

# Joey Journal



April - May 2021

Issue 3

texasclownassociation.com



**MATTHEW PHINEAS "LISH" HEADLINER**

**TCA Convention**  
**2020~~X~~1**



**A CLEARer VISION FOR CLOWNING**

## THE 2021 CONVENTION IS A GO!

### 2021 TCA Convention

Cinde Sanders and Susn Keys

### Memories

Pam Blacklock

### Ambassador Award

Greg Stanford

### Elections

Andy Anderson



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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](http://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

## a word from the PRESIDENT

Hello members, I hope everyone has stayed safe during this time and you and your love ones have stayed healthy and avoided the dreaded COVID. It appears that the Pandemic may be slowing, of course it is not over yet, but **the Board has voted to have a LIVE CONVENTION this year. The program will be a mix of live lectures supplemented with a few lectures being virtual shown at the hotel that only people registered for the convention will be able to see. It will still be in Killeen, Texas at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel 1721 E Central Texas Freeway, from August 5th through the morning of the 8th. I hope you will be able to make it this year. More information will be found further in this issue so make sure you read all the way through. I believe this will be a great convention and look forward to seeing everyone there.**

I hope that those of you affected by the loss of jobs have been able to get help to ride this through. Things seem to be opening up in some areas for clowns. I know it has been hard. I know some of you have been able to find alternative ways to clown. Some have been doing virtual clowning, if you are one of those, I am proud of you for your creativity. Please continue to take proper protection by wearing masks where required, washing your hands often, and practicing social distancing. I know you are getting tired of hearing this from everyone, but let's do our part to control the spread where we can.

Please help us to keep the Joey Journal going by submitting an article for the next issue of the Digital Joey Journal. Greg has only been getting a few articles. The articles don't have to be long or any specific type, it can be something you have learned, something you or your group has done that you would like to share with the other members (pictures would be welcome), articles of how your clown has survived COVID, or other articles that you have read elsewhere about clowning, just to name a few. If you do submit one that was written by someone else, please ask their permission and give them credit in your article.

If you have not received any of my emails this year, please send me your email so I can make sure we have a current email for you on file. I have been sending out emails with TCA info and I would hate for you to miss the emails.

We need you and miss you. Please plan on attending the 2021 convention. Cindy Sanders and Susan Keys have successfully retained the lecturers and headliners that we were going to have this year so I am excited for TCA 2021. I hope you are excited as well and are making plans to attend. We can't wait to get together again next year for a "Clown Family" reunion.

I hope you and our family have a great Christmas and Happy New year and that 2021 brings great things.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at [judy.a.cornett@gmail.com](mailto:judy.a.cornett@gmail.com) or you can call my cell at 713-201-8681.

Judy "Peep" Cornett

## 2021 Vision

The TCA 2021 Convention  
Hosted by TCA Board



Welcome to a **SNEAK PEEK** of the TCA Convention 2021. We are so excited to announce that our 2021 Convention will be **LIVE** and in person. Stay tuned for more information on how to Register so you don't miss a minute of the exciting adventures that will be taking place on August 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Courtyard in Killeen, Texas.

### What to expect!

There will be excitement and surprises from the very beginning. Don't be late. Registration opens at 9:00am on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. The first welcome session will begin at 2:00 and the fun does not stop until Sunday around noon.

We have made a few changes to make this a very unique experience. This event will focus on getting back together and catching up with our friends. We will still have awesome workshops in which to participate, fun field trips, an epic banquet and don't forget the traditional Ice Cream Social.



Don't worry about putting together a skit or having your best costume cleaned and pressed. We will **NOT** have formal competitions this year. Instead, we will have two opportunities for an Open Mic and we are excited to announce a new Paradeability activity.

### Open Mic



You are free to try out a new routine or get with some friends and show off a fun performance. You do not have to be in your best costume and make-up. You can show your unique style and personality in any way you choose. There are no rules. The best part is that there is no competition. Although, we will have a **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** award for the Open Mic performances.

### Paradeability

This is the most exciting event of all. On Saturday morning we will take a field trip across the road to the Killeen Mall. We are going to perform our paradeability skits at the mall for real people. This will not be an official competition, but the public will vote, and we will have a **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** award.

