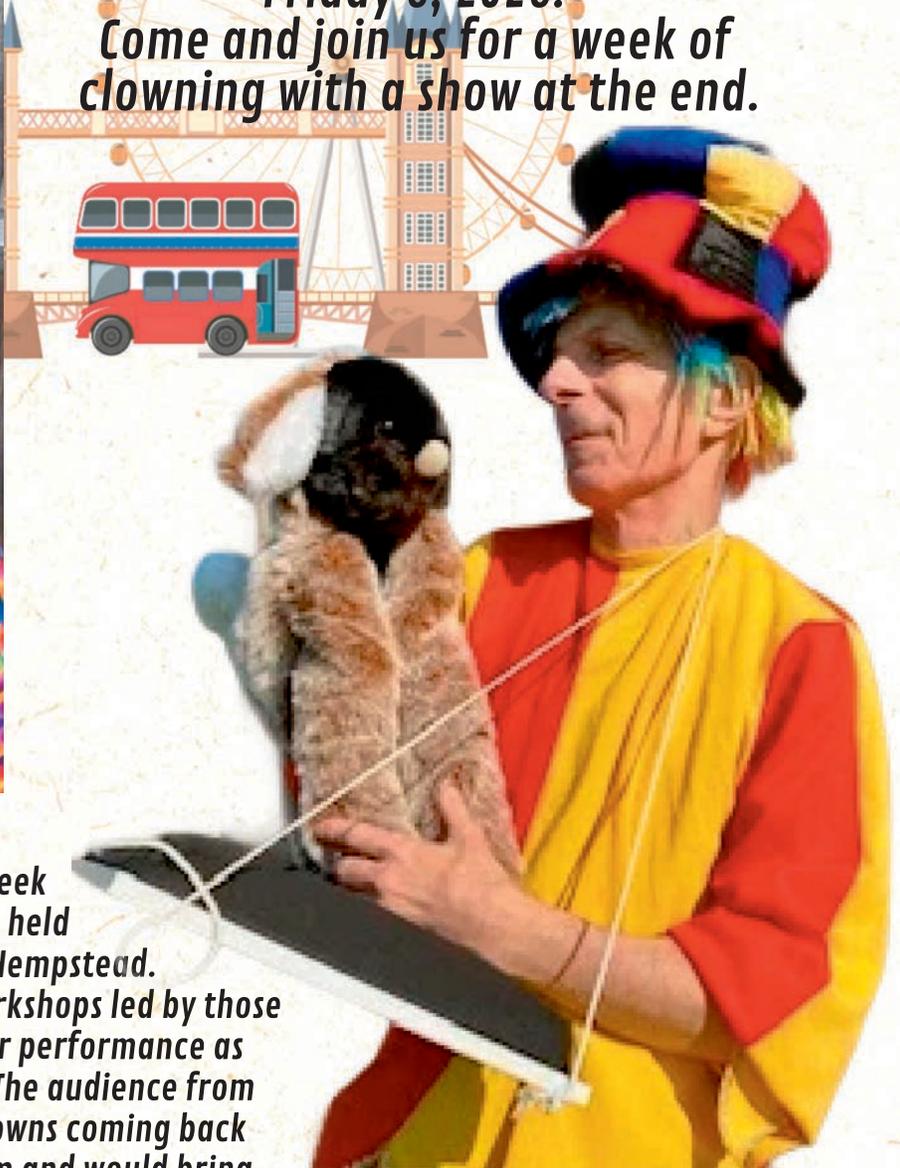




## Plans for Clown Platform in Hemel Hempstead, England

To follow the Grimaldi Service on Monday 2 February to Friday 6, 2026.

Come and join us for a week of clowning with a show at the end.



Service in Monday 2 February to Friday 6 2026. Come and join us for a week of clowning with a show at the end to be held at Grove Hill Community Centre, Hemel Hempstead.

The plan is to have a mixture of workshops led by those attending with the aim of improving our performance as clowns and learning from one another. The audience from the show have asked already are the clowns coming back next year as they would love to see them and would bring their friends.

The venue is able to offer workshop space as well as a large hall with stage for performance. It also has an on-site cafe which can provide meals including breakfast at a very reasonable price.

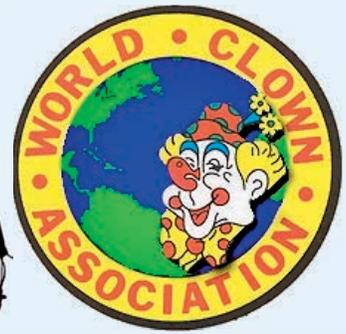
If you are interested please contact :Neil Wilkin, Jester Jim by email: [jesterjim.gym@gmail.com](mailto:jesterjim.gym@gmail.com) Telephone: 01727 830009 or by post to: 127 Holyrood Crescent, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England AL1 2LY by 5 September so that we have an idea of numbers interested

*Jester Jim Neil*

**Come to Boston  
WCA 2026**

**Invite a Friend**

**WorldClown.com**



## Boston World Clown Association Convention March 2-6

This location makes it a convention for the entire family with plenty to do! Our hotel is the Boston Revere/Boston Common located in the heart of the theater district. You can walk to all kinds of area restaurants. In the morning Dunkin Donuts is across the street, Starbucks one block away, while Coffee Nero located throughout the city offers great coffee, soups, and pastries.

The Rebel Restaurant located in the hotel offers full breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located on the corner, on the opposite side of the street is a CVS for all your basic needs. A block away is the trolley station and stop 7 to get on the trolley. This is a fully guided tour with the ability to hop on and off with a day pass.

### Things you can see on your day pass are:

- Stop 1: Faneuil Hall Market place, The New England Aquarium, Quincy Market. Quincy Market offers plenty of shops, beer gardens, and plenty of places to eat.
- Stop 2: The Historic North End. Here you will find Little Italy with all kinds of Italian restaurants, bakeries, and cafés. You will also find Paul Revere's house and the Old North Church.
- Stop 3: The USS Constitution, and Charlestown Navy Yard.
- Stop 4: North Station and the TD Garden (A large sports arena), plenty of pro shops and museums
- Stop 5: Downtown Crossing and Historic District. You'll find the Old South Meeting House, a Museum, Macys, plus the Samuel Adams Tap Room.
- Stop 6: Charles Street, known as Antique Row. One restaurant to visit is Cheers, you can have a bite to eat plus visit the gift shop.
- Stop 7: This is the area of your hotel. There are plenty of theaters, restaurants, Boston Public Garden, and the home of the Swan Boats.
- Stop 8: This is the beginning of Freedom Trail. Here is the Otis House Museum, Kings Chapel, and Park Street Church.
- Stop 9: A family stop where you will experience the Boston Tea Party ships, the Boston Children's Museum and plenty of restaurants. The map below shows you a little about the route which takes about 90 minutes if you don't hop off at any of the trolley stops.

