

My Clown Nose; A Love/Hate/Love Story

I was talking to Marcela “Mama Clown” Murad at the TCA convention in Wichita Falls back in ‘98. At the time I had just given up wearing a clown nose. I had made the choice to leave the nose behind when the old plastic one I had been wearing for several years had cracked along the bottom between the nostrils and was pinching me on the skin beneath my real nose. I had been glueing a fake mustache made of wig hair to the bottom of the nose. But since I had recently grown a real mustache (a generous title for my little lip garden), I had dispensed with the itchy fake. When the old nose itself cracked, I gave it up in favor of a smudge of red greasepaint. Mama Clown liked my overall look, but asked me why I didn’t wear a nose. I told her, “After 25 years, I’m just tired of glueing things to my face.” She laughed.

I didn’t actually start glueing things to my face when I first started clowning though. At first, as I did later, I just painted the nose on. We had fewer options back then. My first actual clown nose was a red rubber ball, hollowed out for my real nose, and attached with elastic. I found out pretty quick it was a target for kids, they couldn’t resist pulling it and letting go, snapping the nose back into my face. I quickly changed to ‘nose putty’, a theatrical staple for many years. Emmett Kelly had fashioned his nose from this material for many years on the circus. I found it hard to work with myself, I could never seem to get the shape right, as it had to be reshaped every time I wore it. My next nose was a smaller, plastic ball, approximately the size of a ping pong ball. This I glued to my face with ‘spirit gum’, also a theatrical make-up standard. I hated that stuff though. It smelled and dried to an itchy crusty glue. Yuck. Finally, I had a clown friend who was experimenting with latex noses, and he made me one which I wore for a couple of years. It wasn’t bad but it wasn’t extremely durable, and mine wore out about the time my friend stopped making them. I returned to the plastic ball, this time attached with liquid latex, which I stuck with, or to.. I guess, until it broke in the late 90’s. From then until very recently, I have gone ‘sans nez’. But about a month ago, I got this strange urge to glue something to my face. I called Andy Anderson and ordered a ProNose. I picked it on the internet, a very modern way to pick one’s nose. What nice noses these are, a blessing to clowns, I’m telling you, and this is from someone who nose.. er, uh.. knows.

David Pitts

The Joey Journal



The Texas Clown Association - Mar-Apr 2011

THE JOEY JOURNAL

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	Family (each add'l):	15.00
	Junior Membership:	12.50

Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P. O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053

Purpose of the Texas Clown Association

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.

SPRING ISSUE
MARCH—APRIL 2011

Index

Joey Journal Info	1
Index	2
President's Message.....	3
Ready, Set, Clown	4
Congratulations Jolly Joeys.....	8
Deadline for Next JJ.....	9
Spark Plug Award	9
Dear Minnie.....	10
Ambassador of Clowning	12
Intellectual Property Rights for Clowns.....	14
Pick Me, Pick Me!	18
Convention Program Book Ads Needed	20
Dates to Remember	21
Dues are Past Due	23
TCA Board of Directors Info.....	24

A Word from the Prez.....

Hello Clown Friends,

I'm looking for some ideas and comments from you- the membership of our great organization. They say two heads are better than one, so I'm thinking three hundred plus heads can be better than the eleven board members. I would like for you to let me know if there is anything you would like to change about TCA. I'm not saying we will be able to use them all, but, wouldn't it be great to say you had a say in how TCA runs. My email is in this book and on the web page under TCA Board of Directors.

While you have your thinking hats on, maybe you can write an article for the Joey Journal. We are **always** looking for good articles that are educational, enlightening or inspiring. They don't have to be pages and pages long. You can put a lot of good information in just a few paragraphs. Send them to joeyjournal@yahoo.com . Kay Quittner, our editor, and Andy Quittner, our treasurer, are hoping to find your articles, or questions, and will answer you.

Bump A Nose

Andy A.

Ready, Set, CLOWN!

The economy stinks. My back hurts. The world is going to pot.

What's a person to do? Call a clown to bring a little happiness into your life! That's where YOU fit in!

People need clowns more than ever right now - and good clowns at that. It is within our capacity to bring smiles, laughter, and a lighter heart to people who are sad, lonely, hurting, ill, and just in need of a good hearty laugh.

People are motivated by 3 things:

Making money, making a name, and making a difference. Whatever motivates you, you can find classes at the TCA convention 2011 to fill that need.

If you want to make money, there will be classes to help you improve your skills so you can charge more for your services and market yourself in newer, more rewarding ways. If you want to make a name for yourself, there will be people there to mentor you, talk to you, and help guide you to become a winner. If you want to make a difference there will be classes on clowning to help others - be it hospital clowning, gospel clowning, or nursing homes. It's all there just waiting for you.