So to recap:

- Look for information to come on registration for the 2021 TCA convention.
- Look for information to come on registration at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel
- Get your skits and performances together for the People's Choice Open Mic opportunities
- Get your skits and performances together for the People's Choice Paradeability

Cinde Sanders and Susan Keys



New & Old Friends  
Together Again!

Convention Headliner  
Matthew Lish

Open Mic Performances

# TCA Convention 2021



## A CLEARer VISION FOR CLOWNING

Ice Cream Social

Paradeability

Field Trips!

Workshops



## Memories

By Pam (Touche') Blacklock

I received a package in the mail a couple of days ago. It was from a widower whose wife had been a clown in the Space City Alley many years ago. Her name was Debbie (Spacey Lacey) Vassallo. We emailed and texted a few times. He wanted to donate Spacey Lacey's costumes to the Cheerful Clown Alley. I gave him my mailing address and he sent them to me.

I opened the box and started taking out the two costumes, red wig, clown shoes and a couple of her certificates from clowning.

The costumes are in great shape! When I looked closer at the tags in the costumes, I saw a Barbie tag!! This is where my great memory comes in. Seeing those tags made my heart smile! I fondly remember getting my very first clown costume in 2009...from Barbie (Stitches) Nippler. I remember going over to her house and getting to know her and the two of us picking out fabrics and colors. She was a master of costuming! Her work was, and still is, incredible!

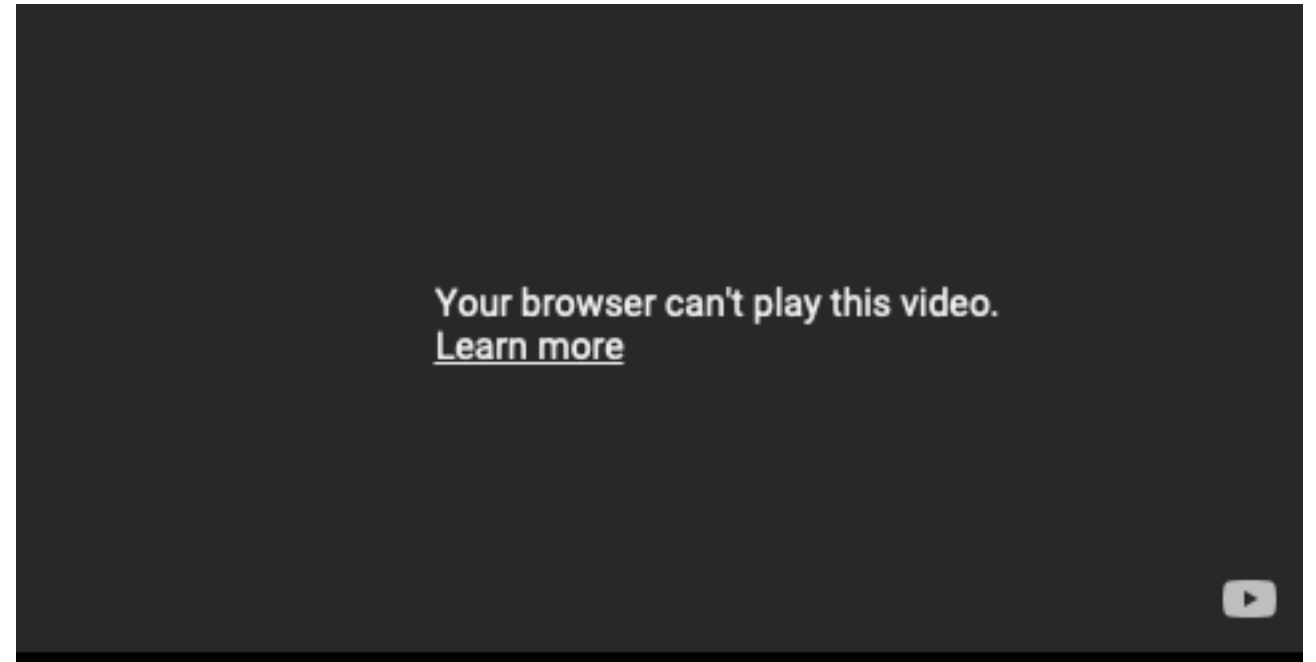
At that time, Barbie had been diagnosed with cancer. We had that in common as I was two years out from my own ordeal. We sat and talked for hours about many things. She has been gone many years and I still miss her every time I see her name tags on anything "Barbie".