The hotel will honor our convention rate if you come a day or two early or stay up to two days later so you can take advantage of some of the top things to do while visiting Boston.

- \* Whale Watch Cruise 3.5 Hours \$ 80.00 \* Boston Duck Tour 80 Minutes \$ 60.00
- \* Guided Walking Tours 2.5 Hours \$ 39.00 \* Hop On Hop Off Trolley \$ 52.00 \* Boston Harbor Sunset Cruise 1.5 Hours \$ 31.00 \* Boston Ghost & Gravestone Tour 1.5 Hours \$ 42.00
- \* Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum \$ 35.00 \* Boston Children's Museum 1 Day \$ 28.00
- \* Boston Freedom Trail Walking Revolutionary Tour 2.5 Hours \$ 31.00
- \* New England Aquarium 1 Day \$ 39.00

Surrounding the Boston Revere Hotel are plenty of theaters offering shows that you can walk to. Emerson College which is located in buildings surrounding the district will be featuring the music of Hans Zimmer, Stereophonic, and Hadestown. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and possibly your families. This is going to be a great convention.

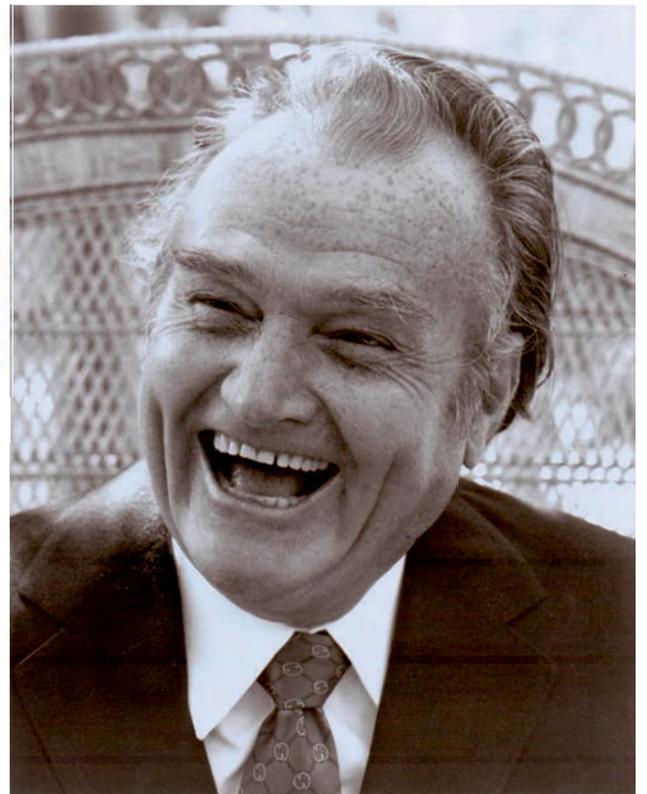
- Louise Carnesale Convention Chair

# Red Skelton



"I personally believe we were put here to build and not to destroy."

"I'm nuts and I know it. But so long as I make 'em laugh, they ain't going to lock me up."



"All men make mistakes, but married men find out about them sooner."

"Any kid will run any errand for you, if you ask at bedtime."

"Live by this credo: have a little laugh at life and look around you for happiness instead of sadness. Laughter has always brought me out of unhappy situations."

"No matter what your heartache may be, laughing helps you forget it for a few seconds."

Your Editor and The WCA thanks the Red Skelton Museum in Indiana for photos of a Master Clown, Mr. Red Skelton.

[RedSkeltonMuseum.org](http://RedSkeltonMuseum.org)

"If by chance some day you're not feeling well and you should remember some silly thing I've said or done and it brings back a smile to your face or a chuckle to your heart, then my purpose as your clown has been fulfilled."

# Indonesian Clown Convention

Irippe Mall, Kuta, Bali

Reported by: Edmund Khong



Everyone Clowns Around at the Convention.



"Good Clowns Ministry Team" from Hong Kong  
Marvell (Son of Indonesian Clown Alley President Yogi)  
performing plate spinning, on top of giant circus ball

# Indonesian Clown Convention

Lippo Mall, Kuta, Bali



Chagy (USA), Edmund Khong (Singapore),  
Uncle Button (Malaysia), Zipper (Thailand),  
Yogi (Indonesian Clown Alley President)



New Clown on left with Clown Ibnu



Clown Ricki and his son



Edmond Khong  
[captaindazzle.com](http://captaindazzle.com)

# How do you Promo your Character?

By Jackie Newton - Past President WCA

As a weekly and very active entertainer since 1994, I have often asked myself, "How do you promo yourself?" I have had a few dry spells over the years and wondered, "What happened?" These are the times to reflect. Are you relying on yourself? An agent? Social media? Newsletters and organizational materials? Local media?

As a standup comedian, an author, singer, band "agent," professional clown and mime performer, facepainter, balloon artist, murder mystery actor and director, floor show performer, etc., I have to continually market myself. This isn't always easy. I am not a tall, lanky showgirl anymore, I can't rely on my looks. I know what you are thinking, but venue owners are always looking for youth and energy, even in clowns.

I have had to really consider a few things. How active can I be? How long can I keep going for one gig? How do I advertise myself without false 20-year-ago photos? How do I present ME to SELL myself? Here are some of the things I have had to do to really make this work.

1. Stay fresh, always keep on top of what is popular now. Example; the easy balloon doggy is SO popular right now since earrings, stuffed animals and t-shirts have these everywhere. One of my balloon artist friends is much more advanced than me. We were recently balloon twisting and she made this amazing four piece dog. I made the 20 second kind...the kids came back for mine. Their explanation? They had these new marketing merch pieces with the original balloon dog on them. Watch what kids are into right now. Go to Hot Topic and some of their stores...I swear, you may be surprised.

2. PLEASE - STOP BEING ANCIENT. YOU must begin to accept social media and computers and internet. Folks, they've been around forever, time to catch up. You want to still work or at least clown at some events, PLEASE stop rejecting social media. AI is not a new hot sauce for steak either! Use these tools. Yes, WCA has a website and a forum page, please use them. Go on Facebook and Instagram...these places show you the NEW world. Tik Tok and other sources will show you what people are doing, especially the newer generations. What are streamers/social media leaders and digital creators doing these days? Invite these people to WCA conventions...they are the world of advertisement now.



