

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

Joey Journal



Oct/Nov 2020

texasclownassociation.com



A Student of the Art of Clowning

Greg Stanford

The Pandemic Quarantined Clown

Phil Nichols (cover)

Creating a Simple Clown Show

Aurora Krause

Learning to Adapt to the Times

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Purpose of TCA

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

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Be sure to check out the TCA website at

www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is: iluvclowns

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with TCA.





TCA Clown Alleys



Panhandle/West Region

Oops Alley - TCA #2

North Central Region

Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9

Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12

The Clown Arounds - TCA #16

North East Region

Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1*

Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13

Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23*

Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24*

Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6*

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11*

Cheeful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18*

South/Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15

*Inactive Alleys

from the desk of the EDITOR

Welcome to the new digital Joey Journal. I hope you find the look and feel as exciting and refreshing as I do. I know change is never easy, but I hope the pro's outnumber the con's in most everyone's eyes. Let me give you a quick overview of how the new layout works. You can view this issue as a normal pdf download which can be read on or offline on your computer, tablet or phone. You can download this from the members only page on the TCA website. You can also open this issue on our website and enjoy all the extra's a digital issue has to offer. Some of these extra's include working hyperlinks to webpages, easy links to emails, and both audio and video elements. We are also excited to offer the Joey in full color with photographs throughout the issue.

As with all things new, there will be bugs. Things will probably not work right sometimes, but please give me time and we will have a Joey Journal you can be proud of. Also remember, the Joey is only as good as the articles that appear in it. I'm excited about some of the articles that have come in from new contributors. This information they have to share is both fun and educational, from history to travel and instruction. There is much to learn. Thank you to those who sent in articles.

Let me challenge you to record your thoughts and experiences. I'm amazed at the places gone and things done so many TCA clowns. Share it with us. Also, you are a mighty talented bunch. There is much we can learn from each other. Please don't be afraid to share it. I can help you polish your article if you want. Each issue, I will send out some suggestions for articles, if one catches your fancy...jump on it and send it in. If you have your own idea, send it on in!

Thanks so much for your support over the years and for your continued support as we move into new frontiers.

Greg "Zoots" Stanford, editor



Putting on a Musical Clown Show

by Jean "KitCat" Pirtle

The Cheeful Clown Alley Kitchen Band of Houston began more than 25 years ago. Kay "Raindrop" Virgin started the group with the dream of bringing music, sing-a-longs, and a lot of clown fun to performances. Since that time the band has performed at nursing homes, non-profit children event, and other volunteer events throughout the greater Houston area.



Kitchen Band 2002

Getting ready for this type of show takes a lot of preparation, and creative people who are willing to give of their time to perform. Only a few of our members are trained musicians, however, other members have made their instruments out of kazoos, frying pans, a kitchen sink, water jugs, and a variety of kitchen utensils. We use recorded music and a blue tooth sound system to enhance our performance.

We not only play our instruments and sing with our audiences, we encourage every member of the band to show off their own unique talent. We have crazy cooking demonstrations, skits, jokes, magic, dancing, puppets, and as much audience participation as possible.

So, how do we put it all together? Meetings are necessary to plan our programs and set dates and locations. Of course, one of the most challenging things is having all the props and music ready for the performance. Getting all the equipment to the gig, as well as setting up the sound system, curtain backdrop, and props may take an extra 30-45 minutes.

We always have a great time performing. It doesn't matter how bad we sing or if no one laughs at our jokes! We always leave the event smiling!



Magic Show verses Gospel Program

by Andy "Smiley" Anderson

When I put together a performance I start with a list of what I'm going to do. Say a magic show at a birthday party. When I pick a magic trick the first thing I do is work on the gimmick. Then I put the patter that will work in the performance.

For this article the magic trick will be Professor's nightmare. I have used this as a walk around, birthday party and gospel routine so let's get started. I would work with the trick in front of a mirror to see how it looks to the audience.

My patter is I start with three ropes that are different lengths. I show three ropes of different lengths and put them one at a time in my left hand, starting with the short rope then the middle and ending with the long one. At this point I say taking the short rope by the bottom I go behind the other two and put it between the last two ropes. Then I put the next two ends on the end. I say this gives me three ropes with all six ends on top. While doing this I make sure the loop of the small rope is in the middle of my palm so the audience cannot see it. I take the ends of the last three ropes (while holding the other three ends with my thumb) and pull them out and down so it looks like I have three ropes of the same length. Now I take the single rope with my right hand and say I have one rope then putting it back and taking the two ropes looped together and leaving the single rope I say I have two ropes. Then as I pick all three ropes out of my left hand I say (I have three ropes that are the same length). All the time I am making sure the loops cannot be seen. I stop the trick there, but there is a way to end up with the three ropes of different lengths again.