Dealer room:

We will have a dealer room full of exciting products - some familiar, some new things - all just what a clown needs to do their job and do it well. Plan on visiting the dealer room often! From magic, makeup, props, wigs, shoes, funny stuff, badges, stickers, face paint, balloon supplies,

costumes and accessories, we'll have the "Walmart" of clowning right here at your fingertips.

Photographer:

We'll have the highly acclaimed professional photographers back - David and Donna Thomasson. They will be signing up folks for photo sessions at an incredible discount vs. their regular rates. A picture is worth a thousand words and if you have not made the investment in REAL professional photos yet you need to make an appointment with David and Donna BEFORE the convention. You can go to the convention website and click on the following link to make your reservation: <http://www.happitymesclownsdfw.com/TCA-2011-PHOTO-STUDIO.html> Or, give him a call at: (817) 738-4257. You can sign up at the convention if any spaces are left. Sitting times are very limited and available on a first come basis so we suggest signing up ahead of the convention to make sure you have a spot! Check out the convention schedule on the Mid Cities website to see when you might want to have a sitting.

Hotel

Make your room reservations NOW!!! The group rate of \$89.00 per night is **ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL JULY 10!** After that time, the group rate is not guaranteed anymore! Go to the convention website and click on the hotel link, or call the hotel directly at: (972) 929-4500 and tell them you are with the TCA convention.

If you need a roommate for the convention, we have a link on our website where you can request potential roommates

to contact you - or you can contact someone looking for a roommate.

The Westin DFW hotel is gorgeous. It has been newly remodeled and has everything you would want in a 4 star hotel. If you attended TCA in 2001, it's the same hotel - a stone's throw from the DFW airport so there is a free shuttle if you fly.

The food there is wonderful. The rooms are spacious and lovely. They have all the amenities you would want- pool, exercise room, internet access, restaurant, bar, hair dryers, irons, comfy beds!

Regular room rates are \$139.00 and up. We have an incredible deal at only \$89!!! No matter how many share the room! You can't beat this folks!

Whether you live in the DFW area (or not), plan on staying at the hotel - not only for convenience for you (remember the morning traffic?) but also to help us meet our room block. If we meet the minimum number of room reservations needed, our meeting space is free and we do not need to pay extra for meeting space. If we don't meet our minimum number of rooms rented, we go in the hole. UGH! So, we NEED everyone coming to the convention to stay at the convention hotel. At the rates we have negotiated and with the fact that you can share a room at no additional cost, this is a great deal. You should treat yourself. You deserve it!

The classes this year will be great. We are very excited about having JT "Bubba" Sikes, Tricia "Priscilla Mooseburger" Manuel, Cheri "Cheri Oats" Venturi, Jackie "Lolli Bells" Garner, The Pure Magic of Dal Sanders and much more. We'll have classes on things like "social

networking - how to use this new media to market yourself" and wonderful classes on performing for hospitals, churches, nursing homes and of course - birthday parties.

Did we mention a special Jr. Joey program? Yes, our own Susan Keys will head up the Jr. program so bring the young ones to learn how to be a clown. School is still out so this is the perfect opportunity to take that last summer vacation and teach them a craft that frankly can help pay their way through college. My own boys have helped pay for their college books, rent, gas and more through their clown jobs. Yours can too!

Check our schedule often as we will be adding more classes later as well!

There will be a fun theme party on Friday night so be prepared to party and dance. The theme is.... Racing!

Lastly, we have some big surprises for you at this convention - some of which are so big we are busting to tell you - but then it wouldn't be a surprise. Our banquet entertainment will be something we expect will be talked about for a long time, so don't miss the banquet! If you are local, you may wish to purchase extra banquet tickets for your family so they may also enjoy our show as well.

Yours in Clowning,
Margaret Clauder
Clown chair

Spark Plug Award

Each year TCA recognizes members who "spark" new membership in TCA. Certificates are awarded to everyone who brings in a new member - **and** to that special person who brings in at least six new members and the most new members - that person will receive complimentary registration to the 2012 Annual TCA convention - a value of nearly \$100!!

In some ways this is TCA's most important award as the sparking of new members ensures that TCA will continue to be a vibrant organization. In other words: WE NEED YOU.

This year's convention is in August - so the dates for recruiting new members is also moved up. The deadline for determining the Spark Plug Award will be **July 15**. That means all members "sparked" between September 1, 2010 and July 15, 2011, will be counted.