## How do you Promo your Character?

3. TAKE your COSTUME on vacation! Some of the greatest promos are world and national travel. Take photos in front of the St. Louis Arch, the Bean in Chicago or the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Nothing is more beautiful than a clown in front of these famous monuments and it is so impressive in promos for later. If nothing else, they are great photos for your grandchildren.

4. Create flyers and business cards...make sure you have them. I can't tell you how many business cards I give out going through the drive thru at restaurants. I also keep miniature rubber chickens in my back seat for giveaways. A clown or entertainment wrap on your car is the best investment you will ever make. They run about \$2000 but pay for themselves in just a few weeks.

5. See if your local area has a small newspaper, radio station or chamber newsletter that would be willing to share who you are.

6. I create my own posters when I do standup or murder mystery to hang around the business that is sponsoring me. It has the time, place, date and great action shots for people to view.

7. I try to keep a log of every client with a phone number (A text number! Very few people under the age of 60 speak on the phone these days...they TEXT!) Unless you are dealing with venues of only 60 years plus, please use texting :) Three clients, just today, texted me!

8. You and your clients should know your limitations. I used to do six hour walk arounds, now I do no more than three hours with breaks and a place to cool down. I worked at a water park cut into a mountain in the Ozarks this summer in 105 degree heat index. The owner met me at the top parking lot in a Gator and drove me back up the hill with gear. My band and I will no longer play in direct sunlight, the client must provide fans and shade if they are outdoor venues.

This goes for balloon twisting and facepainting gigs also. I don't present myself to clients as an old, slow moving lady, but I do let them know that I have requests for their venue. I make jokes. "Hey...I melt in the sun." I will need a tent and a fan. The PICTURE on my cards and flyers are ME at this age. Please promo who you are now. I would love to put the picture of me as a showgirl in 1996 on my promos, but I call foul on that.

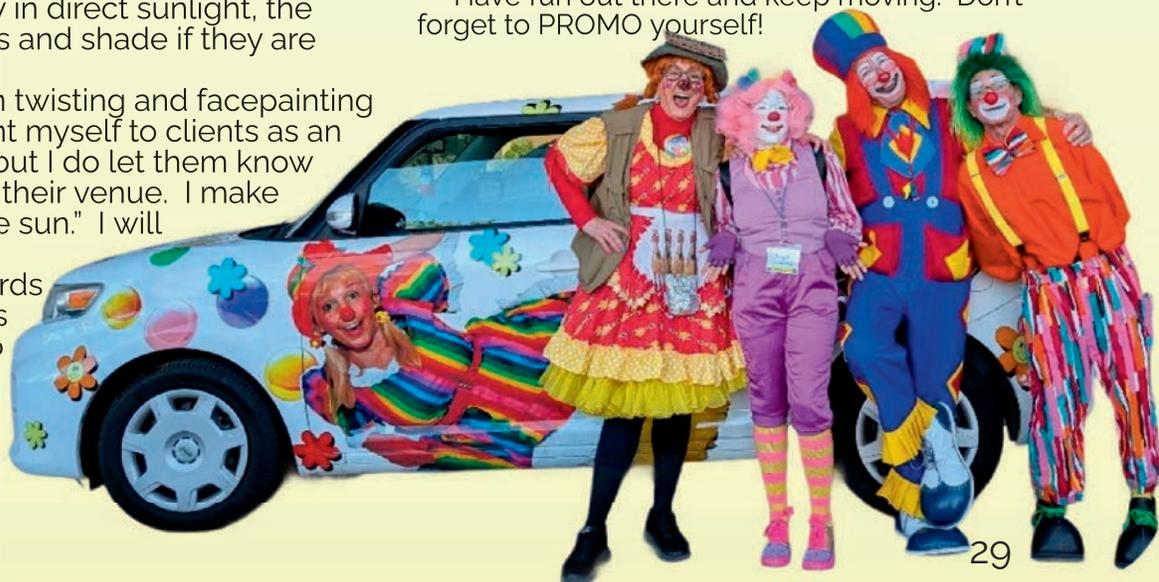


My website is sorely outdated right now and I am desperately looking for someone to update it. If you use a photo from 25 years ago and then show up as you, there are going to be some questions and disappointments.

9. Last suggestion: Friend some young clowns and performers. I hang with 20 year olds in this business, want to know why? Because they give me TODAY in my business, I hire their energy and I respect what they have to offer.

They teach me to stay TODAY in this business and I can give them "old lady" experience. I never give them advice unless they ask for it, but by golly, I ask them a million questions. If they are successful and twenty-something, I want to know how they are doing it. Recently I am becoming acquainted with the stand up circuit for the first time in years. They are 20-40 years old...and a wealth of information!

Have fun out there and keep moving. Don't forget to PROMO yourself!



# WORLD CLOWN FESTIVAL JAPAN 2025



## WCA JAPAN DIRECTOR K AT WORLD CLOWN FEST

The 8th World Clown Festival was a huge success in Japan recently. This was the 20th Anniversary of the Aichi Expo. The event took place over three days, from September 13th - 15th. The 15th is our National Holiday.

This wonderful and colorful event was held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, at the company called Pleasure Planning, at our lovely staged studio, began by "K the Clown."

The host team was Pleasure Planning Ltd. and the NPO Japan Hospital Clown Association.