I have also used this as a gospel presentation by changing the patter. I would say if you look around you see people that are different from each other. Some maybe live in a big house. Some have fancy clothes or cars. Some may not have much of anything. When I pull the three ropes to the same lengths I say but in Gods eyes we are all equal. About any magic trick can be used as a gospel routine by changing the patter.

I hope this helps just put on your thinking cap and make the tricks your own.





"If you are a clown, there is always something to be learning."



A Student of the Art of CLOWNING

by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." - Sydney J. Harris

How am I student of clowning?

A student is a learner. Someone who pursues knowledge, understanding or skill. I would challenge that one should never stop learning. If you are a clown, there is always something to be learning. Think about it, if you do any type of show or performance, you've got any number of elements in your routine, such as songs, magic, skits, puppetry, or movement. Any of those can be improved or expanded.

What should I be learning?

I won't attempt to try to tell you what you should be learning, but I can give you some suggestions

on some things you might benefit from learning. Really, beyond basic clowning, much of your clown education is determined by the skills you use, your audience and the type of performances you do. For example, if you do puppetry and magic in your birthday party show, there's no reason to spend hours learning to juggle, unless you want to add juggling to your performance. If you only visit hospitals, there's no reason to learn fire-eating....okay, that was probably a stretch, but you get what I'm saying. Let's dive in.

Clown Skills

There are a great many skills a clown can employ in their art. Just a few include: magic, juggling, singing, dancing, playing an instrument, skits, balloons, facepainting, hat tricks, physical comedy or clown movement, storytelling, jokes, puppetry, drawing, ventriloquism, pie throwing, and balancing.

Build Your Clown Library

There are a great many wonderful books available on all areas of clowning and performing available for the student of clowning. Here are some of my favorite places to find books on clowning:

- Amazon.com
- ebay.com
- abebooks.com
- ginnmagic.com
- various magic dealer websites

Here are just a few of my favorite books:

- Greater Gospel Magic by Duane Laflin
- Kidshow Magic Compendium by David Ginn
- Mark Wilsome Complete Course in Magic

Some of these skills may takes hours and hours of practice. Others are skill you already have and can just adapt to your clown persona or performance. But even skills you've been doing for years require regular practice to stay professent and culturally current.

Take it one thing at a time. There have been times when I've gone to a class or lecture



and come away with a whole host of things I want to do, and instead of focusing on one thing at a time, I try to split my time between a variety of skills. For instance, I juggle for thirty minutes, get frustrated and switch over to trying to get the handling of a magic trick down. The magic trick will get put down and the next time I practice, I'll pick up something else to work on, instead of working on getting the that one trick down. You see, just because I can perform the trick doesn't mean I'm ready to do it in a show. Can I do it smoothly? Can I do it while interacting with the audience? Can I do it while using my patter? Do I even have patter or am I just trying to mimick what is in the instructions or what I've seen? How does it fit in my show? How should my character perform it? You see, there's a lot more to learning a trick then well...learning a trick.

So pick one thing to work on at a time and attack it from a variety of sides. Learn the movements, if it's a skill like juggling or magic. Look for references to it in books or videos. Look for youtube videos that demonstrate other people using the move or the trick and see if you can adapt or learn to do the trick in a different way or an easier way for you. Find ideas for patter and then adapt it to your character.

And once you have that skill or trick down, see how you can work it into your performance. Does it transition one element to the next? Is it an element in your act that lends itself to a story that will incorporate other elements? My shows tend to flow through storytelling. One trick, gag or joke leads into or transitions to the next. One story flows into another.

Finally, don't stop learning about yourself. Who are you as a clown. What is your character like? How does he walk, talk? How does he answer questions about him/herself? Because, you see, there is not skill or trick more important than you, the clown. The performer. You need to invest as much time in developing yourself as you do your tricks and your skills. Hone your character as you would a magic trick or a juggling...thing. Build on it. Prefect it. Work on communicating without words. Practice showing emotions with your body or your facial features. You are your greatest prop, so practice.

So, what are you learning right now? What do you need to be learning? Read a book, watch a video, or better yet, find a mentor and learn from them or with them. But never stop being a learner. Your clown will thank you. Your audience will thank you.

"Never stop being a learner!"

True Stories of How Clowns Changed America and the World

Compiled by Vern "Pogo" King

Our first recorded clown was a midget (called Pygmy in the time), who performed as a Jester for Pharaoh Dadkeri Assi around 2500 BC. There were generally two types of clowns, the Jesters and the Singing Clowns.

The Jesters were clowns that performed for pharaohs, Emperors and Kings, and had a great freedom of speech. In 300 BC, Chinese Emperor Shih Huang Ti managed the building of the Great Wall of China. When the construction was complete, Shih wanted to paint the wall red which would add deaths to the already horrendous number of lost lives. The Jester Yu Sze talked the Emperor out of the painting and saved thousands of lives. Yu Sze is to this day a revered hero of China.

