

Birthday Presence

I have been guilty of the assumption that all clowns at some point will want to perform at a birthday party. I've made this mistaken assumption while planning clown classes, for instance, and found that I was focusing on a type of performing that only a small percentage of clowns ever want to do. I'm not sure why I figured every clown would eventually want to perform at birthday parties. I guess because it seemed a logical step to me, and for me, it was. But that was because I always saw clowning as a possible profession, even when my life took a different direction and I had a profession... a different profession. I had grown up thinking of clowning as what I would do when I finally, well, *grew up*. That's kind of ironic if you think about it, and it reminds me of a joke...

A kid tells his dad, "When I grow up I want to be a musician".

The dad replies, "Son, you can't do both".

I think the joke works for clowns too. When we are performing, we have to be both an actor, pretending to be a clown, and an actual clown, which is a person who sees the world as a child sees it. We have to do both these things simultaneously without seeming to try too hard. If I act too much like a child I become annoying and scary, too much like a grown up actor portraying a child and I don't connect with the audience in that moment. And that's the key; connecting with the audience in...that.. moment. And maybe that's why I think clowns ought to consider birthday parties, even if they're not interested in making money. There's nothing like a birthday party for training a clown to think on his feet, be truly present and do his act for all ages in performing situations that are rarely ideal. It's not a skit, which is a little play that often pretends the audience isn't even there. It's a performance that, if we do not include our audience, stay in the moment, and still do the act, it doesn't work. It is challenging but it builds performing confidence. And that confidence will be with you every time you are in front of an audience. Consider it if you haven't yet. Write an act, then give it a try.

David Pitts

the Joey Journal

Texas Clown Association
March - April 2012



THE JOEY JOURNAL

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The Texas Clown Association, Inc.

Kay "Nannie Belle" & Andy "Banjo" Quittner, Co-Editors

David Pitts, Cover Art

Read it online via your TCA website: www.texasclownassociation.com

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items may be mailed to *The Joey Journal*, 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 or by sent by email to joeyjournal@yahoo.com. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints; please, no slides, copies, or Polaroids.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Full page-\$50; half page-\$30; 1/3 page size \$20

Multiple placement discounts on full, half, and quarter page ads are 10% for 2-5 editions and 20% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance.

Clownified ads: Free to members if you have clown-related items for sale or donation. Vendor businesses not included.

Publication deadlines On or before January 5, March 1, May 1, July 1, August 1 (special convention edition) and November 1. Articles can be sent to joeyjournal.com in Word format or in the body of your email for the easiest exchange of information.

Membership and Dues	Regular Membership:	\$ 25.00
	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.

WINTER ISSUE
MARCH—APRIL 2012

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A Word from the Prez.....

Hello Clown Friends,

I just wanted to take some time to thank all the people that are working so hard to give all of you a wonderful TCA Convention this August 1-5. We have some great lecturers and vendors scheduled and are working on more. As you read this we should be closing in on 100 registrations and that is good at this time. We need more people that want to better themselves to register. Also when you register don't forget to make your room reservation at the Westin Hotel www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/TxCA . This is the best way to register and the more rooms we can fill up will help TCA with the cost of our meeting space.

Don't forget we are having a new Competition this year. For the first time we will have Face Painting competitions. This is something the membership asked for and we will be able to implement it at this convention. Your Board is always open to ideas that you think will make TCA better. We discuss these ideas at our board meetings, sometimes form committees to fine tune ideas and then bring them to the General Membership meetings as a recommendation for discussion and vote. This is another reason for our members to come to convention and the General Membership meeting.

This year we elect new Board Members so if you want to know more about how the Board works; think about running for a Board Position. The job descriptions for each officer are on the web page. We need people that are willing to commit some time and be at four Board meetings a year.

I hope to see all of you at the convention and bring a friend.

Bump A Nose

Andy A.



Guess Who's Coming to TCA
Christie "Louella" McNeill

The Texas Clown Association Convention is just around the corner, August 1-5, 2012. So I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you some of the great folks who will be joining us there. We are bringing in ANGEL OCASIO to lecture and he will be available for some one-on-one sessions to critique you (and your group) on a skit or a performance. If you take advantage of this you will NOT be allowed to enter that particular skit/performance in this year's competitions, UNLESS you have your session AFTER you have completed the competition.

