


**EDUCATION BROCHURE**  
**SPRING 2022 EDITION**

**KL****UN****S**

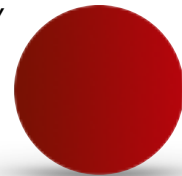
**T H E A T R E   C O M P A N Y**

**THE ART OF CLOWNING  
& THE POWER OF PLAY**

# MISSION STATEMENT

**W**e are an out-of-the-box non-profit, and a simple but passionate company of clowns. We strive to facilitate an environment where everyone can re-ignite their imagination and child-like play, where performers can risk and create freely, and where audiences can witness core, emotional human truths. Above all, we strive to deepen a lasting understanding and a vulnerable connection between fellow persons as a direct reaction to our work as artists and educators. We seek to achieve our mission through physical theatre, the power of play, and the art of clowning.

— The Founding Members of  
*Klouns Theatre Company*



**Becca Ashton**



**Cleveland McKay Nicoll**



**McKell Petersen**



# OVERVIEW

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CLOWNING, LAUGHTER AND PLAY?

### THEATRE PERFORMANCE

- Perform at a high level of energy and conviction.
- Strengthen your ability to stay connected with your scene partner(s) and the audience.
- Build confidence in taking risks, failing, and being vulnerable.
- Understand how to utilize rhythm to connect with a different audience and performance every night..
- Sharpen your ability to make moment-to-moment discoveries.
- Grow comfortable in expressing deep emotions.
- Expand your range of playable actions.
- Commit to artistic impulses.
- Accept and rejoice that there is no such thing as a perfect performance.



### PERSONAL HEALTH PHYSICAL

- Increase the number of T-cells in your body to boost your immune system.
- Release endorphins that decrease pain, and increase pain thresholds.
- Increase blood flow and improve function of blood vessels.

***Play is the foundation of learning, creativity, self-expression, and constructive problem-solving. It's how [we] wrestle with life to make it meaningful.***

— Susan Linn

## EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL

- Discover a positive and dynamic way of reducing stress, anxiety and depression.
- Remove walls of separation created by social media, texting, video games and other forms of electronic interaction.
- Increase empathy. Nourish and improve relationships.
- Raise awareness to your inner-critic and negative self image. Learn to recognize and combat them.
- Find comfort in taking risks and dreaming big. This will lead to visualizing your best self.
- Discover your strengths and bolster weaknesses through interaction, introspection and social bonding.
- Explore the edges of your personality to help better discover who you want to be as a human being.



***Laughter is the  
shortest distance  
between two people.***

— Victor  
Borge



# CLASSES

## WHAT DO WE OFFER?

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES K - 5)

**COST:** \$35

**LENGTH:** 45 minutes

**LESSON:**

1. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.
2. Exercise: *Sharing Faces*
  - Create a strong sense of trust and connection between fellow classmates
3. Exercise: *What's This?*
  - Spark creativity and imagination. Find comfort in presenting in front of peers.
4. Exercise: *Show-off*
  - Keep moving forward with confidence whether you find failure or success.
5. Exercise: *Telling a Story w/ Others*
  - Combine all three exercises into one.
  - Collaborate, create, and inspire fellow classmates.
  - Perform for an audience.



### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 6 - 8)

**COST:** \$55 for one class

**LENGTH:** One Class Period

**LESSON:**

1. Introduction
  - Rules and objectives of Clowning.
2. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.

***Play is  
foundational for  
bonding  
relationships and  
fostering tolerance.***

— Isabel  
Behncke

3. Exercise: *Sharing Faces*
  - Create a strong sense of trust and connection between ensemble members.
4. Exercise: *Let's Have A Laugh*
  - Connect with fellow ensemble members and break down social barriers.
5. Exercise: *What's This?*
  - Overload creativity and imagination.
  - Develop fast moment-to-moment decision making.
  - Create a relationship with your audience.
6. Exercise: *Show-off*
  - Push forward through success and/or failure.
  - Learn to use your audience as a scene partner.
7. Exercise: *The Car*
  - Strive to present an organic narrative on the spot.
  - Sharpen moment-to-moment decision making.
8. Exercise: *Telling a Story w/ Others*
  - Combine all exercises into one.
  - Collaborate, create, and inspire fellow peers.

***Your relationship to all other forms of drama will be enriched by the honesty, openness, and reckless abandon that the clown requires.***

— Christopher Bayes



## **HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 - 12)**

**COST:** \$55 for the first class; \$135 for all three classes

**LENGTH:** One or Three Class Periods

**LESSON:** See below for the three class schedule.

\*(Lesson for only one class? See Junior High breakdown.)\*

### **DAY 1**

1. Introduction
  - Rules and objectives of Clowning.
2. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.

3. Exercise: *Sharing Faces*
  - Create a strong sense of trust and connection between ensemble members.
4. Exercise: Exercise: *Let's Have A Laugh*
  - Connect with fellow ensemble members and break down social barriers.
5. Exercise: *What's This?*
  - Build-on moment-to-moment decision making.
  - Create a relationship with your audience.
  - Strengthen the concept of discovery and experiencing something for the first time.
6. Exercise: *Baby Clothes*
  - Commit to the action in the face of certain failure.
  - Present creative problem solving.
7. Exercise: *Show Off*
  - Keep moving forward despite possible failure.
  - Build-on using your audience as a scene partner.
8. Exercise: *The Car*
  - Infuse a story arc into your performance.
  - Sharpen moment-to-moment decision making.