The Singing Clowns came into prominence during the mid-nineteenth century, when new songs were spread across the nation by singing clowns. This was before radio and phonographs. Medicine show wagons, tent shows, theater stage and saloon shows would travel across America from the east to the west singing the new popular songs along with a variety of acts.

In the Civil War era, a clown emerged named Dan Rice (1823-1901). Dan was like a Will Rogers or Bob Hope. He was very political and used many phrases that later became commonly used. He campaigned for Zachary Taylor, letting him ride up high on the Circus Wagon, and so the phrase "GET ON THE BAND WAGON" evolved. Dan was also a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

The first female clown was American born, named Amelia Butler. In 1858 she worked with the Nixon's Great American Circus and Kemps Mammoth English Circus.

Joseph Grimaldi, the father of modern clowning, elevated the Whiteface Clown to a starring role and replaced the Harlequin Jester Clown.

The first circus was a brainchild of Phillip Ashley in 1768 in England. He developed a clown act called Billy Buttons, which was a series of tremendously dangerous horse stunts. One act involved him falling over the head of the horse and remounting from under the horse while the horse was in full gallop around the ring. Another stunt involved doing several forward and back flips while the horse was again in full gallop. The comedy horse act is still being performed today with several circuses in America and around the world. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth in the late 1500's, Shakespeare was playwright for Lord Chandlers Men's acting group. Shakespeare developed two clowns, William Kemp and Robert Armin, who played country bumpkins. Both clowns became the first Auguste Clowns.

One of the most famous Court Jesters was Nasir Ed Din. One day Nasir heard the King crying in the main room of the castle. Nasir walked down the hall and in the middle of the main room was the King. Nasir asked him, "why are you crying?" The King said, "when I Look into the mirror, I see myself getting old and ugly ". The members of the court also started to cry. The King stopped crying and asked Nasir, "why are you crying", and Nasir said "because we have to look at you all of the time!"

Clown Shoes

By Ruth "Buttons" Rolston

Do you remember when you first started as a clown and began to think about your costume and who you would be as a clown? I will guess that the issue of shoes was a big part of your decisions. What did you do for your first shoes?

Some of you may have been very ambitious (and with more of the green stuff than I) and went straight for the custom clown shoes. I wasn't even sure I wanted to do this, so I was not even aware of those fancy shoes except for seeing them in movies and in pictures.

My first shoes were very large brown men's dress oxfords purchased at a local charity store. They must have belonged to a large gentleman because I also found a pair of dress trousers and a cowboy shirt to go with them and decided they must have been his. Anyway, with a pair of suspenders and a multicolored wig and some cheap make-up, I thought I was ready to go. I did my first gig in this outfit.

After our Hospital me to take over and I began to research had some preliminary some ideas from two the quest was on.

My next pair of shoes tennis shoes. These and so I did. These but I wanted something pair of Converse All-stars stripes. Now these are a good They look okay and are easier for wore these for quite some time and



Photo/Paul M. Walsh

Auxiliary encouraged organize a Clown Troupe, a better costume. We training and had gotten seasoned clowns. So,

was low top white could be decorated were okay for awhile, else. Next I bought a high tops in red and white walking than the clown shoes. I they served me well.

Then there was that fateful trip to a Clown Convention. A fellow clown and I went shopping at the Vendor Fair. And there they were, in my size, those incredible, red and white low-cut, real CLOWN SHOES! My heart skipped a few beats. Could I afford these beauties? Could I leave without them in my hands? You guessed it; they left the convention with me.

I wore these for several years. They were, of course, made by the late Billy Prince. Then came the day at 'Joey to the World' when they celebrated his passing. I had a pair of his shoes in my possession. I didn't know of the celebration and had left them at home, but I had them. I was much honored. Then I decided I needed that custom pair of clown shoes and I had them fitted to my feet and designed especially for me. They were made by the young man who took over for Billy.

I have had many conversations with children and adults about these shoes. The image with the shoes is very important, but does not have to keep one from being a clown. I would imagine some never get the

custom shoes and are very successful. You see, the shoes are not the clown. I believe the clown is within and I truly think one is called to be a clown. Clowning is not for everyone.

You may wonder why I am looking back and thinking about clown shoes. I am now a senior clown and I have been musing about my 'custom clown shoes'. What does one do with these shoes as they come to the end of their clowning life? They are not an item to be donated to a charity. I cannot see someone just wearing them casually. They have much more meaning than this. Do any of my fellow clowns have ideas for the future of your custom clown shoes? Just a thought!



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The Pandemic Quarantined Clown

by Phil "Otto" Nichols

The COVID-19 pandemic is very bad. Traditional clowning is not able to be done. I decided to up my skill level doing intense self-study with A Fool's Tools Self Study Guide for Clowning.