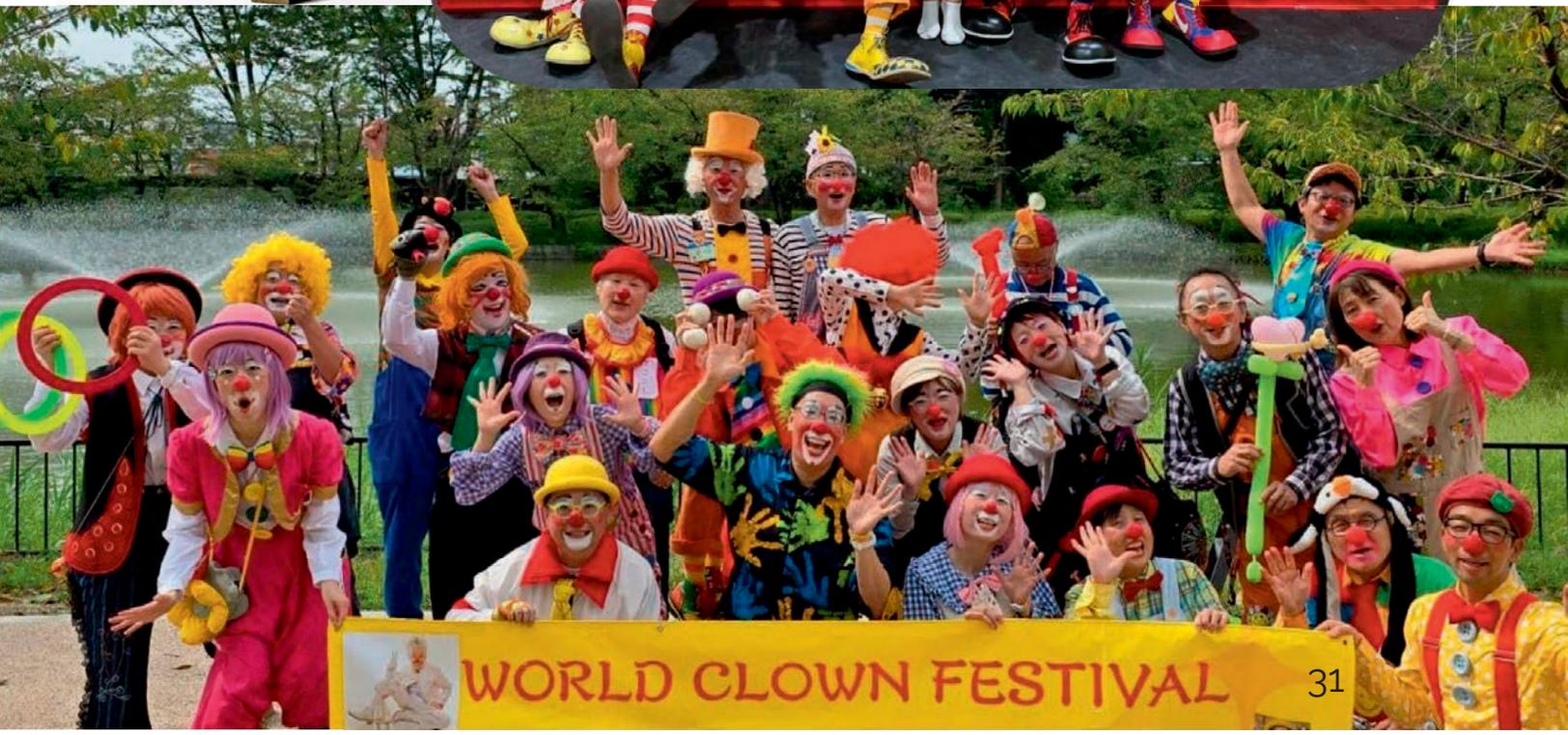
The main guests included Iman (France), Sam Tee (Malaysia), Edmond (Singapore), and Yogi (Indonesia). The event was attended by 40 people from seven countries and included an all-star International Stage Show..

Participants enjoyed classes, a photo picnic, and a shabu-shabu party. Mr. K, Kosuke hopes to organize this event annually.

After the convention, everyone enjoyed sightseeing in Kyoto.

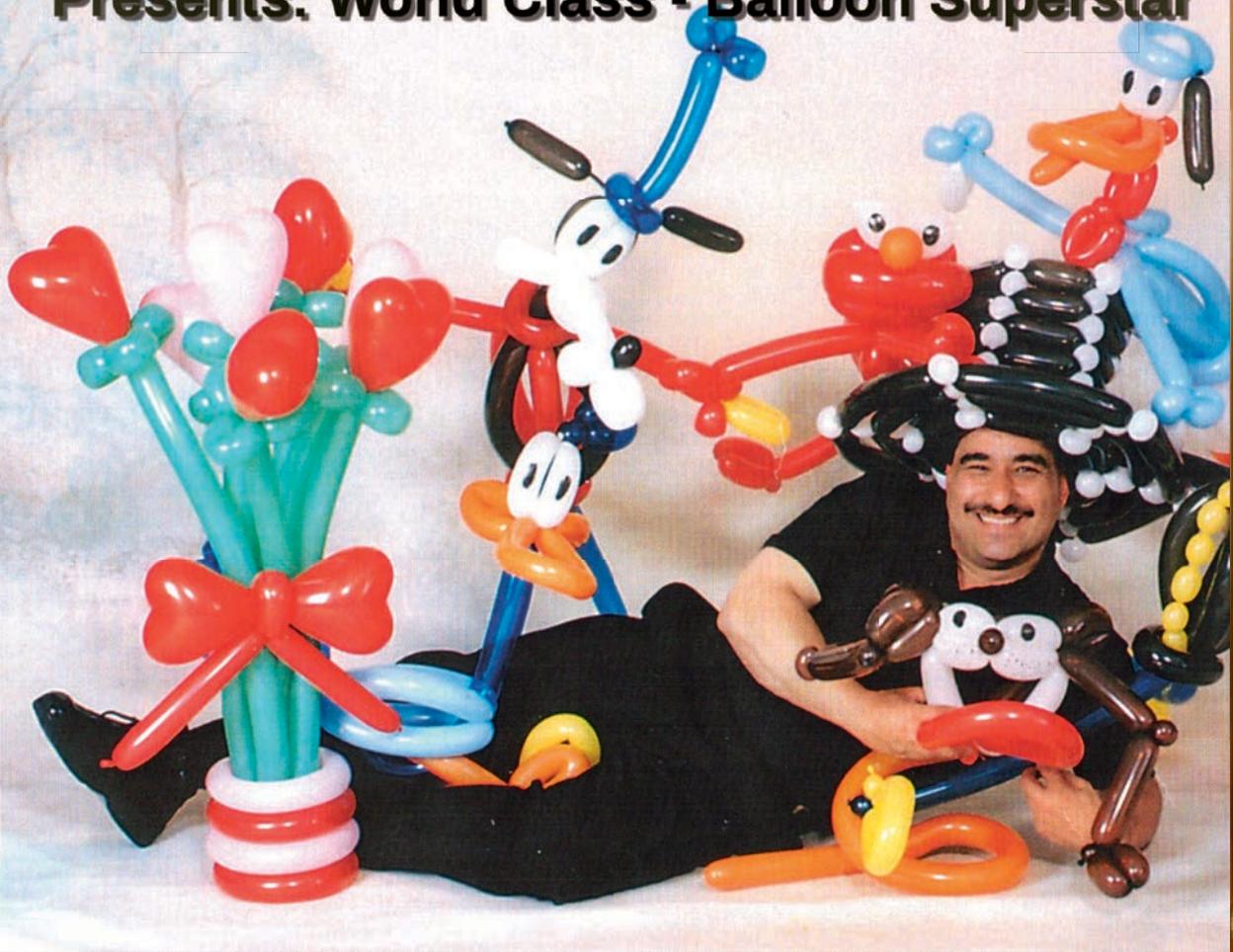


# JAPAN WORLD CLOWN FEST



## WCA Boston

**Presents: World Class - Balloon Superstar**



**Nick the Balloonatic Rotondo**

*Delightful Designs*

Nick will thrill you with his expertise in balloon art. Discover new and fascinating twists that will amaze your audiences. Take your balloons to the next level with training in Nick's easy, moderate and advanced skills.