There will be a face painting tract on Thursday. **Mark Reid** -the FABULOUS Face Painter will be there to vend and lecture. Mark will present 3 lectures and **Judy Uebelacker** will lead one face painting class that same day. Judy will also be vending. So tell your face painting friends about the Thursday Face Painting track (Day Rate is just \$75.00 - at the door).

Bruce Chadwick the Magician of The Illusion Warehouse will be joining us this year and will teach 2 classes, and he will have a booth in the dealers' room. **Ralph Dewey** (world famous_balloon artist and author) will also be joining us as a lecturer and a dealer and he is teaching a Masters Class for all you pros out there.

And not to be called a name dropper but these awesome folks will be also there as lecturers or venders or maybe both: **Rafi Randon, Jackie Garner, Kitty Kirk, Cheri Venturi, Steve Roeske, Kelly Ballagh, Pam Muenchow, David Thomason and Michael Talbert "Masseuse Extraordinaire"**. And that's not all; I am still lining things up so watch the TCA website for updates coming soon.

There is one other development I need to share: Leon McBryde has decided not to come to TCA this year. We are extremely disappointed, but we certainly understand. Sometimes things happen and we cannot always do everything we would like to do. I did promise him that I would tell everybody hello for him, so consider yourself hugged by the "Big Guy"; he really loves us Texas clowns.

If you have any questions, my contact information is on the TCA Board of Directors page of this issue. Hope to see all of you in Irving on August 1-5.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR TCA

If you are reading this article you are most likely a member of the Texas Clown Association (TCA). So why is this article in "The Joey Journal"? I wanted to stir your interest in becoming more involved in your organization. Have you ever wondered how the TCA Board works? Have you had ideas of how TCA could do things different? Ever wanted to volunteer on a committee for the TCA? Have you ever had information related to clowning education that you would like to share but didn't have an avenue to share it? So many questions, but I can help you find an answer.

Let's start with "How does the TCA Board work?". They work very well together and accomplish a lot of things. Want to know more about them, then run for an office at the next general meeting which is held at the annual convention. All of the positions are up for grabs and you can find the requirements and roles for each position on the TCA web site www.texasclownassociation.com. Being on the board for the past two years has given me great insight into the Board. With every meeting I learned more about the organization, the health of each Alley, helped to finalize several changes to competition categories, and participated in the 2012 convention committee, and the networking with the other Board members has been a lot of fun.

Now let's move on to the ideas you have to help the TCA. How do you do it? Just feel free to submit your ideas to the Board. There was an idea presented to the Board in 2011 to include facepainting in the convention competition

and the Board discussed it and presented it to the General Meeting in 2011. Guess what? It was voted in and will be a new competition category at the 2012 convention. So what are you waiting for, have an idea present it to the Board.

So you want to volunteer. We can use you. Just let the Board know what you want to do and we will get you in contact with the right committee. One of the upcoming short term opportunities is the 2012 Convention. Just let us know and we will find you a spot.

Clown education is the most important thing that could be shared with others. If you know how to make props, have skit ideas you could share, ideas for helping a new or experienced clown with developing skits, props, or paradeability share it in an article for "The Joey Journal". We are always looking for educational ideas for our members and would love to get your ideas as well. Another way to help TCA is to attend their annual convention; this year's convention is being held August 1-5, 2012. The convention provides many opportunities to enhance your clown. There are classes, competition, jams, and networking. You can participate in as much or as little as you want and you will be helping TCA, while enhancing your clown. If you haven't been to a convention please make this your year. If you have been to conventions, please continue to attend; and, please encourage your clown friends to attend with you.

Please become more involved in your organization because TCA needs YOU. An organization is only as good as its members, be active, get involved.

**WANTED - PROGRAM BOOK ADS
FOR THE 2012 CONVENTION
REWARD OFFERED!!**

This year there were no bids to host the convention, so your TCA Board is the host. But just like any alley host, the Board needs the convention to be successful - both as a convention and financially. The charity will be the TCA Education fund and your help is greatly appreciated.

It is time to begin putting together the Convention Program Book so the Board is ASKING FOR ALLEY ADS, PERSONAL BUSINESS CARD ADS, AND BUSINESS ADS!

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&White: \$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.