A bit about me I am child of the 1960s. My clown heroes are Bozo out of Chicago, Red Skelton, Emmet Kelly, Jerry Lewis, Otto Griebling, Felix Adler, Lou Jacobs, Frosty Little and the dozens of Shrine Circus Clowns I have enjoyed since I was 2 years old. I am an award winning Ventriloquist who studied from Edgar Bergen. I am the King's Ventriloquist at the Texas Renaissance Festival and the Queens Ventriloquist at Dickens on the Strand.

I have been performing as a magician and ventriloquist clown. I use an Auguste Clown version of my normal character I do for magic and ventriloquism shows. During the pandemic I decided to return to my childhood clowning roots and come up with a Hobo Clown. I was always a hobo from the time I was three until my late teens. My father made me up as Emmet Kelly my first Halloween in 1967. He used a piece of charcoal and my mom's lipstick. After a few tries and refinements I settle on the Hobo look here. Otto the happy Hobo Clown, the name in honor of the great clown Otto Griebling.



I use Leo McBride's Pro Face grease paints. A pro Knows nose, a bald red curly wig in homage of Bozo, and presto Otto's look was born!

I also needed to learn to juggle balls. I had been using scarves and then at the end of that routine doing a change bag magic trick with them. It has been the hardest things I have ever done and I continue to work in it but I and getting a good pattern for a three ball cascade.

The last thing I wanted to learn was to sculpt balloons. I had never done it. It took me 2 weeks just to stop popping the balloons and for them to stop coming untwisted. I'm about 6 months in and I am very pleased with my progress.

I am continuing to work on all of my clowning skills. The pandemic will end. The world will need clowns more than ever when it does and I want to be ready to meet that call!



Creating a Simple Clown Show

by Aurora "Bebop" Krause

Whether we've been clowning for several years or we've just begun our clowning adventure, enjoying the ride is important for both ourselves and our audiences. The way I've made sure of this is to create

a clown show that I know I'm very comfortable with and that my audience will enjoy.

We're not world renowned magicians or dancers, we're clowns.

This doesn't mean that a simple clown show requires little or no talent or education...

On the contrary, a simple and entertaining clown show is the product of knowing your best skills, how you can make them funny/entertaining and then delivering this presentation comfortably and confidently. Your level of confidence in your presentation will allow you to have fun and enjoy the show and the audience will gladly join in on the fun....mission accomplished!

Here's what I'm talking about....We're not world renowned magicians or dancers, we're clowns. Our goal is to create a joyful environment, bring smiles to our audiences and in the process positively promote the art of clowning. We can start with our clown character; it should be a well developed, comical individual, real and enthusiastic. Your character is dressed to have fun and prepared to entertain with the greatest of ease. In my opinion, when it comes to creating a clown show, your character is 90% of your performance. You're now ready to add to your show the tools and skills of the trade.



These are some important things to do and know even before you get the call to perform a clown show for a particular event:

First, because our profession deals with working with young children and the public in general, work at staying healthy with good nutrition and good exercise. Nurture and maintain a positive outlook and always give authentically and with an open heart.

Second, know your skills, the talents that you've worked on and polished. Those performance skills that you're most comfortable entertaining with, i.e.; skits, puppetry, music, comedy magic, etc. To know these is important because it is what makes you unique.

And thirdly, have a good inventory of your props, files and music. Keep these in good condition and organized ready to reference and use. These items were originally an investment and now have become your partner; they deserve your attention and care. Items such as your class notes, music, sound system, magic props, puppets, etc.

Now you're ready to receive that call for that clown event, you begin by gathering your client's needs and expectations. Important to know the particulars about the event and attendees; what's the occasion, in-doors, out-doors, facilities, sound system, number of attendees, age levels, etc...the planning of your show can now begin.

Here is a quick break-down of what works for Bebob in preparing a simple, entertaining clown show.

Structuring for ease and flow I make sure that I:

- Work at blocking my show; beginning, transitions and closing
- Keep in mind that I want to connect with my audience throughout my show
- Stay focused on pacing both myself and my audience

As I work on my opening I:

- Use music to create a joyful environment, this encourages interest and anticipation
- Greet audience members individually when possible before the show
- Do a simple introduction and recognize the occasion and/or honoree

Creating the show with energy and smooth transitions I include:

- Simple comedy routine to create fun and establish my character
- Routines to create anticipation with magic, puppets or musical routine
- Performances with audience involvement and/or participation



As I prepare the closing I:

- Perform a routine that creates laughter
- Begin to pack-up with goodbyes and background music
- Give Thanks to all for including me in their celebration

This breakdown of a clown show is a simple one but in my mind having fun shouldn't be difficult. I have hopes that some of what I have shared with you will be of some help as you prepare for your next performance. Let me know your thoughts on this topic.

My e-mail: bebopclown@hotmail.com

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ON A ROLL WITH



THINGS TO PONDER.....

