



Utah Jesters April 2009



Upcoming Events

- April 16th 6:30 Board Meeting
7pm Alley meeting
- May 21st 6:30 Board Meeting
7pm Alley meeting
- June 18th 6:30 Board Meeting
7pm Alley meeting
- July 16th 6:30 Board Meeting
7pm Alley meeting
- Aug 6th Clown Week picnic

What did one colored egg say to the other?
"Heard any good yolks lately?"



Mark Reid

Flowers has been working hard to arrange for Mark Reid to do a seminar in Utah the third week in August. This will be a fantastic opportunity for face painters in this area. I don't believe we have ever had a person of his caliber teaching face painting in this part of the west. A \$75 deposit will hold a spot for you. Each class will be limited to 14 people. There will be lots of one on one. The day long seminar will be \$150 dollars Two days will be \$300



How should you send a letter to the Easter Bunny? By hare mail

April Meeting

Don't forget that Alley meeting will be on Thursday April 16th at 7pm As usual board meeting will be at 630



What has big ears, brings Easter treats, and goes "hippity-BOOM, hippity-BOOM, hippity-BOOM"? The Easter Elephant

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Hedda.
Hedda who?
Hedda marshmallow egg for you, but I ate it!



WRCA 2009 Convention

Please start saving so you can come with us for next year. David Ginn is going to be the Headliner. He is a well known Children performer. Also Steve Kissell will be there as well as Jodi Carr from Wolfe Brothers. For more information go to <http://westregionclowns.org/index.htm>

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Chuck.
Chuck who?
Chuck-olate bunny!



March Meting

Tootsie and Flowere were brave enough to fill in at the last minute when Bow was unable to do a seminar on birthday parties.

They did an excellent job. You could tell that the children in the audience loved it.



A man wanted an Easter pet for his daughter. He looked at a baby chick and a baby duck. They were both very cute, but he decided to buy the baby chick. Do you know why? The baby chick was a little cheeper!



The Salt Lake Tribune

It was fun to see an article in the Salt Lake Tribune about the Utah Jesters.

The reporter call Flowers on Thursday morning , wanting to come to our meeting that night. Unfortunately there was not time to let everyone know so more of us could show up in costume.



Why didn't you eat your chocolate bunnies right away? I was waiting for them to multiply!

Why didn't you eat your chocolate bunnies right away? I was waiting for them to multiply!

As the editor of this newsletter I very seldom get on my soapbox but this month I am going to do it. I have been thinking a lot lately about the conflict going on in the alley. I have also been thinking a lot about my friend Buffy. Buffy was only a member of the Utah Jesters for a few

years before he died unexcepectedly in October of 2007. He made a very powerful impact in those few years. He lived life to the fullest enjoying every minute. I don't suppose I will ever stop missing Buffy. He was a very dear friend. Buffy and I had a very special friendship. One reason for this was that although he was a very intelligent person (he had a PHD) he didn't feel the need to always be the center of attention. He had perfected the art of knowing when to step aside and let other people take center stage. He always made me feel as if I was somebody special. He did this with a lot of people. He made each of his friends feel like this. If I feeling frustrated he was there to listen. Most of all he made all of his friend feel important. It would be great if we could all learn this lesson from him. Sometimes we all need to step back and let another person be the star. Two years ago Buttons had a idea for the WRCA theme party It was fun to go as a group I think it helped build unity. Last year many of us loved Flowers idea of the pirates of the carry a bean Wouldn't it be great for someone else to have a idea for this year. The point is we all have something to contribute. We all need to put our differences aside and work together We need to accept each other with our imperfections. We need to care about each other. Our group is not about judging each other, but building skills. We need to raise the level of clowning in Utah. I truly hope no one leave the alley. The alley need needs all of us. Each of you are unique and have something important to contribute . This is a public playground. Lets play nicely_



Some Thoughts on Clowning

By

Jim (Buffy the Clown Esquire) Buterbaugh

Clowning is a performance art. We exist to perform. Our obligation is to prepare ourselves for effective and entertaining performances.

The primary expectation of our audiences is that we will bring humor into their lives. While delivering humor we can also do many important things such as teach lessons, praise God, help heal troubled souls, and many other worthwhile things. We do these things within the context of our art form and with the understanding that our primary purpose as clowns is to comically entertain.

Clowns are of human nature. Clowns are not representations of fictional characters. Clowns are not figments of the imagination. We are human, we are real and we are alive. The clown is an essential part of our human soul. We nurture and care for the clown in us so that it always continues to grow.