REWARD. . .DRAWING...DRAWING...DRAWING

Each person submitting a business card ad will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 cash prize given at convention. If you submit a quarter page ad, you will get two chances to win, A half page ad, three chances. In other words the bigger your ad, the greater your chances of winning!!

Make checks to: TCA Convention 2012 - Mail you checks to 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Ads may be submitted by mail, but e-mail is preferred. Picture format is also preferred (jpg or similar files). If you have any questions please call Andy Quittner: 512-878-0998.

2012 DATES to NOTE

Kelly Ballagh Workshop—July 21, 2012—Sponsored by Cheerful Clown Alley, see page 28 for more details.

TCA Annual Convention—August 1-5, 2012

Send in you application now for the best rate!!

**STEP OUT OF YOUR CAVE;
YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO
SHARE.....**

I am often humbled that I am a professional clown bringing joy to people of all ages, economic classes, and walks of life. Just to think with as little as a smile or wave, I am a hit, but I want to do more. Just think how great we would be if we made more time to watch video's/DVD's within our already purchased collections, read the magazines we subscribe to, or practice the balloons or magic gadgets acquired at conventions. Who's with me?



Even at our age, we have to overcome fears. We already look silly, so why are we so worried. Evolve a little. Grab two new things and practice. See if someone has done something similar on YouTube, ask an out-of-your-market

friend, or enlist your alley even. Next, find an audience. Maybe at an existing party you can try the newest balloon/gag/face painting first and ask the kids to help and tell a story about trying things for the first time. Come on; we can do this people!

Thankfully, my repeat business dictates I create new characters or gags to stay fresh, relevant, and not so 27 seconds ago. Until last year, I was almost terrified to do a stage show after years of just ballooning and face painting only. My nerves and lack of confidence convinced me that I wasn't good enough. So to overcome my fear, I prayed, volunteered a show at a preschool and pushed myself to compete at a convention for the ultimate cliff jump. I really just wanted feedback from fellow clowns and to squash my nerves. If you attended TCA last year, you may remember that I competed a lot and almost even won 'Clown of the Year.' So pinky-promise me that will try two new things to share with the people of your world and I am sure you will truly amaze yourself. Good Luck; I'm rootin' for ya!

Oh, if you are a COAI member, vote for me as Director of Education please. And Thanks!

\$\$\$\$OPTIONS\$\$\$\$ Make a Choice

A basic walk-around tool is easy to make. I don't really know the name of it, maybe someone else does. You can let me know. One can use a common deck of cards. It can make use of a deck that parts have been lost. I select a face card and 4 of any number. My first 2 sets were 4 - 7's and a Queen, so for example purposes, I will use these to give you information on how to use these. I assemble these cards with 2 - 7's on each side of the Queen in a flat configuration where the numbers and the Q are easily visible. Then by taking each card and lifting it one at a time and gluing the cards together, while maintaining the visibility to see all designations for the cards. Once the cards are all glued together, allow them to dry a day or two. When they are dry, you will want to cover them completely with some form of laminating type cover. This allows you to use this with many people and use alcohol gel to disinfect as you deem necessary and not destroy your cards. Eventually you will need to remake anyway, but it lasts quite a while. Often I use this item to challenge adults or teens. I open the trick, by saying how difficult is this trick. This seems to defuse any intimidation of the participant, since they are very likely to loose this challenge. I don't want to loose the light-hearted fun, so be sensitive to someone that might get upset.

I'll give you an example of patter that I would use. Use it to give you a start and customize it, however you would like. " I have another trick for you. It's my hardest trick, be careful. Can you do this? (I raise a hand and make a

pinching movement) The participant will usually mimic my movement. Good, that's it. (I pull out the trick) Now check this out, I have 4 -7's and a Queen. Look and now, I'm going to turn this round and round. (At this time, I am spinning the set , face front and round and round.) Oh, I forgot I've got to turn it round and round this way. (I flip the set, for the participant to see the backs of the cards) Now put your pincher on the Queen. " (I stop spinning and hold the set facing my body, for the participant to make the choice. I use my body to block a partner of the participant from helping the friend or allow the friend to choose without having a side view.)