This master of balloons will share his recent creations along with some of his all time crowd pleasing favorites. Stretch your imagination and see the possibilities that can take your balloon art to all new heights.

Get your reservations in now for the World Clown Conference in Boston. All the fun happens from March 2-6, 2026. Learn more at [WorldClown.com](http://WorldClown.com).

# He's Back.....

## Ralph "Clumsy" Llewellyn

### Northwest Regional Director



#### Hello again! I am back

I will start with a reinduction to some and an introduction to so many more. I am Ralph "Clumsy" Llewellyn and your new Northwest Regional Director. I can't tell you how excited I am to assume the responsibility of this role in this amazing organization.

Most of you may not be familiar with me due to some absence I have had from the organization while I pursued my other "career." So, I will start with some background. I started my life as a "real" clown in the summer of 1981. I was very fortunate to stumble across Ken "Dizzy" Gillespie (WCA President 1988-1989) when he moved into my hometown of Minot, North Dakota. That became the beginning of a lifetime of learning and one of my most treasured friendships. Dizzy was quick to take me under his wing and introduce me to opportunities that I could never imagine. One of those opportunities was the newly forming World Clown Association. He highly encouraged me to join the organization and become involved.

Little did I know what that would mean. Along with my membership card, I received notice that I had been selected as the Northwest Regional Director of WCA. I will be honest, that was a bit overwhelming for an 18 year old..... As I write this article, I am looking at the last article I composed for Clowning Around. It was in the February 1983 issue of Clowning Around..... It's been a while, but it feels good to be back in the saddle again! Early on Dizzy introduced me to Freckles, Dune Buggy, Flap Jack, and many more. Looking back, I had no idea the magnitude of expertise I was being exposed to.

One other highlight came around this time. Our state fair held a Clown Competition for many years. I think it was the Summer of 1983 when I met a fellow youngster by the name of Cliff "Mr. Stripes" Hartmier. Thus began a lifelong friendship that I value greatly.

Between then and now, I have been in and out of active clowning as my other "career" demanded time. But that time is coming to an end which creates the opportunity for me dive back in headfirst!

As your new Northwest Regional Director, I am looking to you for input on how I can best serve you and make this organization as great of a benefit as possible. At the same time, I am looking for any correspondence possible on events that are occurring in our region (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska). My intent is to promote these events to help increase visibility and attendance. And if I am lucky, maybe I can find a way to drop in on few of these events over this large geography. At the same time, I encourage each of you in my region to reach out with an introduction. I would like to learn more about each of you and am willing to promote you, your character, and your events - either through this forum or through social media. Please note my contact information at [rllewellyn1964@gmail.com](mailto:rllewellyn1964@gmail.com).

A little bit about Clumsy:

- Created in summer of 1980 at a Clowns for Christ event.
- My name was given to me by Vicki Adams (high school classmate and fellow youth group member) as a reference to my early attempts as the only one in the group that would juggle.
- White Face (originally) but am working on a conversion to August.
- Skills - Magic (first ever job was working behind the counter of a magic store), simple juggling (balls, clubs, rings), and comedy. I love a good parade!

I am looking forward to hearing from you. Hope you will join me in attending the WCA Convention in Boston!

That's it for now!

Ralph "Clumsy" Llewellyn



**Lou Jacobs**

## **Greg DeSanto Remembers Lou Jacobs**

I was but a baby clown trying to figure out how to take what he showed me, process it and make it funny. The sentiment of kindness & sharing is something he left with me 39 years ago.

"The effects of kindness are not always seen immediately. Sometimes it takes years until your kindness will pay off, and is returned to you. And sometimes you never see the fruits of your labors, but they are there, deep inside the souls of the ones you touched."

There would not have been the Clown College experience without a Lou Jacobs. His gift, passion, friendship & kindness touched every student who attended and continues to be shared with new generations of clowns thru his connection with us. Regular folks can look at photo's of Lou, watch video of Lou, collect stamps with Lou on them. But as clowns, we are are lucky ones...we had Lou.

**Thanks to: [TheClownMuseum.com](http://TheClownMuseum.com)**

# Hilary

## Chaplain



**Boston March 2-6, 2026**  
**Workshop & Dynamic Stage Show**  
**24 Years - Big Apple Circus**      **Our Featured Performer**  
**Amazed audiences in 20 countries**      **WorldClown.com**

# Last Walkaround

## Lee “Juggles” Mullally

By Bruce “Charlie” Johnson

Lee “Juggles” Mullally passed away on May 29, 2025. He had a tremendous long-term impact upon the World Clown Association particularly in the areas of education and the Clowning Around magazine. He made other important contributions to the art of clowning.

Lee's first contribution to the WCA was made in 1985 at the local level. He taught a six-week course titled The Art of Clowning at the Santa Fe Community College. To meet his student's desire to continue their education following the completion of the class, Lee helped organize the Gainesville Sunshine Clowns, a WCA affiliated alley, in 1986. He encouraged members of the alley to become active WCA participants. Two of his students, Jim Gorgans and Mary Bennett, eventually served as WCA President. In recognition of his continued contributions to this WCA alley, Lee was named the first Gainesville Sunshine Clowns Lifetime Member in December 2012.

Lee wrote an article that appeared in the October 1988 issue of Clowning Around. In February of 1989 he started his long running juggling column in the magazine. He continued his juggling column for many years following that.

Eventually he replaced his juggling column with one on promoting yourself. His innovative ideas included instructions for magic tricks that you can perform with your business cards when you are distributing them.

That was followed by a column on teaching variety arts. Lee was particularly qualified to write that series because he was a Doctor of Education and taught in the University of Florida education department.



Over the years Lee wrote has written several hundred articles that appeared in Clowning Around. He wrote a total of 96 articles during the four years he served on the board because he continued his column and wrote his officer's report in each monthly issue of Clowning Around. In 2010, he became the first person to win the WCA Author's Award.