I am still so proud of my "Barbie" costume! I know it was made with love and care! I love that we can pass them on to newer clowns and tell them about the woman that made them!

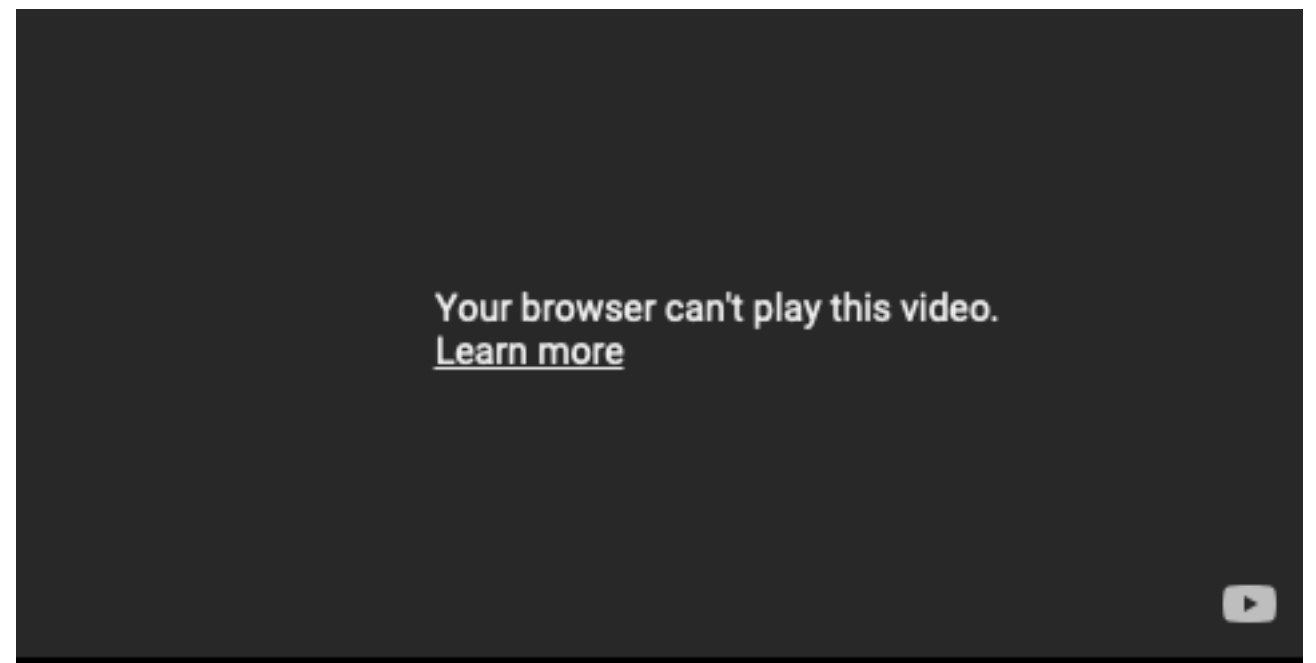


## What's on the TUBE?

Check out this short film on clowning by the American Theater Wing from National Geographic's Short Film Showcase.



Here's short video workshop on clowning - Staying with the Problem: A Clown Routine





## Election Day is on the way

This year TCA may have a convention but with a twist. If we cannot have an in person convention then we may have an option. We can have TCA on line. Either way we will be having an election of Officers. I am the head of the Nominating Committee so it is time to invite our members to place their name on the ballot. You can email me at kudotra@yahoo.com . I would love to hear from any of you interested in being a part of the group that governs our great organization. Or if there's anyone that you think would be an asset, please send me their information so I can contact them.

The term of each board member is one year and we have four board meetings each year. One is at the convention and the others are in different parts of the state so the same people do not have to travel for every meeting.

Below are the Job descriptions of the board positions. I look forward to hearing from all.