Very rarely do the participants get the choice. They easily see the center card's location and place the pincher on that location. They have not thought about the front of the cards being exposed in a different location. I don't really recommend you give more than 2 persons in the same group an opportunity to choose. The process of elimination opens the door for success of the participant. This one is my special trick and I attempt to keep the Loose, Loose, Loose record intact. I figure if everyone loses, everyone's honor is intact. Yes, occasionally someone wins, but it's rare. My top winner was a two year old, who with no thought pinched the right card instantly. There's no accounting for these stats.

TCA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT: HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Every year all TCA memberships expire on March 31. TCA sends out a postcard reminder because we value every single membership. Did sending in your dues slip your mind?? If so, please send in your dues ASAP.

Did you know that you can now renew your membership on-line using a credit or debit card? Sure can, just go to the TCA website: www.texasclownassociation.org and when you get there click on the membership radio button - and then all of your choices will be right there. It's easy. Please remember, if any of your information has changed - especially your address - please let us know. You can even do that on-line in the "notes" section.

SPARK PLUG AWARD

The deadline is fast coming upon us. While you are renewing that membership - spark another one. Each year TCA gives away a free convention registration to the person who has sparked the most new members (but at least six). All other sparkers are recognized with a certificate.....**the deadline is July 15**.....so let's get going.

AND WHILE YOU ARE AT IT

If you haven't registered for the convention, fill out the insert, don't miss all the fun and education. Also please make your hotel registration. TCA needs to make all of its room book in order to keep from losing money.

Welcome these new members:

Allana Mello
2320 Delina Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Sandra Marr
120 Marina View Ct
Weatherford, TX 76087

Sarah Richards
5710 Valley Point
San Antonio, TX 78233

Nick Ammann
416 Eagle Dr
Bedford, TX 76021

Alejandro Ramirez
7300 Capitol
Houston, TX 77011

Jennifer Eidelbach
P.O. Box 15971
San Antonio, TX 78212

CLOWN JAM
A Family Entertainers Event!
Tribute to Wizard of Oz

July 11-15, 2012
Branson, MO
www.ClownJam.com

Accommodations:
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CONFERENCE CENTER**
Clown Jam Hotline 757-423-3867



Produced by
DJ "Fancy Pants" Ehlert and Steve (Salty) Kissell

AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD

It is time to think about whom you would like to nominate to receive this prestigious award for 2012.

Recommendations for considering applicants are:

Nominee must be an active (current in membership) and participating TCA member.

The individual must be known for his/her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain.

Should be a well-rounded clown, i.e. who gives to the community, is an active volunteer, and who is a professional in the art of clowning.

Nominee 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.

Send a letter giving the reasons you feel your nominee should be the TCA Ambassador of Clowning for 2012. The letter should include examples of the points listed above and have sufficient details describing the nominee to the Committee members as if they do not know the person being nominated.

Some points to address might include the following:

How long has the nominee been an active supporting TCA member?

Have they held any Board positions in their alley or TCA? What committees have they worked on?

How do they support and promote TCA in their clowning.

How have they exhibited extra-ordinary clownmanship?

How has the nominee been shown to be positive and sharing? Are they unselfish in assisting others, caring, and most of all, just there when needed with no thought of being reimbursed for time or effort?

How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown; someone who gives to the community as an active volunteer, and who also demonstrates professionalism in the art of clowning?

How has this nominee shown his/her dedication and promotions of the art of clowning in assisting others?

Nomination can be accepted from active TCA members only. You may want to check/verify that your nominee is a current member (TCA annual dues are due on April 1, 2012.) The nominations will be considered by the TCA Ambassador Committee (made up of previous recipients.) The award will be presented at the Award Banquet at the annual TCA convention.

Nominations for this honor are being accepted by:

June "Cricket" Hinkle

10 Edgewood Forest Court

The Woodlands, Texas 77381

e-mail: junecricket@sbcglobal.net

Nominations must be in writing by e-mail or snail mail by July 1, 2012 and if received and/or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered for the Award which will be presented during the Awards Banquet at the annual TCA convention.

Cheerful Clown Alley #166 in Houston Presents....