If you haven't sent in your membership renewal, please do so as soon as possible, and while you are at it help extend TCA's success into the future by sparking a new member

Next JJ Deadline is JUNE 1, 2011

TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals

may be found on our website at
www.texasclownassociation.org

Password: musicbox

Dear Minnie.....

As Minnie Mustardseed, I want to field questions, and tips in an open forum type piece for our Joey Journal. Possibly an item providing a place to send all the questions you always wanted to ask, but had no place to get a good answer. I do not pretend that I will know all the answers to every question, but I do know some very seasoned clowns that collectively have probably faced many situations that can provide insight to us all. I'm hoping that many of you will also share new finds, bits of wisdom, and tips for the ever-evolving today's clown. Please forward your questions & tips through email to: peggy@funtimeclowns.com or by snail-mail to Peggy Barton, 3221 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76049. I'm fueling your ideas this month with pretend questions, but my real answers. I will gladly withhold your name if you ask it to be withheld. I do reserve the writer's privilege to select and group questions, as some months we may receive lots and others none. I'm sure Kay & Andy Quittner will appreciate a semi-consistently sized article. Please, fire away, and let's have some good fun and information, that we can all share.

Dear Minnie,

When I'm removing my make-up I have the most trouble with the eyebrow area and just above my eyelashes. Do you have a suggestion?
The Red Eyelid Kid

Dear Red,

Eyelids and brows can be more difficult and residue can be embarrassing. I clean with an oil based cleanser, like cold cream

or Mary Kay Emollient, then, I follow-up on those difficult areas with Mary Kay's oil-free eye-makeup remover. It does not leave that slightly blurring effect in your eye.

Minnie Mustardseed

Dear Minnie,

My favorite puppet pal is beginning to get a slight oily look. How can I freshen it up without destroying my pal.

Friend of Slick

Dear Friend,

At the TCA Convention of 2010, I attended a class by puppet-master Rob Nelson. He told us that Resolve upholstery cleaner is a good spray-on, wipe off solution. I hope the two of you will be very happy for a long time.

Minnie Mustardseed

Dear Minnie,

I've attended several balloon classes and jams and have become confused. There are such varied opinions about the sizes and colors of balloons, how is a clown supposed to choose?

Balloon Confusion

Dear Confusion,

This is tough. As we balloon sculpting artists seek to turn out the best product we can, is there a right answer? Although I've heard Linda Berman say, she believes the 160's are less stressful on her hands, there seems to be a wide favorite toward the 260's in general balloon animal production. As with all clowning skills, I believe the bottom line is what appeals to you. Your attitude and presentation of this new creation is affected if you do not feel good about it.

Minnie Mustardseed

Until next time, this is Yours truly, **Minnie**

AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING 2011

Who in your clowning world, alley, Great State of Texas, and TCA shines in your eyes as outstanding? Now is the time to write your letter to nominate this special clown and honor them as an outstanding clown for the 2011 Ambassador of clowning. Your nominee must meet these qualifications:

- ◆ Be an active and participating member of TCA.
- ◆ Be known for his or her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain.
- ◆ Be a well rounded clown, someone who gives to the community, is an active volunteer, and is exposed or is a professional in the art of clowning.
- ◆ Should promote TCA in all facets of clowning, should strive always to be positive, upbeat, agreeable, have a fair attitude, be willing to share ideas, and be available to assist with a smile showing extra ordinary clownmanship.

Send a letter explaining why you feel your nominee meets these requirements and should be the TCA Ambassador of Clowning for 2011. This is the highest award in clowning in the state of Texas and is taken very seriously.

In your nomination letter also include: where they got their training, what they do best--their specialty, how

do they use their talent to serve their alley and their community, what charities do they support in their clowning. Are they active in their alley, have they served on the TCA board or held a position on the board of their home alley. Tell us about their teaching skills and if they enjoy sharing with others what they know. Have they received any awards? Tell us about their character-- are they funny, caring, kind, gentle, willing to lend a hand to a fellow clown in trouble and are they just fun to be around.

Now that you are thinking about this special very special clown, don't put it off. Don't wait. Send in your letter now.

Let this special clown shine as he/she gets awarded this outstanding award.

The nominations are read, by past ambassadors, at the TCA 2011 Annual Convention and votes are made by secret ballot. The award is given to the nominee with the most votes and will be announced at the 2011 TCA convention awards banquet.