Don't put off trying something new just because you think you lack experience.....
Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Why do banks charge a fee on insufficient funds when they already know there is not enough money in the account?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in the boat?

Why do we press hard on a remote controll when we know the batteries are dead?

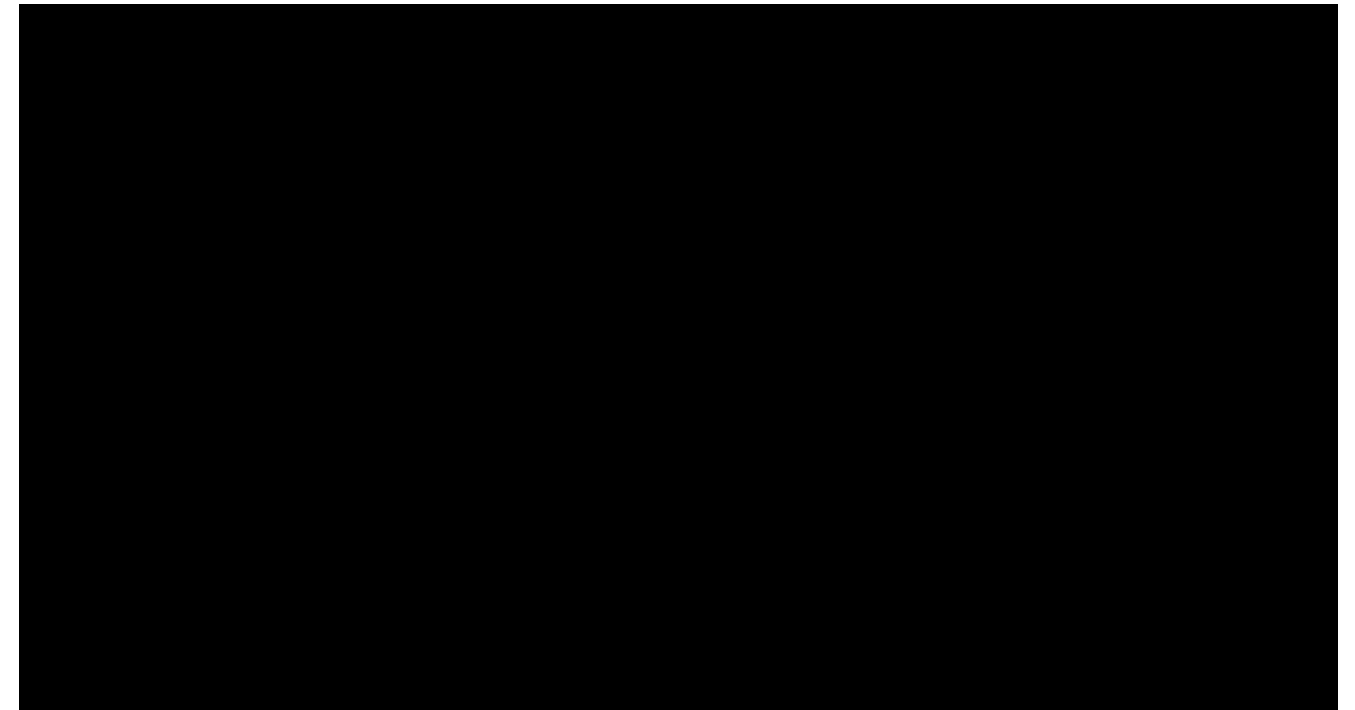
If Tarzan has been in the jungle for so long, why doesn't he have a beard?

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

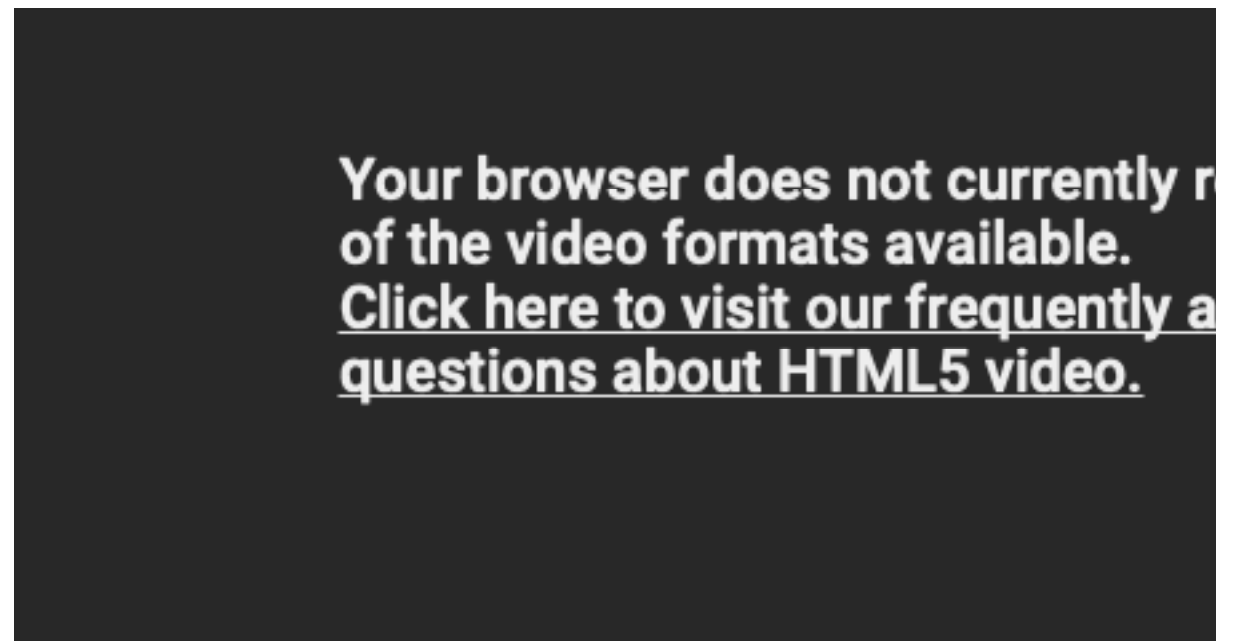
What's on the TUBE?