We respect and learn from clowning's rich past. We also understand that clowning has always changed and grown to adapt to the society of its day. We must not force artificial constrictions on the development and advancement of clowning simply in the name of tradition. Conversely we must not abandon tradition for the mere sake of change. Change should come as natural extensions and adaptations of our tradition.

Make up and costume are merely two of the many tools we use in our clowning. They are not what define us. Costume and make up styles do change and evolve over the years and will continue to do so. This is a sign of dynamic progress in our art form. No style of make up or costume is ultimately right or wrong (except in a historical context). Its ultimate criteria today is its effectiveness in helping the clown comically entertain.

Character development, thought patterns and styles of action are no longer predetermined by any particular make up or costume design. Character development determines make up and costume choices that highlight and augment character. Character development determines thought patterns and range of action appropriate to each situation.

Individuals, alleys or clown organizations may freely choose to impose upon themselves restrictions concerning costume, make up or action. Failure to adhere to these self imposed restrictions, however, does not preclude anyone from the enjoyment of participation in the art of clowning. Alley and organizational rules are applicable only to those who want to belong to that specific alley or organization and do not speak for the entire clowning world.

Clowning is one of the most free and open art forms. It can incorporate aspects of all other art forms. Clowns are free to show expertise or feign incompetence. Clowns are free to explore. Clowns are free to succeed or fail in their endeavors. Clowns are free to laugh and cry. Clowns are free to relate to young and old.

Clowning is, and ought to be, inclusive and not restrictive.

There's an art to clowning around

West Valley City » It's all about the character -- an a love of children.

By Natalie Dicou The Salt Lake Tribune

Grandma Cuddles, Howdy, Sammy T, Tootsie and Flowers are clowns dedicated to spreading the "art of clowning" throughout Utah.



Members of the Utah Jesters Clown Alley, the colorful group meets each month at a West Valley City Hires Big H restaurant to teach the various aspects of clowning to whoever is interested, specifically "children ages 6-100." The local clowns discuss balloon-sculpting, face-painting, magic and how to cram yourself, along with several other clowns, into a humorously tiny car.

"It's so fulfilling," said Tootsie, a woman who has worked as a clown for about 30 years, performing for nursing-home patients, at birthday parties and along parade routes. "All the money in the world would never pay back what I get from clowning."

One of the keys to becoming a good clown, explained Tootsie -- who declined to reveal her real name -- is developing a character and sticking with it. Just as Santa Claus is a jolly elf, it's important for a clown to establish a character, Tootsie said.

Tootsie, for example, is a pink-haired little girl who is "4¾ years old." She has a sparkly heart on the tip of her nose and rides a tricycle. Tootsie chose this character because she is able to connect with children better when she is one of them.

For Tom Butte, -- aka Sammy T -- clowning is a family affair. Butte and his wife, Carol, aka Sunshine, have worked as clowns for decades. Their children -- Hugs, Tutti-Frutti, Giggles and Johnny the Clown have followed in their parents' oversized footsteps. Butte offered some advice for would-be clowns who work birthday parties and other child-centered events. "You have to love kids," Butte said. "If you don't, your whole day will be total chaos."

Tootsie said clowns should not pull tricks on children. "Let kids pull the trick on you," she explained. "Some kids are made fun of their whole lives." Clowns, she said, should not contribute to children feeling ridiculed.

For Flowers, president of the Utah Jesters Clown Alley -- another clown who declined to reveal her real name -- a clown's identity is all about his or her makeup and costume. Like snowflakes, each clown has a unique face. When she first became a clown, Flowers spent hours practicing painting her face. It takes Flowers an hour to don her costume, which includes a hot-pink wig and the obligatory cartoonishly large shoes. Flowers blasts circus music while she gets ready for clowning activities.

"We want to teach clowning the right way," said Flowers of the monthly meetings. "We want to get out in the community and give back." The group meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., at Hires Big H in West Valley City and is open to aspiring clowns ages 6 and up.

"Clowning is very special to me," Tootsie said. "We get paid to do the thing we have in our hearts."



Miss Tootsie knights Jared Jones, 6, of Murray, with a balloon sword



Miss Tootsie, left, and Flowers demonstrate party tricks at Hires restaurant in Taylorsville



Kennedy Green 4, helps Miss Tootsie the clown with her tricks,