Nominations for this honor are being accepted by Susan TINKER Butler at 5232 W. 40th St, Odessa, TX 79764 or susan.butler@ectorcountyisd.org 432-413-6548. **They must be received in writing by July 1 no exceptions.**

Intellectual Property Rights for Clowns

Trademark and Trade Dress

Clowns have the line that it's okay to pick your nose, and even pick your friend's nose - but as this article will show, you shouldn't pick someone else's nose for yourself!! This is the first of two or three articles that will touch on how intellectual property laws affect clowns. But first the required disclaimer: "This article is written merely as a guide and NOT to provide specific legal advice. The application of laws to a particular problem is fact intensive - so if you have a problem, or think you do - then consult an attorney."

Over the years I have heard a number of presenters touch on copyright - sometimes providing good guidance, sometimes not. From a legal perspective, intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks and copyright) can be a complex subject with a lot of legal hair-splitting. Fortunately, for most clowns, what we need to know to operate within the law is not so unwieldy. Why did I start out writing about "picking your nose?" Most of the questions that I have heard during classes revolve around using music (copyright and licensing) but are only used if you use music in your act. Trade dress and trademark are bodies of law that are really applicable to ALL clowns ALL of the time.

A trademark is a distinctive sign or indicator used by someone to identify the products or services offered where the trademark would appear to originate from a unique source and serves to distinguish those products and services from the products and services offered by others. There are lots of trademarks that immediately bring up the thought of specific products or services: a

pair of golden arches, a swoosh, or an orange and white A-frame building, to name a few.

Trade dress is more design oriented and a little harder to give examples but think of the clown who represents those golden arches. So, for a clown, trade dress would be your entire look - face and costume and, in some cases, a few signature lines or bits.

What I am getting at is your clown character's unique look - nose, face, and costume combined - is your trade dress and your name can be considered a trademark (although a face could also be a trademark). Some clowns have developed a look that is easily distinguishable: Bozo, Emmet Kelly, and Leon McBride (as Buttons) immediately come to mind. I was schooled by Lanky in Corpus Christi and he taught us to use our natural face contours to enhance our own design.

As first of Mays, we were told how important it was to find our own unique look - and to the extent possible even a unique name. The reason generally given, and certainly very true, is that only you can be you - and the "best" character will fit your unique qualities. A second reason - equally applicable - is to copy someone else's look could be an infringement of their trademark - and possibly actionable in court - a result you wouldn't want.

Most clowns, whether professional or not, have invested a lot of time, money and effort into developing their face, costume and character and they might not think that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery - at least exact imitation. Would you?

The key to adhering to most intellectual property laws is really quite simple - just two of the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule are all that are needed to keep one

out of trouble, at least where costuming is concerned! The two commandments: "Do not steal" and "Do not covet your neighbors face and costume (OK, a couple of words changed) along with "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" are all you need to remember when becoming the character you want to be. With a little care, one can easily figure out how much imitation is acceptable. Our TCA members have been assisted by professional costumers who do not offer racks of the same costumes in different sizes, other than socks and jerseys. They have worked hard to help keep us all unique - another credit to the craft.

Trademarks (and trade dress) can be registered with the Texas Secretary of State and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, but registration is not necessary (unless you think you need to be involved in the judicial system to protect or defend your rights). Once your name has attained what is known as secondary meaning - that is when mentioned someone immediately thinks - oh, you mean that silly clown - then the name is your trademark. Using a name and look on cards, websites, and advertising also helps build the "secondary meaning" and helps establish trademark and trade dress (and examples of such are part of the submission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office when you apply for a registered trademark).

In many ways trademark and trade dress are the least complex of the intellectual property rights - which is why I wrote about them first. Also, I wanted to introduce a theme that you will see in future articles - do not covet or steal, and treat others as you would want to be treated.

If you have questions about this article - please send them to me at joeyjournal@yahoo.com and I will try and address them in future articles.

Andy "Banjo" Quittner

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<http://dtstudio.smugmug.com>



NEW WEBSITE PASSWORD

Please note that the password for the member's only section of the website has now been changed.

The new password is: **musicbox**

Pick Me! Pick Me! Techniques for Selecting Volunteers

Deciding on whom to have as an assistant or helper on stage is very important to the success of the performance. The right child can make or break the show. Here are a few ideas that I utilize to insure that the presentation goes well. Since I am always at the show site at least one hour in advance, I have time ask the person in charge for a few names of adults or children that would be good on stage. The boss really likes the opportunity to involve their friends or to reward a child by participating. They will also know which kids that should NOT be on stage due to behavior or physical abilities issues.

I love to introduce myself to the audience and inform the children that from time to time I will be inviting some of them to help me right from their chairs and some of them will have the chance to come up on stage with me. However, I only choose children that are sitting up nice and straight and that have very big brains! This is very important as I don't want to embarrass anyone. Raise your hand only when I ask you to and remember, must have a giant big brain!

