

Class Descriptions for ATC Convention
March 8 & 9, 2019

Taught by **Randy Christensen** "Micah / Simon De Clown / Oxford P. Nuts"

Avoiding Amateurism

Randy will kick off the 2019 convention with this master class in which he will share from his 38+ years of experience, perspectives on attitudes and practices that will keep you growing in your clowning. And for something new this year, Randy will perform during this class.

The Joy of the Lord

Randy shares the life-changing role of laughter as demonstrated throughout scripture, the example of Christ, and in practical life application. Medical and psychological studies that promote the importance of laughter in one's life are also shared. It's an "eye-opening" session!

***The Art of Clown**

Learn about the foundational thought process and principles that make clowning a unique artform with Randy.

Writing Clown Ministry Material

Four methods for developing strong skits are taught and then implemented. All of these methods focus on teaching solid messages.

Caring Clown Concepts

Randy began his clown journey in caring clowning and also developed a "clown on call" program for his local hospital. In this class he shares his insights and practical advice on how to be effective as a "caring clown" in health care settings.

Taught by **Duane Laflin**

What is In Your Gospel Magic Toolbox?

What magic tricks do you really need...and will you actually use? This workshop explains and demonstrates essential tools for effective ministry through magic tricks. It shows how to make good decisions about investing in props and teaches fun magic routines that illustrate God's Word.

Gospel Magic Messages For Kids

Magic tricks are wonderful tools for sharing spiritual lessons with children. Get ideas and learn presentations for children's ministry, children's church, children's sermons and outreach to kids.

Gospel Magic for Outreach And Missions

To win people over we must first have them listen to us. This presentation is about using tricks and magical props to gather a crowd and captivate them with the gospel. Concepts will be shared that work great for mission trips, evangelism and outreach.

What Audiences Want

Become a more powerful communicator through understanding the needs and desires of those who choose to come to a show. Learn fun and effective ways to better interact with the crowd. Learn the difference between audience involvement and audience participation. Learn to create a dynamic relationship with those who come to see what you do!

Taught by **Jeff McMullen**

****Views on the “Character” of Clowning**

By participating in this unique exposure to the “character” of the clown, your eyes will be opened to view the world as you never have seen it before. The mission of this class is to teach you how to allow your clown character to view and live in very special ways!

“Act-It” Story Telling

The world of story telling comes alive, in this unique approach to “ACT-IT” story telling. This class will focus on the use of children in stories, props, creating and writing your own stories, as well as incorporating story telling into your act.

Physical Comedy

If running into walls, falling out of chairs and slapping someone silly sound like fun to you, then make sure and attend this PHYSICAL COMEDY session. These physical comedy skills and many others will be taught safely for your enjoyment, not to see how much pain you can endure!

***Creating Routines**

As in most writing venues, the toughest part of writing is creating the concept. In CREATING ROUTINES, you will be taught several methods of:

- Getting started
- Understanding what makes something funny
- Writing towards closure
- Audience analysis
- Target market concepts

Home Magic

Spoons vanish, pencils appear, a salt shaker goes through a table! How can this be? Well, find out by attending HOME MAGIC. This class will teach you simple “feats” of magic that cost you nothing! Yes - they are free! Discover how to change the ordinary into extraordinary!

Taught by **Nicole Portwood "Maggie"**

Show development

Ever wonder exactly how to put a show together? Have you been just a walk-a-round clown and want to venture forth into planning and performing shows? Depending on the venue, client, audience, etc. many things should go into your consideration of what material to include like back drops, bits, props, sound and music. How long should the show be? How much room do you need? Are you inside or out? Just to name a few! We will discuss general guidelines and then how to tweak it to adapt to a specific events such as a birthday or holiday show!

Birthday Parties

I will be teaching this class based on the folks who attend. I will cover all the basics because hearing how someone else does things is valuable even if you have been doing parties for a while. The hand-out I give will have all the valuable info on it. I will then try to concentrate on specific information most needed from the class participants. For instance, taking questions from those in attendance like "How do you let someone pay you online like with Pay Pal?" Everything we discuss will be very helpful information to experienced clowns, as well as anyone wanting to get started doing Birthday Parties.