Thanks

Andy Anderson

TCA BOARD POSITIONS

Job Descriptions

### President:

The President's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Presiding over all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Supervising the affairs of the corporation
- Appointing committee chairs as needed
- Acting as an ex-officio member of all committees
- Serving as a secondary signer on the checking account
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

### Vice President:

The Vice President's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Fulfilling the duties of the President in his/her absence
- Coordinating alley applications and reports
- Acting as the primary point of contact between the Board of Directors of TCA and the General Membership of TCA
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

### Secretary:

The Secretary's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Keeping all records and correspondence of the corporation
- Recording the minutes from each Board meeting and General Membership meeting, copying and distributing said minutes to each board member and the Editor of The Joey Journal

- Sending out to and receiving proxy statements from each board member before each quarterly Board meeting
- Answering correspondence for the corporation when requested by the President and keeping an accurate file of all correspondence
- Serving as part of the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency
- Preparing voting ballots as needed
- Holding the corporate seal
- Willing to assist the President where needed
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

### Treasurer:

The Treasurer's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Maintaining the financial records of the corporation including quarterly financial reports and budget reports
- Preparing and mailing annual membership Dues Renewal notices and membership cards; notifying Area Directors of new members in their respective areas
- Maintaining complete membership database
- Providing a bi-monthly list of current membership to the Editor of The Joey Journal so that labels can be printed (or providing printed labels)
- Serving as the primary signer on all bank accounts and making deposits in a timely manner
- Holding the corporate credit card
- Paying all expenses in a timely manner
- Preparing the annual budget
- Filing an annual tax return (if applicable) and/or any other federal, state or local government forms in a timely manner
- Providing coverage for the TCA table at annual conventions for new member registrations, dues payments, membership status, etc.
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

### Sergeant-At-Arms:

The Sergeant-At-Arms' job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Maintaining order during TCA Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Enforcing Roberts Rules of Order at both TCA Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Keeping track of all TCA merchandise
- Running bi-annual elections, including balloting
- Handling any vote at the General Membership meeting
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas



**Area Director:**

The Area Director's job includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attending all Board meetings and General Membership meetings
- Taking pertinent information from those meetings to their region
- Voicing concerns to the Board from regional members
- Sending out a Welcome Packet to new members in their region
- Following up with members who do not re-up to determine reasoning
- Promoting TCA merchandise and maintaining an inventory for proper accountability of same
- Providing the Board with input regarding trends and popularity of merchandise
- Encouraging alleys to exchange newsletters
- Introducing First-time convention attendees from their region at the Annual Convention
- Encouraging new clowns in their growth in the art of clowning
- Encouraging each member to attend TCA conventions
- Willing to perform other duties as assigned by the President
- Being willing and available to work on TCA committees
- Contributing to The Joey Journal
- Promoting TCA in the great state of Texas

# KUDOS

**Andy and Rhea Anderson, Owners**

Image Engravers and Personalized Nametags

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## Ambassadors

by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

I can say I've never been more surprised to hear myself being described by Judy Cornett at the 2019 Convention as the Ambassador of Clowning Award was being presented. I had never, nor do I now, see myself up along side the previous ambassadors and all they've done for clowning and TCA, but I count myself honored to stand with them.

As has been announced, our 2021 Convention will be taking place and that means we have the chance to present a new Ambassador. Please consider nominating someone you feel is worthy of this award. Ambassadors must be an active and current TCA member.

Please write a letter explaining the different ways your nominee promotes the Art of Clowning and TCA. Some things you might include:

- How long they've been an active member of TCA.
- Any board positions or committees they worked on in TCA and/or with their local alley.
- How they are unselfish and giving with their clowning. How have they shown positivity and caring for others.
- How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown? Are they active in their community?

This information and any other pertinent information that can be shared will be used to select the Ambassador by the Ambassador committee which is made up of past ambassadors and the current ambassador who will act as chair of the committee (that's me). **Please send letters to me, Greg Stanford at [greg@joeyjournal.com](mailto:greg@joeyjournal.com) or by snail mail to 5407 Hooper Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76306.**

Nominations will be accepted from current TCA members through July 1, 2021. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.





## North East Area Report

By Susan "Dubble Bubble" Keys

Texas Mid Cities Clown Alley 85 submitted by Matty Spraggins  
Mid-Cities clown alley has begun meeting again in person and are hosting a joint alley meeting for all the other alleys in the Dallas - Fort Worth area on May 18th. We are expecting a great turn out and lots of fun socializing once again. We are still trying our best to keep everyone safe and help them feel comfortable with social distancing.

We have a strong core of volunteers within our board and are looking forward to a great upcoming year growing and developing clowning.