KELLY JAMES BALLAGH - previous Ringling boss clown
 Kelly now does advance and specialty work for Ringling Brothers
 And Barnum & Bailey Circus. Lectures at conventions & camps in
 U.S. and Latin America. <http://kellyjamesballagh.com/default.aspx>

<p><u>Saturday, July 21, 2012</u> + 8:30 am -Check-in & Shopping + Classes/ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm + Lunch break 11:30-1:00 pm</p>	<p>Grace Presbyterian Church 10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston Tx 77042 (Sam Houston Beltway/Tollway & Westheimer + Classes held in Massey Tucker Building</p>
<p><u>Costs:</u> +Free for Full Cheerful mem- bers + Guests & Associate Cheerful Member \$30 if payment received by July 9 deadline \$40 at the door - <u>cash ONLY</u> (no checks/no credit cards)</p>	<p><u>Pre-Ordered Box Lunches</u> \$6.00 Includes sandwich, chips, snack & drink + Box lunch monies MUST be received by July 9th deadline. No Extras on event day www.cheerfulclowns.com Questions - Charmin at 713- 373-9017</p>
<p>Kelly's Educational Classes * The Art of Juggling Juggle Anything * Be a Bad Juggler with a Funny Act * Voices in My Head</p>	<p>* Clown Character Develop- ment * The Art of Sticking Stickers * Slapstick Comedy * Make your Puppets Stand Out</p>

Register me for "Day with Kelly James Ballagh Workshop"

Class Fee \$ _____ Lunch Fee \$ _____ =
Grand Total \$ _____

Cash _____ Credit _____ Check: _____ (*Payable to
Cheerful Clown Alley # 166*)

Credit Card # _____

Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Discover ___

Expiration Date _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

(address below MUST match address on Credit Card)

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Home / Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail form & payment **Mary 'Charmin' Whipple, 8651
Lakeshore Dr, Montgomery, Texas 77316**

Be Personable

Take the time to smile and be personable. Whether you as the performer are in a good mood or not is irrelevant. If you are in a professional performance situation you should always be conducting yourself appropriately.

Using positive language will set you apart and even help raise your own spirits, if needed...

No one cares if you're in a bad mood or if are having a bad day. You are not being paid to bring your baggage with you to share with the client or their guests. You can always be bummed out or worry yourself sick when you get home.

Many people have a hard time separating their personal and professional lives. If you cannot manage your emotional state while performing you will probably need to find another profession.

Even when you are not "working the gig" you are still "on" while you are visible anywhere near or associated with your gig, venue, or clients.

Many times clients and fans will recognize you and even strike up conversations before you even get inside the venue. If people can see you and recognize you as the performer--whether you are being paid or not does not matter.

My encouragement is to always be prepared to perform for or engage people in a professional manner. From the time that you are approaching the venue in your vehicle and continuing until you are finished and are completely out of sight.

The bottom line is that if people like you then they will enjoy your performances. The content and quality of your show will **be completely irrelevant if you are unable to interact, build rapport, and conduct yourself in a positive and friendly manner.**

Be Professional, Be Friendly, and Have Fun!

Submitted with Love,
DJ Ehlert
www.ConventionGuys.com

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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.



KUDOS Clown and Magic

Andy and Rhea Anderson, Owners

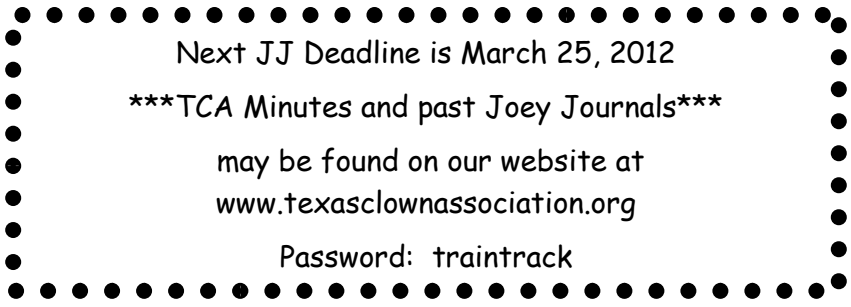
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 Next JJ Deadline is March 25, 2012

*****TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals*****

 may be found on our website at

www.texasclownassociation.org

 Password: traintrack

Welcome these new members:

Alicia Longoria
 P.O. Box 761612
 San Antonio, TX 78245

Donita O'Donnell
 501 W. Owassa Rd, Trlr 46
 Pharr, TX 78577

Connie Newsome
 2102 N. Rough Creek Ct.
 Granbury, TX 76048

The Texas Clown Association—Board of Directors

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