Lee was elected WCA Educational Director in 1990 and planned the WCA portion of the educational program at the 1991 World Clown Convention held in Bognor Regis, England. This convention was actually two conventions held in the same location concurrently. One was sponsored by the World Clown Association and the other was sponsored by Clowns International.

Being the WCA Education Director was a difficult task because Lee had to coordinate the program with the Clowns International Education Director and schedule the classes in an overseas venue that was different from the hotels where WCA conventions were normally held.

## Lee “Juggles” Mullally

The educational program was the most successful portion of this convention which was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest clown convention in history.

Lee was elected as WCA President Elect in 1991. He served as WCA President in 1992-1993 and Immediate Past President in 1993-1994. This was a difficult time when it looked like the organization might have to disband. Under Lee's leadership, the organization not only survived, it thrived. In recognition of his efforts, Lee was honored as the WCA Clown of the Year in 1994.

Clowning Around magazine has always been important to Lee. He realized that it is the only benefit that every member receives. During his four years on the board, he made improving the magazine one of his priorities. He believed in the value of expressing appreciation. He wrote a thank you card to each person who for the first time had an article published in the magazine. Each year he wrote to each columnist expressing his appreciation for their articles and encouraging their continued involvement. He also actively recruited many new columnists. During his presidency, Clowning Around had the greatest number of educational articles on a wider range of topics than at any other period of its publication.

After leaving the WCA Board Lee continued as an individual WCA member to send letters of appreciation and encouragement to Clowning Around contributors.

Lee became the WCA Publications Chair in 2009. He continued in that position until 2017. He worked hard to improve our magazine. As a result of our publication's quality, members of the Circus Fans Association of America and other organizations joined the WCA just to receive Clowning Around.

Lee often had a table in the WCA convention dealer room where he sold his Juggles Clown Supply products.



The quality of his soft foam props was outstanding. For example, when he created a foam rubber apple, he did not just paint it red, but he made sure it had a highlighted spot so it looked like light being reflected by a polished apple. He also pioneered the use of closed cell foam, e.g. pool noodles, in prop construction.

He originated many new versions of existing ideas. For example, he did not invent the foam hot dog that fit into an invisible dog leash. However, his hot dogs were beautiful pieces of art. He also produced a chili dog (jalapeno pepper) and corn dog (ear of corn).

He would create customized props. His method was to simultaneously build a prototype by working on two versions at the same time. After each step, he would try to improve upon the results with the second version. When he was finished, he would send the version that turned out the best to the person requesting it. Then he would keep the other one for his own use or sell it at his dealer table.

The dealer room was enhanced by his presence. To Lee, his dealer table was an

## Lee “Juggles” Mullally

the class room where he could provide individual help. Many people learned to spin plates by visiting his table throughout the week. If somebody had trouble understanding a magic effect during a class, he would ask them to come to his table when it opened. He would patiently show them what they needed to know to be able to add it successfully to their performances.

At his table, and other places during conventions, Lee would frequently brainstorm with other clowns helping them generate many new ideas. His generosity in sharing his ideas and knowledge was appreciated by many clowns.

Lee was a frequent lecturer at the WCA conventions. Topics that he covered include juggling, balloon sculpture, combining balloon sculpture with storytelling, performing skits, appearing at birthday parties, prop construction, and teaching variety arts.

Lee has promoted the World Clown Association in his work outside of the organization. Lee joined the Clown Camp staff in 1990. He was the Clown Camp Assistant Director from 1996 through 2018. He was also involved in the South East Clown Association for many years. In his interactions with staff and participants at these programs he constantly encouraged involvement in the World Clown Association.

The Clown Camp Red Nose Philosopher award was voted on by the participants. Lee received this honor in recognition of his teaching ability. Part of the honor was having his portrait painted by Jim Howle.

In 1997, Lee was featured on the Clown Camp logo.

As part of his duties at Clown Camp, Lee encouraged and helped the program's staff



improve their instructional abilities. Again, thank you notes were one of the tools that he used. At the conclusion of each week of Clown Camp, every staff member received a hand written note in which Lee commented on the positive aspects of their classes and performances. Many of the instructors that Lee mentored at Clown Camp have lectured at WCA conventions.

In addition, Lee was a wonderful entertainer. He was great at interacting with audience volunteers. He invited a woman to join him on stage for a card trick. He fanned out a deck of cards face up so she could see that they were all different. She immediately responded, "If I take one of them you will be able to see which one it is."

## Lee “Juggles” Mullally

He paused, and then turned to look at the audience with a deadpan expression. He waited for the laughter to die down. Then he turned back to the woman. He did not put her down. He simply said, “Then maybe I had better turn them over.” He turned the deck face down and proceeded with the card trick as he had planned.

Lee told me that he liked to respond to an unexpected response from a volunteer by looking at the audience because it allows each observer to imagine how he is going to respond. He said that sometimes what they imagine is funnier than anything he could come up with.

Lee was great at adlibbing, both on stage and off. He often surprised me with his comments, especially those related to something we had both experienced several years previously. He had an amazing memory.

Lee was a great appreciator of other entertainers. I liked to sit near him during shows just to listen to his laughter in response to their performance.

He was also courteous. He never made a comment about another entertainer when audience members were present. Afterwards he would rarely comment to other performers what he thought could have improved the show. Most often he would discuss what was effective about their performance and brainstorm about what variations were possible.

I watched a parade competition with him during a WCA Convention. One of the competitors carried a six-inch wide paint roller with an “Free Instant Facepaint” sign. After the competition was over, we began considering what else instant facepainting could be. One idea was a variation on the Visual Painting magic effect where you would start with a

black and white drawing of a face that would instantly become colored. Another idea was to use a giant paint brush that would hide a brightly colored mask. When the brush was held in front of a stooge’s face, they would bite on a mouth piece attached to the mask so that it covered their face.

The words that I have heard others use most in describing Lee are “kind” and “gentle soul.” Those describe him well. He did a lot behind the scenes to help and encourage others. He was always building others up. His kindness shined through all of his performances and classes.

I would describe him as a wonderful friend. I was blessed to know him and to work closely with him in the WCA and at Clown Camp. I will miss him, but I will always remember him. I learned a lot from him which I will try to pass on to others. He left behind a rich legacy that improved the art of clowning and the lives of those around him.

In recognition of his many contributions to the World Clown Association and to the art of clowning, Lee Mullally was granted the WCA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

(Photos courtesy of Clown Camp.)



BeBop with Lee

# Edmund Khong's Favorite 'Red Nose' Magic!

## Norman's Fun Sponge Ball Routine

Here is a quick and simple trick with a sponge ball clown nose. You give it away to person in the end. Many clowns buy bags of clown noses so this is a fun way to make some magic and memorable moments before you give the nose away.