This message was sent to the DFW area entertainers:  
Mid-Cities Alley 85 is honored to present the 15th annual Joint Alley Meeting on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00pm. We are so excited to see everyone again after a long and crazy year. While we continue our traditional gathering, we will be safe and practice social distancing, etc. Please wear your most fun PJ's for our Breakfast for Dinner Pajama Event. We will enjoy bedtime stories by Elizabeth Ellis and provide individually packaged tasty breakfast foods. Also bring your creative minds as we will have some art projects and contests. Can't wait to see everyone. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

Memory Makers Alley  
Submitted by Darris Cross  
We are having our meetings the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Our secretary fought with the bank about something and she won so they corrected that for us. Terry has been doing performances which is puppet for us and teaching us a little bit on intuitism . Excellent presentation. We held our election and everybody stayed in the same position. We are still working on our skits and stuff. We want to get skits and programs together so that when we get to go do things, we can always pull them out of our hats and say let's do the stagecoach or let's do this or that and we already have some kind of idea what we are going to do.

Rosy Nose Alley  
Submitted by Jane Wilson  
We hope to start meeting in person in April on the third Monday. Location is undecided at this time. Can't find a place that suits everyone. Program was supposed to be Susan Keys....So until we find location, we cannot nail down a program. Update: We will be meeting April 19th at 6:00 PM at Bergfield Park. Bring a sack supper. Topic: How to improvise.



## South Central Area Report

by Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert

- Jolly Joeys Board Members carried over from 2020 to 2021.
- Have not had in person meetings since the start of the Pandemic
- Zoom meetings were not well attended early on and dropped off a few months into the Pandemic
- Had our first Zoom Meeting during the month of April, and we had 2 members plus the Board attend
- Our President hoped to start a Book Club which would meet once per month via Zoom, Book would be a book on Clowning, no one has shown interest in attending that.
- Hoping the church we meet at will allow in person meetings to begin sometime in May
- Diana McCurtain-Talbert migrated Jolly Joeys website from old host to a new host. Same name, new look: [www.jollyjoeys.org](http://www.jollyjoeys.org)

## South East Area Report

by Pam "Touche' " Blacklock

Cheerful Clown Alley #166 met in-person for the second time and on Zoom. This was our monthly General Membership meeting. We had 14 members show up for the in-person meeting and 2 on Zoom. It was a fun meeting and it was really nice to "see" everyone!

Membership reported that we have 69 people that have renewed with CCA. Jean (Kit Cat) Pirtle led the Education/Entertainment with some Show and Tell about the CCA Kitchen Band. She talked about making some different instruments for the members that are part of the Kitchen Band. One of our members, Aldo (Cheerio) Iglehart "plays" the kitchen sink. It sounds like a tuba! Kit Cat also talked about needing more practice time to be ready when we can get back into the Senior Centers.

The CCA Clown School is set to begin in June 2021! It will be every Tuesday evening and all four Saturdays. At this writing we have 3 students signed up. There will be a Garage Sale on one of the Saturdays, possibly the second or third. The last Saturday will be graduation.





## North Central Area Report

by L.J. "Wiggles-d-clown" Lomenick-Luce

Cowtown has not been able to meet since this pandemic started because their meeting place has been unavailable. First Baptist Church is slowly and cautiously reopening and Cowtown soon should be able to resume regular alley meetings.

The Clown Arounds have also been affected by the virus and the big freeze but are doing what they can do to keep the art of clowning alive in Wichita Falls.

Good news is that the annual joint meeting is being presented by Mid-Cites clown alley May 18th at the Christ Church in Irving. There will be a story teller for entertainment and the theme will be a pajama party with breakfast for dinner. This is the event where all three alleys get together for a night of fun, food, and unity. It will be attended both in person and virtually.

Happi Tymes Alley has had a great deal of activity of late. They have held alley meetings the last two months with in person attendance as well as facebook viewing. The March meeting was a program on safe face painting and April's meeting was a round table puppet show designed to sharpen our skills on improv story telling. Since many clowns in the area are members of Cowtown, Miscites, and Happi Thymes these meetings are well attended and a great deal of fun. There was a balloon jam headed up by Nancy Arent at our local El Chico Mexican food restaurant, which proved instructional for the group and a lot of fun for the kid customers. Two of our clowns set out on Easter morning to egg some neighbors houses which is to say their desire was to place Easter eggs in their front yards. They ended up coming upon an Easter egg party instead. They seized the opportunity to dispense the remainder of the eggs with a dollop of humor and brought smiles to all the children's faces.