Marketing / Advertising

If nothing else you will leave this class saying, "Oh good, I am not the only one!" Confused as to exactly what you should be doing. Back in 1986 when I started performing, the easiest and cheapest way to "get gigs" was through the phone book. You put it out once a year with a friendly sales associate over the phone for a reasonable cost of about \$50 a month and just like that, you were in business. Literally receiving calls the second the book finished drying! Today? Your guess may be as good as mine. Seriously though, I can share what I feel has worked for me over the last 10 years or so and what hasn't. I have also attended many classes on this subject, as well as interviewing other performers about this seemingly frustrating topic. I promise you will leave a little less discouraged!

***Parade type skits and gags**

In this class we will discuss the various props and gags that would be really fun for a parade! Keeping in mind things like portability, weather, length of parade route, readability, and so much more! If you already do parades you may get some fun new ideas! If you have never done a parade, get the information you will need to know before you get yourself in a situation that may take you miles to get out of!

Hospital Clowning: Getting Started

Have you ever wanted to know how to start doing Hospital Clowning? Along with the basic do's and don't of performing in a hospital we will discuss the various protocol issues that can arise depending on where you try to do your clowning. I will be sharing not only what I have done in hospitals as a guest clown, but also class instruction I have received over the years from other Hospital Clown "professionals"!

Taught by **Sam Tee** “Uncle Button”

****Clown Ministry: An Introduction**

What is clown ministry? Who can do it? When is it appropriate? Where are the opportunities for ministry? Why use clowning? How do we incorporate clowning skills into ministry? Any questions?

***Ballooning 101, getting started**

This is an intro to balloon twisting. This is a balloon, this is where the air goes in, etc..... (bring balloons and a pump if you have them, we will have some available to share)

Cross Cultural Clowning / Stories from the Mission Field

Gain a better understanding of different peoples or groups with their unique culture and practices. Exploration on how culture impacts clown performances. Differences and similarities between clowning in Asia and of North America will be discussed. Discover the joy of stepping out of our comfort zone to where the Lord leads. We are the extended hands of Christ.

Gospel Ballooning

Learn how to twist and talk at the same time! Discover how to use the simplest twist of the balloon to convey the gospel message. Both beginning and advanced balloon twisters will benefit from this class.

***Music for Dummies**

Music adds a whole new dimension to your skits and routines. Learn how easy it is to find, choose and include music in your clowning.

Taught by **Kornpop McCullough** “Kornpop”

Birthday Parties With Style

In this class Kornpop will teach you how to get birthday parties and how to perform at a birthday party so they want you back year after year.

So They Want You To Bring A Message This Sunday

Whether they want you to teach a message in children’s church, or in the main sanctuary, learn how it’s ok to bring some laughter along with the message. If you don’t think God has a sense of humor.....look around, or better yet, look in the mirror.

All Things Balloon Hats

Kornpop will share his favorite balloon hat creations. Balloon hats have several advantages – The parent does not have to carry it and it lets everyone at the event know that there is a balloon twister at the event. Attend this class and learn some new and fun balloon hat designs.

Parade Wearables and Other Balloon Costume Creations

Ever see photos on line of costumes or creatures made from balloons that you can wear? In this class you will learn how they are made and some fun ways to use balloon wearables.

Headband balloon creations for all occasions

Kornpop will demonstrate and teach you how to use balloon creations attached to plastic headbands to surprise and delight children at parties, events or anywhere you are twisting balloons.

Taught by **Lee Andrews** "Lew-e"

****Great Looking Clown Makeup: (2 hour class / lab)**

The clown makeup industry is an ever changing one! There are so many new and improved time saving techniques coming out every year. Come to class with an open mind and blank canvas. Bring your own makeup and be prepared to possibly leave wearing it! We will go over application and design techniques to make your clown life easier.