What they See: You point to a child's ear and then from behind pull out a clown nose. This can be the end here or do step two as follows.

You then take the sponge clown nose and put it into your other hand and it disappears. Next show a small clown hat empty and ask the child to wave their fingers and say "Abracadabra." Next, from inside the empty hat comes the clown nose. This is then given out to the child to try on their nose.

This makes a magical moment that they will find fascinating.

How it is Done:

The first production of a clown nose is done by hiding the nose in your hand and point first finger toward ear. Very easy.

The second phase involves a thumb tip and this is on your thumb and hidden behind the sponge ball. The tip is put into your left hand and ball on top and into the tip. This is then secretly taken out and the hand is shown empty.

Next, you show that a small hat is empty, ask child to say Abracadabra and then put thumb into hat and appear to take the ball out of the hat. (actually ball comes out of the thumb tip that is out of sight in the hat.)

To learn more:

Please Google: WCA Norman the clown

## Edmond Khong Sponge Ball Magic

There is no better way to introduce clowning and the red nose through wonder and rapport! For the last 20 years, I have been presenting the magic red sponge balls as a clown nose routine!



Simply scan the QR code to view how I perform the magic. Instructional videos and tips are also included.

Since 2020, it has been difficult for some performers to acquire the Goshman red ball super-soft sponges. Steve Goshman, son of Albert Goshman, has started a new line of his father's super-soft sponge balls and the quality is good, but stocks remain low.

A new great manufacturer is Penguin Magic and their own line of sponge balls.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com>

Please do note that Penguin Magic's sponge balls are 'True to Size' hence, if you were using Goshman's 1.5 inch super-soft balls, you will need to buy Penguin Magic's 1 inch balls. Similarly, if you were using Goshman's 2 inch super-soft balls, you will need to get Penguin Magic's 1.5 inch balls.

I hope you like my 'red nose magic' as much as I do! And it is EASY!

Need any help?  
Contact me via  
Facebook Messenger  
"Edmund Khong"  
or email  
[info@captaindazzle.com](mailto:info@captaindazzle.com)



# Hilary Chaplain

## That Amazing Comedy Clown



Amazing is not a big enough word to encompass Hilary Chaplain and her artistic approach to clowning. Her unique and dynamic style captivated audiences across Europe and South America.

Hilary has been a featured performer with the Big Apple Circus for 24 years, bringing joy to all ages. She has also created sidesplitting comic routines as a part of the Laughter League with Dick and Tiffany - our WCA featured performers a few years back.

Hilary got her start in theater yet was drawn to the absurdity and fun of comedy. She says, "I love the profundity of the clown and what it is. If I can be called a clown - I am honored. I think clown is a profound art form because you are finding the truth of yourself."

She states, "To find your own honesty and true vulnerability is a scary place to reveal to the world and to be willing to share the parts of yourself that you are afraid to reveal... which are the places that we all are afraid to reveal - then, to allow yourself to look foolish is a brave act. And I think it is a gift."

In front of an audience Hilary loves to bring unique perspectives that come from the heart. She sees it as, "A gift to the audience and a gift to me too. It's been very therapeutic for me. I don't care if I look foolish and let other people laugh at my foolishness. It thrills me to no end to have an audience laughing and enjoying what I do. To be respected for being a clown is a lovely thing."



Hilary is our featured performer at the 2026 Boston Convention. Please make plans now to see her and her many delightful characters as they take center stage for our 2026 Gala International Show.

Your next issue of Clowning Around will have a full feature interview with this world-renowned comic clown. Until then, start now to make your plans for Boston.

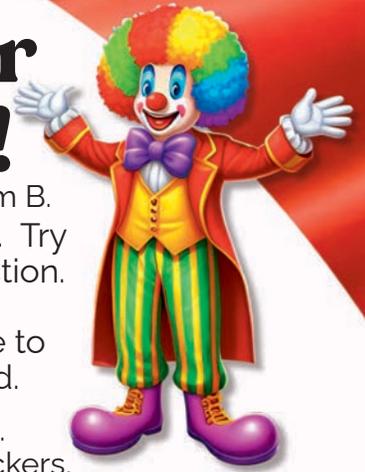
By: Norm Barnhart

# 3 Ways to Make your Alley Meetings POP!

By Norm B.

You want your next ally meeting to be fun and educational. Try these ideas and see how your alley members enjoy the interaction. This will encourage creativity and expression.

When you make your meeting fun it will encourage people to attend future meetings, and they will leave positively energized.



**1** 1) Do a Teach a Trick with Brainstorming. Demonstrate the method of a magic trick or clown gag. Then encourage everyone to give ideas on ways to do it differently. For example, after showing how to make a ball appear from a hat, people will think of other things. One person might suggest making a carrot appear from the hat and then suddenly a stuffed bunny.

Or another example, Vanishing a coin is taught then we think of other things to make disappear. Snowflake, Christmas ornament, etc. Discuss possible jokes and routines.

**2** 2) Comedy Improv Games. There are many improvisation activities that will spark the creative juices and get everyone moving and laughing. Play the "What is it?" game. What you need is a box with a couple props that could include a hat, a magic wand, some odd bric-a-brac and a stuffed monkey. One item is pulled from the box and everyone gets a turn to say what it is - anything but its real use. Such as the magic wand could be a windshield wiper - then demonstrate how it is used. Or a microphone, Tap, tap - "hello is this thing on?" 5 minutes of this game will get everyone in a playful and happy mood.

**3** 3) Make Comical Cards. Take a whole bunch of stickers, markers and some colorful paper to your meeting. As everyone gathers, they can join in and start making greeting comical greeting cards. These can be given to neighbors, sick friends, family, nursing home residents and others.

Get a group photo and include that with each card. Think up odd or unusual saying for each crazy card, such as "Hope your day is as bright as your ideas." Or "Wish you much luck - at least more than me." Just make odd, zany greeting cards "Roses are Red Violets are Blue - If your name was Fred, I'd have a rhyme here for you."

**4** 4) OK I said three, but you have been such a good reader - here is another... Pose for Crazy Photos. Have a tripod or selfie camera holder on the table - then set up a cheap or simple backdrop that is odd - something like a blanket with stars from the thrift store. And go to town as you pose some shots. Bring the fake mustaches, crazy hats, odd props and puppets.