Of course, my job there is to have fun with the children and give them an entertaining and educational experience. I am not there to embarrass them. If they do answer incorrectly, I will guide them to the correct answer.

Please have an escort ready if the students have to walk up some level of stairs. Always better to be prepared there. If the performance is at a theater, then an escort needs to take the children up on stage to you through the wings and back to the seating area again.

A performer should be mindful of race when selecting volunteers. It would be obvious if there were only a few of one race in the audience and the performer selected only those children during the show. Mix it up when selecting volunteers with race, gender and even size. Be mindful to have a variety of children to assist you.

If the entertainer has a hand held microphone and asks a child their name, then bend down and let the child answer in the microphone or at least repeat the name of child several times during the routine. This technique will validate not only their name but them as a person. While the child is on stage, do NOT handle them roughly by forcing them to bow, smile or turn their head a certain way. It is always better to whisper a request into the child's ear. This is what a gentle entertainer does. You never know, the child you pick for the stage may someday hire you for their child's birthday party!

Steve Kissell

FamilyComedian.com

NEEDED: PROGRAM BOOK ADS - 2011

Fact: An alley must make a profit from hosting a convention! Each year fewer alleys have the manpower and financial resources needed. Part of the convention revenue a host alley may keep, without sharing with TCA or giving to a designated charity, comes from program book ads.

MID-CITIES IS ASKING FOR ALLEY ADS AND PERSONAL BUSINESS CARD ADS!

(Please ask local suppliers to support TCA with an ad)

AD DEADLINE: JULY 18, 2011

Maximum space on each page 7 1/2" x 4 1/4" - no bleed. (Final trim size: Same as Joey Journal). Rates are for camera-ready ads (over size ads will be reduced to fit ad space).

- 1) Inside Front & Outside Back Cover-Color: \$125 (7 1/2" x 4 1/4").
- 2) Inside Pages - Color: \$100 / Blk&W hite: \$75 (7 1/2"x 4 1/4").
- 3) Half Page Inside - Color: \$75 / Blk&W hite: \$60 (3 3/4"x 4 1/4").
- 4) Quarter Page Inside - Color: \$45 / Blk&W hite: \$30 (2"x 4 1/4")
- 5) Business Card Ad - Color: \$25 /Blk&W hite: \$15 (2 1/2"x 3 1/2") (Note: For best results, submit an original calling card. Card quality will determine the appearance of your ad in the program book).

Traditionally, alleys have purchased full page ads while individual clowns have invested in quarter-size or business card ads; dealers insert half-page or full page size ads.

DRAWING...DRAWING...DRAWING

Each person submitting a business size ad will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 cash prize given at convention.

Make checks to: TCA Convention 2011 - Mail to: 1507 Marshalldale, Arlington TX 76013. Submit ads through the mail or by email to: billywhiskers@rocketmail.com. Questions regarding advertising can be emailed or telephone Earl Warren, 817-275-8644.

2011 DATES to NOTE

David Ginn's KIDBIZ Live Workshop, Sunday May 15, 2011, Sagemont Church, 11300 Sam Huston Parkway, East, Houston, Texas...from 2:00-6:00, contact Phyllis Sheffield: 281-381-4801

TCA Annual Convention—August 10-14, 2011

Send in you application now for the best rate!!

Working Clown Workshop, August 17-20, 2011, Killeen, Texas. Hosted and Sponsored by: Barnum Entertainment: barnum_entertainment@yahoo.com or 254-200-4386

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A BILLY PRINCE SHOE

PLEASE SHARE YOUR TALENTS

We still need some articles for the Joey Journal. Please help us make this a better newsletter. It is another way to share your talents. Send those articles to Joeyjournal@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE

Your annual TCA membership expires each year on March 31. To make it easy for everyone, I included a membership renewal and an addressed envelope for renewing your membership - and updating the database. To date only 147 persons have renewed their membership (actually a couple less, because there have been at least two or three new members). That is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the membership.

We do this through annual conventions and the Joey Journal. And we have continued to do this with no increase in membership dues - not at all during this century (even if the century is only ten years old)!! TCA is healthy, but to keep this up WE NEED YOUR HELP through promptly renewing your membership.

So if you haven't renewed your membership, dig up your last issue and fill out that registration form....and while you are at it, make a copy or two and spark a new member - you might just win a free registration to the 2012 convention!!

Did you know that you can place a free classified ad to sell extra clown stuff—if you aren't a dealer.

The Texas Clown Association—Board of Directors

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