Juggling 101 – and Beyond

Learn the basics of juggling. The three ball cascade, ball spinning, plate spinning and more. We will have equipment available for you to use and tryout.

Okay Kid Here's Your Balloon... Now What?

Balloon Sculpturing has become a staple in the image of clown. Now, it's time to separate you from the clown that just twists balloons (like a balloon machine) to the clown that entertains while you twist balloons! We will discuss little gags to perform for the children in the front of the line and even the ones in the very back! Also, we will discuss ways of handling fussy parents, and how to take care of breaks while working!

The Healing Power of Laughter – Hospital Clowning

There is a huge need for clowns in the hospitals. The problem is getting the hospital to give you the opportunity. You will learn How to get started & who to contact. What questions you need to ask, what to do and how to do these things. Things you can say and things not to say to patients. We cover restricted areas, waiting room clowning and proper giveaways.

Taught by Rick and Monica Chaney “Jots” and “SonShyne”

****Costuming 101: Breaking all the rules!**

(yes, plaids and stripes really can go together!) Join us in a witty and fun discussion demonstrating how to ‘dress for success’ with your clown character! Rick and Monica, will share their years of experience, from circus, to backyard parties. You can LOOK GOOD, and BE COMFORTABLE at the same time!

Props to Props

A zany, fun, and wild, set your pants on fire class! Come on in as the Chaney's do live action demonstrations of how to utilize props to help you in your journey as you are getting comfortable in your clown skin. Whether you are a First of May, or well seasoned, there is something to spark your creativity in this class. Feel free to bring your favorite walk around props!"

Glitter Tattoos

If you don't do face painting but want to enhance your parties or work at festivals, this class is for you. Glitter Tattoos is a simple fool proof way to entertain. Kids love them and so will you! You will see how to apply Glitter Tattoos and learn the right products to use. (Supplies provided)

Juggling – The Basics and Fancy Stuff too

What goes up, must come down, and it's a lot of fun too! Rick is a gifted and patient teacher who promises that he can teach anyone to juggle in just ten minutes! If you have mastered the basics, Rick will help you learn some fancy stuff so you can wow your audiences. We will have equipment available for you to use and tryout.

Improvisation

A high energy, interactive class to get your brain juices flowing! Together we will form a group, do a lecture of basic improvisation techniques and the ‘rules of the game’ and then we roll up our sleeves and have some fun! Supplies needed: A positive outlook, willingness to get a little silly and openness to have a great time and make new friends! NOT SUPPLIED: (possible change of drawers needed from the results of too much laughter!)

Taught by Wes Brock “Cap'n”

How to Make a Puppet – Make It and Take It Two hour lab

Wes will show you how to build a puppet and help the class members build their own puppet. Materials will be provided and there will be a fee to cover the materials.

Puppetry 101

This class will cover the art of puppetry and basic puppet manipulation which will help you get started on the right foot to use puppets in your ministry.

Advanced Puppetry

A deeper look into puppetry, sharper manipulation, rod arm and human hand manipulation, character building, character voices. If you have a basic knowledge of puppetry and want to take your puppetry skills to the next level this is the class for you.

Taught by **Susy Amaro**

Facepainting 101 – The Basics (two hour class / workshop)

In this class Susy will teach face painting basics, including brush stroke and sponge techniques and which brands and brushes are recommended. We'll also be learning three of the most popular requested designs at most events (Spiderman, Butterfly and Flowers).

Intermediate Facepainting – The Next level (two hour class / workshop)

In this class we will get into the techniques in successfully handling children, professional etiquette on corporate and private events, as well as learning three face painting designs (Batman, Butterfly, Tiger)

Some of My Favorite Festival Facepaint Designs

In this class Susy will be sharing four fast and yet still beautiful face painting designs. (Princess, Rainbow, Pirate, Ninja) She will also be sharing effective ways to manage a festival line and how to politely close it!

(Classes marked with ** are recommended for new clowns and classes with * are suggested for newish clowns)