by Abigail "Gummy Bear" Robles-Membrez

I am so excited for the new online format for our newsletter. I wanted to take advantage of the new format and provide some of the clowning content I have been watching for you guys to enjoy. I really have been enjoying Billy Murray, he posts across multiple social media platforms and also offers clown consulting! He has a variety of informational videos about being a professional clown. Check out Abigail's person video play list to see what she's watching: [PlayList](#)



Another clown I recently started watching is Boswick. Boswick has children's show style content.





Hello Everyone....

I hope you all have been staying well during these trying times! And mostly, hope you have kept your Spirit of Clowning up! I know my feelings have gone haywire...I first started out feeling very nervous, especially when one job after another started cancelling! Then leveled out a little, as I used my energies to clean out the clown room, build a bunny tower, a herb garden box, painted the gazebo, cleaned out our barn/shed, painted the living room, and much more! I actually became a Projecteer...instead of a Puppeteer! Back in my mind, my concern is how to keep clowning alive...Happi Tymes going? Being the president, I feel some responsibility that I have to do something. William, our VP, helped to set up Zoom meetings, which we did the first 3 months, then went back to our meeting place in July at Coker's, and kept Zooming too! I kept our newsletter going...at this point, not a lot to report, but keeping an open communication with the clowns, keeps us connected!

LEARNING TO ADAPT TO THE TIMES AS A CLOWN

I Don't Sit Idle Long!

As of that first day, March 14, when jobs started to cancel, my mind went to the holidays. It occurred to me Easter was only a few weeks away, I could still make a difference! I took it upon myself to keep the Easter Bunny alive! I had a tub of plastic eggs I had planned to take to events. I started stuffing them with erasers or stickers and my information, and decided to walk the streets of Arlington on Good Friday! I put a message out on the Nextdoor neighbor site...I got so many happy responses from neighbors who couldn't wait to see Cookie the Bunny! Omgosh! Mind you, I was planning on walking! I realized that this lone bunny could not walk the entire city of Arlington. I rethought my plan, and advised everyone I will be walking a certain circumference 10a-1p...then invited everyone back to my house at 1p-3p, using safe, appropriate distancing, to see Cookie the Easter Bunny, gave away Free books, had the baby bunnies out to pet, and Earl made balloons!!! Had lots of visitors...such fun!!!

Have Eggs, Will Travel!

I stuffed over 150 eggs and walked all over Arlington, making sure I went to the houses that had given me their addresses. I left my egg mark in as many planters as I could in those 3 hours, waved, took pictures. But I just couldn't reach everyone. I got an email from a lady who was so excited I would be coming, but it wasn't one of the houses I had gone to. Her little boy had an immune disorder and couldn't come to my house that afternoon. I still

had several eggs left...I told her I would be there on Easter morning!!! They were so excited to see me, we talked, took a distant picture, and I threw bunny hugs and kisses!!! I walked down streets I didn't get to on Friday to give out the rest of the eggs. I would look at the house, say a prayer that I was leaving an egg where it was needed most!



This was such a heart warming journey with this little boy, then a lady and her son were out riding bikes looking for the Easter bunny. I asked if she knew I would be out again...she said NO, we were just looking for the bunny...and there I was. Then Monday morning I received a call from a lady who found my egg Sunday. She started crying, thanking me for the special egg. Her husband was away working that weekend, she was by herself! This is your sign when you touch others hearts! Sure touched mine!

What an exhilarating Easter weekend...so worthwhile, and makes more sense than doing gigs!!! God puts us in the right places, at the right times...we just don't know it at that moment, until you receive a sign that you did make a difference!