Go to it and come up with odd fashion model shots and unique family photos complete with odd expressions. For example, make a photo where everyone was not ready for the picture to be taken. Just like real life, there is that one person with their smile not quite right or distracted and missing the Kodak moment. Now you have got some unique and wonderful photos for your alley Facebook that will make people not want to miss the next meeting!



- Norm B. has been a clown since birth and started doing balloon animals & magic in a restaurant in 1974. Some people are just getting over their digestive issues Please Google - "WCA Norman the Clown" for more.



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for we shall never  
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Go to: [WorldClown.com](http://WorldClown.com), then look for scholarships  
first & then click - Junior Joey, more information and  
an application form is accessible.

# THE 2026 World Clown Convention OFFERS 35 EXCELLENT CLASSES IN 5 DAYS

The World Clown Association is proud to debut a great educational program at the convention in Boston Massachusetts March 2nd - 6th 2026. We are focused on bringing you the best lecturers and presenters available. Much more to come. Join us, register today!!

## Face Painting

- Fancy Face Painting in a Flash Paula Biggio

## Clown Ministry

- Pickle-Rific Gospel Routines Adam Schill
- Christian Clown Walkarounds/Balloons Barb Field

## Balloons and Bubbles

- Balloon Games Elinor Blankenship
- What's new with Bubbles? Glenda Howell
- Just Beyond Basics Judith Johnson
- Balloons on the Radio Nick Rotondo
- Easy Balloons You Can Wear Glenda Howell
- Clowns in a Bubble Jenny Henry

## Make Up

- Lite Clown makeup Julia Swanson
- About Face Patti Ummel
- Wake up and Makeup Kozzi

## Competition Classes

- Competition what you can learn from it Patti Ummel

## Magic

- Magic and Comedy Skit Writing  
with Theatrical Techniques for a Better Show. Norm Barnhart
- Magic If You Don't Do Magic EZ

## Caring Clowns

- Nursing Home Clowning Rotto (Alberta Lira)
- Why & How of Hospital, and Caring Clowning Elaine Vercellone

## Education

- Comedy Techniques with Improv Norm Barnhart
- Develop a Character Trish Manuel
- Clowns are People Too Elaine Vercellone



# Join us in Boston to Learn & Laugh

## Working Clown

- Marketing your business like you Never Thought Before Nick Rotondo
- Science for Clowns Barb Field
- Meet & Greet Make it a Magical Moment Tricia Manuel
- Interacting with the Audience Julia Swanson
- Pickle-Rific Kids Show Routines Adam Schill

## Puppetry & Ventriloquism

- Ventriloquism 101 Jackie Reynolds
- Ventriloquism 102 Jackie Reynolds
- Wowzers !! 50 Creative Puppet Ideas Dan Nixon
- Puppets Teach Story Telling Dan Nixon

## Miscellaneous Classes

- Spectacular Glitter Tattoos Judith Johnson
- Mime for Clowns Barb Field
- The Heart and Soal of Clowning Ron Severini
- I've Got Your Nose Timothy Pressley
- Ukulele For Clowns Patti Ummel
- Santa and Mrs. Clause Paula and Richard Biggio

## ***Plus: Awesome Jam Rooms***

- Monday: Ukulele Patti Ummel
- Tuesday: Balloons Nick Rotondo, Glenda Howell
- Wednesday: Bubbles Glenda Howell
- Thursday: Stories from the Road Past Circus Clowns
- Friday: Meet and learn about WCA Directors & officers

## ***Bonus Balloon Jams Daily Monday - Thursday***

(Balloon Jam Room will be open 2:00-5:00)  
Balloons provided by Elitex Balloons!!!

## **SPECIAL ONE TIME WORKSHOP**

## ***Hilary Chaplain***

A Physical Comedy Class

A Play With Hats

Cost \$ 20.00 collected at door



# MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

Boston Convention Attendees will enjoy special room rates at the Boston Revere Hotel. Our convention rates are good two days prior and two days after the convention.

- One King size bed is: \$120.00 plus tax
- Two Queen size beds is: \$120.00 plus tax

If you need a refrigerator, request it at the time of registration.

Call Hotel: (413) 821-3830 for reservations

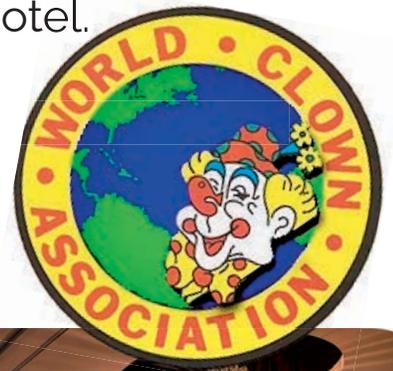
Tell them you are attending the WCA Convention  
March 2nd-6th, 2026.

Transportation is available from the airport; Uber, taxi, train, or bus. I used Uber and my charge was \$30.00.

There is a public parking garage attached to our hotel, but it is run by a private company. The standard rate (24 hours) is \$43.00. This garage is not controlled by the hotel.

If you have questions about the hotel or with reservations, please call (334) 475-2672.

- Louise Carnesale - WCA Convention Chair  
Boston Revere Hotel March 2-6, 2026



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Fine Dining at our Hotel



Elegant Dealer's Room

# Clown of the Year

## Meet Louise Carnesale

Louise has been clowning for almost half a century. She started clowning when her children were in 4H in the 70s.

Louise has served in the military and left as a Major. Her careers have included nursing, social work, and state service working on tasks for Governor Pataki.

In the 90s her clowning advanced when she attended a clowning curriculum at the local community college. After she joined a local alley and volunteered at local hospitals and a center that treated children with aids.

Louise is married to Peter aka SPARE PARTS. They had 13 children but sadly lost one to cancer. They are grandparents of 25, and great grandparents of seven.

Louise has been very active in forming 3 clown alleys. She loves to bring her clowning to the community as well as those in need. She performs in hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers, day cares, churches, and neighborhood charitable organizations. She has helped her alley with large productions, murder mysteries, clown shows, egg hunts, Red Nose Reader in the park, and more.

Louise believes education is important and started a school called the Art of Clowning. Clowns from all over the country have come to Florida to attend. She belongs to many clown and magic organizations and has participated on mission trips.

She has served WCA as Convention Chair for five years, Educational Director for three years, and assisted in looking for future WCA convention sites.

Clowning means a lot to her, and she wants everyone to know that Laughter is the Best Medicine.



With husband Pete and a cute baby!!



Lulu with Captian Dazzle



Bonky G. Bird with Lulu.

# CLOWNING AROUND

Fall 2025  
Special Double issue



Louise "Lulu" Carnesale  
***Clown of the Year***