According to one of the participants the moral of this story is this: Everything we do puts a smile on someones face and proves that we do make a difference,

May you all be blessed!  
817-475-1089



## My Grandpa was an Inventor

by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

Did you know my grandpa was an inventor? No, me nether. Actually, he wasn't. But I love to tell my audiences, "My grandpa was an inventor." You see, it's a storyline that I've built into a couple of my shows that allows me to use and connect magic tricks that probably wouldn't ordinarily go together.

My grandpa tried to invent traffic lights. Yep, he started a company but they just couldn't get the lights in the right order. This is the patter for one of my "Priority Ball" routines. Another is grandpa's washing machine powder that you don't need a washing machine for. That's the story I use with a "Soft Soap" routine - which is one of my favorites to do.

All of my shows use an element of storytelling in them. I think stories give magic shows and clown shows much more power when trying to connect with an audience. I've been wowed by performers who don't use stories, but just do trick after trick after trick. I'm wowed, but I've not connected to the performer. I didn't go anywhere.

A performer who uses stories in their show can transport their audience to other places, other world and other times. Stories are also great ways to connect tricks or introduce the next bit. Here's an example of one routine I've done.

I tell a story of how a dalmation got it's spots using story silks and a change bag. The final silk is the black and white dalmation. I then tell them I have a special pan that would change this picture into a real thing - in the process of telling this, I sit the dalmation silk down then "accidentally" picked up a skunk silk. I load it in my dove pan, and talk about the colors black and white and the cute cuddly animal, all the while ignoring the kids shouting it was a skunk. I then take off the lid exposing a stuffed skunk which I then introduce as Flower, like from Bambi. Putting the skunk down, I pick up an appearing flower saying I needed a flower, but not that kind of a flower and move into a routine of an appearing flower.



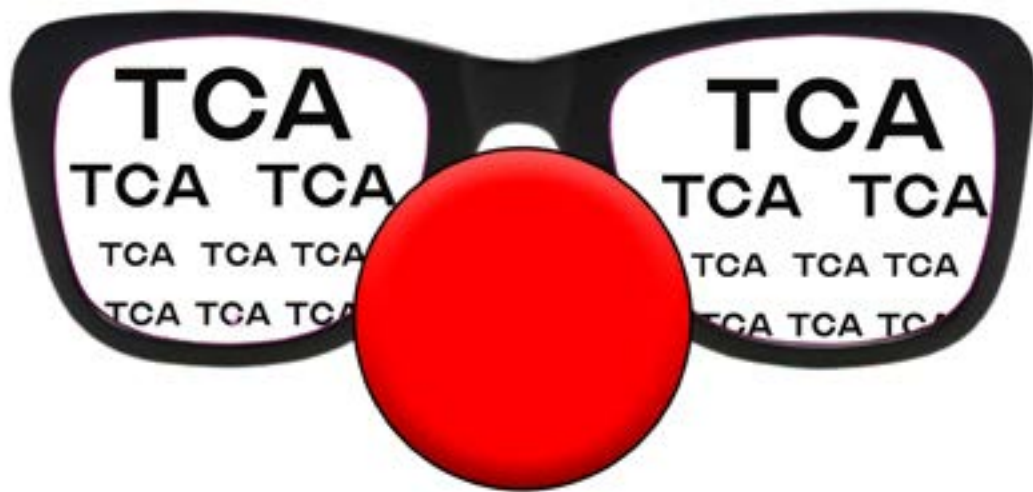
With the simple routine, I've used multiple tricks, had fun with the audience and created a memory. I really do think stories are powerful and when we can use them in our performances our shows will go along with the audience when they leave. So, give it a try. I think you and your audience will enjoy it.

**"There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place."**

– J.K. Rowling, novelist, screenwriter and film producer

**TCA Convention**

**2020~~1~~**



# A CLEAR<sup>er</sup> VISION FOR CLOWNING

Don't wait, stop by the TCA website and download a registration form today. You can also find a link to reserve your hotel room in the TCA room block.

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