From Easter on, I just knew this "thing" wouldn't last. But as the weeks went into months I tried to stay positive. The clown mask helped in public...a

good conversation piece. Before all the fancy, funny ones came out...now they're in every store, on every corner. I refuse to buy any more...I still wear this same clown mask! Except for a couple others, I made a bunny mask, and Katnip made me a balloon dog mask I really like!

Earth Day came, I dressed up as a Tree! I put my compost ball in the front yard for kids to roll, did a earth day craft, had the bunnies out, and Earl did balloons!

Katnip and I volunteer at JPS Hospital in Fort Worth. We made signs and carried them in front of the hospital...Appreciating the Doctors, Nurses, and Staff!!! Then went to a nursing home to visit our clown friend, Sandra PickleWiggles, Marr...talked to her for half an hour outside her window on the phone!!! It was the last time to see her...and the best memories knowing we made her smile and laugh!!!

Between Easter and July, I went to Minnesota, Galveston, had a big yard sale mid June... first one I've ever had where people actually paid what I asked...It really paid off when people were locked up in captivity!!! hahaha

Many stores were only partially opened. And my go to store, Russell Feed was not taking in live animals. My bunny production started growing tremendously, I was up to 32 bunnies...my adults + babies!!! I went to the Next-door neighbors once again and started selling some on my own! So I am officially a "Projecteer" and a "Rabbiteer"!!!

Our Arlington 4th of July parade was still a go until the week before. I put a email out to the clowns... The parade must go on!!! Who's in??? I sent a message to the Next-door neighbor site to let them know the clown parade will be coming, 9a-12p!!! It ended up being a 4-clown, 2-car parade. Myself, Katnip, her husband Joe drove my car; William

"WeeBo" Beaty and Earl "Billywhiskers" were in Wm's car. We decorated, put the HappiTymes banner on the car...and drove through the streets of Arlington for 3 hours, blowing our horns, waving, Katnip and I jumping out to take pictures with many. A veteran was standing out, in a salute, waiting for us! We painted flags and eagles on rocks and gave them away! Another awesome moment in time!!!



Our clowns only had 3 stops for International Clown Week! Nancy Arent lined up the Richland Hills Fire Dept, ElChico, and the Kia dealership where her husband works. We normally visit 2-3 nursing homes, the Clubhouse for Special Needs, and a daycare...but they were all closed.

From August up to Halloween, I had another good, big yard sale, and I went back to Galveston for my grand daughters birthday. Three more months, other events cancelled, as well as our long time standing fundraiser for HappiTymes, called Dark in the Park. My mind churns again on what to do???

I came up with Dark in the Yard on Marshalldale... on Halloween. We hung the HappiTymes banner... there were 4 clowns doing balloons, 2 at the candy shoot, and 1 at the pumpkin craft table. There was a big animatronic spider the kids loved, along side a giant web hanging from the house. It was a great night to promote clowning and get some of our clowns together! Everything was done with safety first.

I've kept the HappiTymes banner hung up....Heck, why not? The Halloween decor is down, and the blow up turkey is up for Thanksgiving. Fall keeps coming and going. And there's still so much to be thankful for!

We've already planned our HT's Christmas program. I can see another opportunity to share some Elfism in the spirit of Christmas!!! Opportunities have presented themselves, but I am concerned what will happen into the new year!

Another Christmas job just cancelled...as they do, I've put another clown item up on the shelf. I'm trying to figure out how I fit into the scheme of things? How can I still help in the clown world next year? What's my new career looking like in the future at my age...Forever Young?

I guess that remains to be seen...I'm keeping my eyes and ears open and looking for my next opportunity!

So stay out there...Keep Hope alive!!!

Happy Thanksgiving--Happy Christmas--Happy New Year--and Happy Clowning!!!





Circus City, USA

Hugo, Oklahoma

If you get a chance to visit Hugo, Oklahoma, it would be worth your time to stop and soak in this wonderful town, especially if you are interested in all things circus. I'm willing to bet you are!

Hugo is known as "Circus City, USA", and is in the southeastern part of the state, nine miles north from the Texas state line. Hugo has been nationally known as a circus town since before World War II. The city was founded in 1901 and named for the French novelist, Victor Hugo. The Mount Olivet Cemetery in town has a section called the "Showmen's Rest", where circus performers are resting.