## DAY 2

1. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.
2. Exercise: *Flock of Clowns*
  - What does it mean to be an ensemble?
  - How does that work when you're a clown?
  - Leading and supporting others.
3. Exercise: *Watch Me Boogie*
  - Commit to your physicality for long bursts of time.
  - Allow outside stimulus to affect your performance.
4. Exercise: *I Don't Know This Song*
  - Understanding and deepening the sensation of being vulnerable.
  - Learn to thrive while failing alone on stage.



5. Discussion
  - What have we learned and experienced?
  - How is this helpful?
  - When are we going to use these techniques?

### DAY 3

1. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.
- Exercise: *Now Here's A Story*
  - Develop and create a scene with two-three other ensemble members.
  - Collaborate in developing a story arc that moves the audience.
  - Present all knowledge gained over the previous two days.

## ADULT GROUPS

**COST:** \$250 (≤ 15 people)  
 (+\$10 for each additional participant)  
 (Ex. 21 people = \$250 + \$60)

**LENGTH:** 2 hours with a 15 minute break.

### LESSON:

*\*(subject to change depending on individual groups' needs.)\**

1. Warm-up!
  - Prepare the body and begin to spark creativity.
2. Exercise: *Sharing Faces*
  - Create a strong sense of trust and connection between ensemble members.
3. Exercise: *Let's Have A Laugh*
  - Connect with fellow ensemble members and break down social barriers.
4. Exercise: *What's This?*
  - Overload creativity and imagination.
  - Develop fast moment-to-moment decision making.
  - Create a relationship with your audience.
5. Exercise: *Watch Me Boogie*
  - Commit to your physicality for long bursts of time.

***Our brains  
are built to benefit  
from play no matter  
what our age.***

— Theresa A.  
Kestly



- Allow outside stimulus to affect your performance.

6. Exercise: *I Don't Know This Song*

- Understanding and deepening the sensation of being vulnerable.
- Learn to thrive while failing alone on stage.

**BREAK!**

7. Warm-up! (Again!)

- Re-ignite that creativity.

8. Exercise: *Gotcha!*

- Sit in a place of vulnerability and work through to finish a performance.
- Build-on using your audience as a scene partner.

9. Exercise: *The Car*

- Infuse a story arc into your performance.
- Sharpen moment-to-moment decision making.

10. Exercise: *Baby Clothes*

- Commit to the action in the face of certain failure.

11. Exercise: *Flock of Clowns*

- What does it mean to be an ensemble?
- How does that work when you're a clown?
- Leading and supporting others.

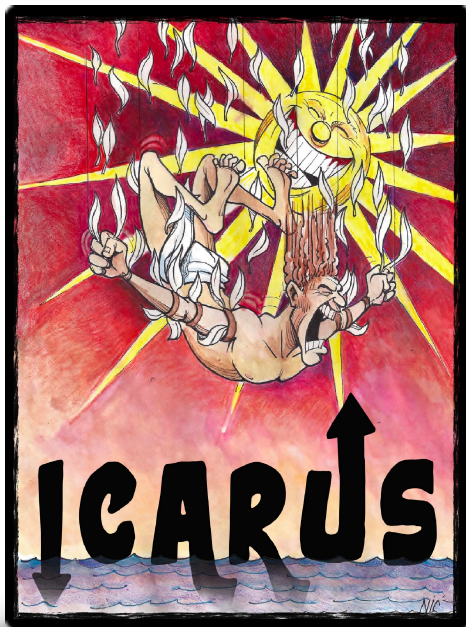
12. Exercise: *Now Here's A Story*

- Develop and create a scene with two-three other ensemble members.
- Collaborate in developing a story arc that moves the audience.



# RENT A PRODUCTION

**LOOKING FOR A PRODUCTION THAT PROMOTES THE ARTS? LOOK NO FURTHER!**



## ICARUS

**COST ESTIMATE:** \$500\*

**LENGTH:** 75 - 85 Minutes

**STORY:** Based on the Greek Myth, a father and son are imprisoned in a tall tower. The father is too mature and overflowing with responsibility. Meanwhile, the son is carefree and only interested in having fun with his father. Only when the father sees the world through his child's eyes does he find a means of escape. However, a complete lack of wisdom and sensibility still has its consequences.

## WYNKEN, BLYNKEN, AND NOD

*(Production not yet available.)*

**COST ESTIMATE:** \$350\*

**LENGTH:** 55 - 65 Minutes

**STORY:** Three siblings hop into a wooden shoe to go fishing for stars in a moonlit sky. But early on in their trawling a terrible storm separates them. In order to get home safe to their beds (which they'd love nothing more in the world) they must find a courage within themselves to reunite their trio and make it home together.

## OUR BEST ONES (SO FAR)

**COST ESTIMATE:** \$200\*

**LENGTH:** 30 - 40 Minutes

**STORY:** A collection of short vignettes that have left our audiences laughing/crying/celebrating on stage and in our workshops. Perfect for presentations with a strict time limit. See multiple short stories and witness the moving power of the art of clowning.

\*These prices are subject to change. These are estimates. A production form will be used for an accurate total. The total includes, but is not limited to, driving distance, cost of set transportation, fair labor pay for our actors, etc.

\*We cannot guarantee a performance on a single date. We will ask you for 3 different days of availability.