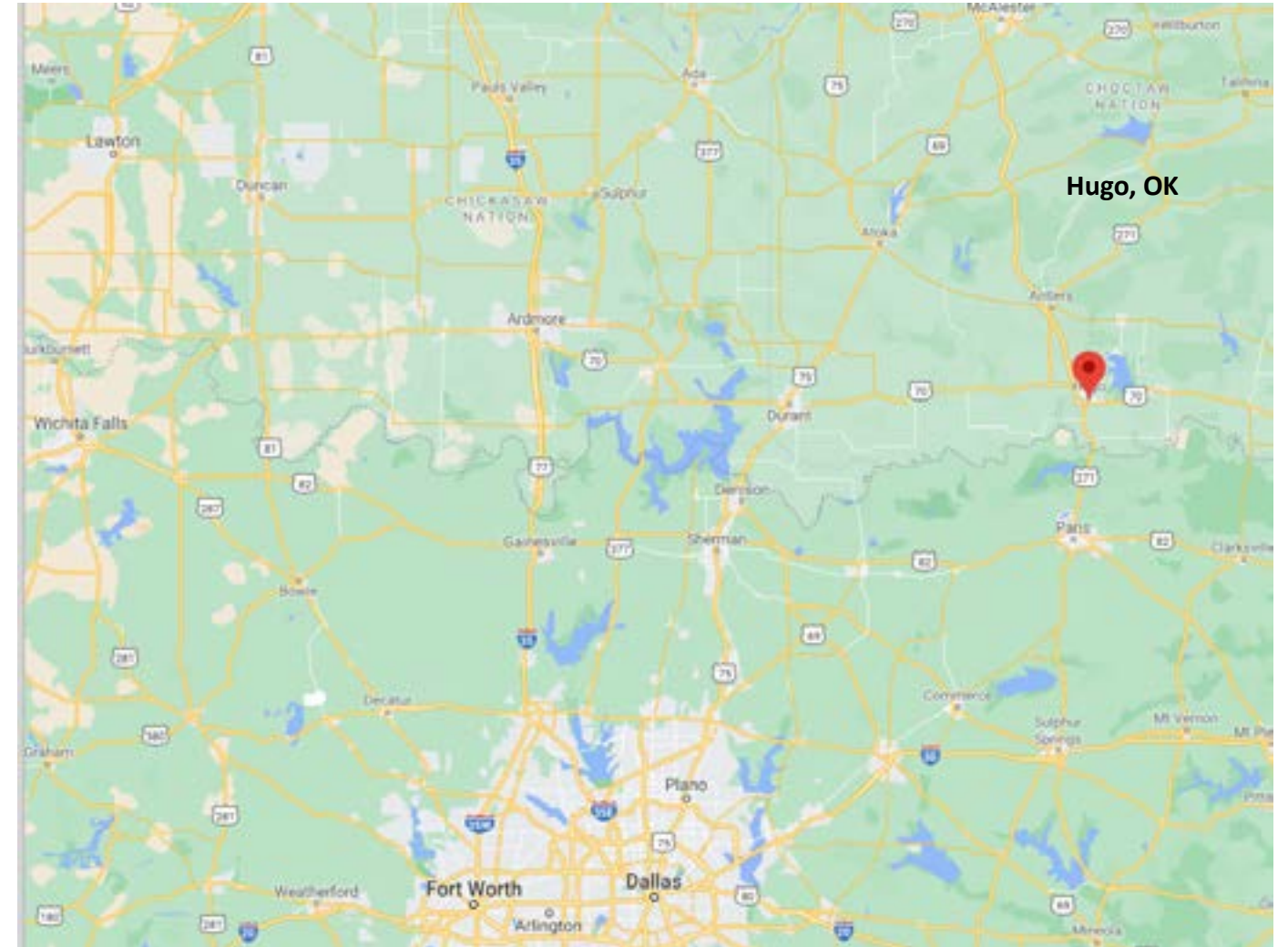


Make sure you stop at Angie's Circus Diner to enjoy a delicious meal and gracious hospitality. You won't go away hungry here! Clown memorabilia decorates the walls and they sell clown t-shirts. And who doesn't need another clown t-shirt, right? A couple of friends, Sharon Huber (Sparklette) and Nancy Arent (Bubbles), and I had got a chance to visit this charming town last year. After lunch at Angie's, we made tracks to the cemetery. We couldn't wait to see Showmen's Rest. The markers were amazing with all the beautiful graphics and designs. After our wonderful visit there, we headed to the fun Frisco Depot Museum in town. A very knowledgeable volunteer, an older man named Norman, showed us around. There are exhibits of circus groups that used to "winter" there in Hugo, and a menagerie of circus memorabilia. You will see toy trains, old tools, vintage school houses and the likes. There is much to see here and admission is free! What a fun day we had and yes, we all bought t-shirts. I can't wait to visit Circus City, USA again!

If you love large land mammals, and who doesn't, you might want to check out the Endangered Ark Foundation, an elephant sanctuary. It will be well worth your time. You will need reservations for the 90 minute tour to see a herd of 15 Asian elephants. The Foundation was established in 1993. Their mission is to help preserve endangered Asian elephants. Unfortunately, we did not get to visit the elephants while we were in town, however, Sharon and Nancy made another trip to see them. And I hope to see them on my next trip to Hugo. What a fun day we had. I can't wait to return to Circus City, USA!



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