

# Grease Paint

January 2019



## On Your Way Home

The event is over, and you are driving home. You spent all that time applying your makeup and getting in costume. Clowning does not have to end there. Our community is packed with organizations and entities that could use a little extra help.

I am talking about places like senior centers, and hospitals. As an example: A few troupe members have been known to stop by the hospital on their way home. A short walk through some of the hallways always brings a smile to people's faces. They have to check in with the nurse's station on the floor before walking around.

The nurse will tell you which rooms to stay out of. They will also point out patients that could use a surprise visit from a clown. Keep in mind that in those environments you do not do balloons. Hospitals view balloons as bags of germs. But there are other things you can do. Even just stepping in to say hello tends to lift spirits.

Senior centers also enjoy a surprise visit. Usually you are asked to remain in the activity room. I have been asked to help with some of the resident exercises. They laugh at me as I have trouble doing the exercises. I have also been known to lead a few such as the "wiggle your thumb and touch your nose". Not too strenuous but still brings a laugh when I pretend to be an aerobics instructor teaching.

There have been times when a nurse has walked with me

### *A Year of Grease Paint:*

A DVD has been published that contains all 2018 issues of Grease Paint.

### *WCA Convention Schedule* *March 3rd through March*

*7th:* The tentative schedule is available online at: [Worldclown.com](http://Worldclown.com). It is included in this newsletter.

*Writing:* Magazines and newsletter articles. Publishers welcome articles sent in from their readership.

*Laugh at Whose Expense:* Clowns never work for a laugh at the expense of the audience.

*What Happened to Today's Youth:* Children these days seem to have no interest activities.

*Clown Show:* You can put together your own clown show.

*Back Stage Magic:* A book bundle is available that is a collection of five books.

*2019 Clowning Plans:* Time to start planning for next year

introducing me to patients. When she does, she gives me some background on their health. I use that information as I speak with the patient. If the nurse touches on an accomplishment or something important that happened recently you are welcome to use that in conversation. They enjoy talking about their recognitions and rewards.

I also have been known to stop by a few friend's house that I know were sick. Or, if I learned they were going through some hard times I would stop by to spend some time with them. I do not always get laughs or seem to cheer them up. But they never hesitate in being very thankful I stopped by.

## ***A Year of Grease Paint***



The entire year of Grease Paint is available as PDF files on DVD. As the publisher did last year, all twelve issues will be available. The cost of the DVD is \$3.00. That price covers the cost of materials and keeps the price low. \$3.00 is the price if picked up during a meeting. If the DVD must be mailed, postage will be added to the sale price.

After the first of the year a few copies will be made. Once they are gone orders will be filled as received. If you want to purchase the 2018 Year in Grease Paint DVD, you need to contact Brian at: [topperhtc@yahoo.com](mailto:topperhtc@yahoo.com). A few copies will be made to begin with. Once they are gone DVD's will be published as ordered.

Brian also publishes a newsletter for the magic industry named "Abraca-Poof". If you wish a copy of a the 2018 issues that cost will also be \$3.00. Again, DVD's must be picked up during a meeting or postage will be added to the sale price.

You can view a year of Grease Paint on the website: [www.qcclowns.com](http://www.qcclowns.com). However, they will not be available after February 1st. That is the date last years newsletter files will be removed from the website. Abraca-Poof is also available as a free download through [www.lybrary.com](http://www.lybrary.com). Just search for Brian T. Lees as author and they should be listed along the top banner with the rest of the free materials.

Brian has a column in MUM (Society of American Magician's) magazine. However, there will be no DVD of those articles available. Articles submitted to MUM for publication become the sole property of the magazine. Brian retains recognition as the author. But making a DVD bundle for outside distribution is forbidden.

# 2019 WCA Convention Schedule

## Mar 3rd — Mar 7th

*Schedule is tentative and  
subject to change.*

COLOR KEY	
CLASSES	
COMPETITIONS	
MEETINGS	
GROUP EVENTS	
JUNIOR JOEYS	

SUNDAY MARCH 3RD, 2019			
Registration Open: 7:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Junior Joey: 1:15pm - 1:45pm - Mandatory Parents Meeting 2:00pm - 5:00pm	Vendor Schedule 10:00am - 1:30pm 3:00pm - 6:00pm	
Start	End	Event	Room
8:00am	- 9:00am	Orientation for First Time Attendees	Main Meeting Room
9:00am	- 10:30am	Welcome Session with WCA Officers	Main Meeting Room
10:45am	- 11:15am	Competition MANDATORY Meeting	Main Meeting Room
11:15am	- 12:00pm	Judges MANDATORY Meeting	Main Meeting Room
10:45am	- 12:00pm	Comic movements - Rosemarie Ballard	Classroom A
		Productive rehearsal time - Brian Lees	Classroom B
12:00pm	- 1:15pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:15PM	- 2:30pm	Clown makeup the EZ way	Classroom A
		Facepainting - Robin Bryan	Classroom B
2:45pm	- 4:00pm	Do You wanna be in pictures? - Barb Field	Classroom A
		Basic Balloons - Charles Lauder	Classroom B
4:15pm	- 5:00pm	What is laughter yoga - Bill Schober	Classroom A
		Specialy Balloons - Charles Lauder	Classroom B
5:00pm	- 6:00pm	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
6:30pm	- 9:00pm	Opening Ceremonies	Main Meeting Room
9:30pm		Hospitality and Jam Sessions	

**MONDAY MARCH 4TH, 2019**

<u>Registration Open:</u> 8:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 5:00pm		<u>Junior Joey:</u> 9:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 2:00pm		<u>Vendor Schedule</u> 10:00am - 1:30pm 3:00pm - 6:00pm	
Start	End	Event	Room		
9:00	-	10:15	Make Up Competition		Main Meeting Room
			Library Shows - Lee Andrews		Class Room A
			Mime! - Barb Field		Class Room B
10:30am	-	12:00	Make-Up Competition		Main Meeting Room
			Classic Magic Tricks for Clowns - Brian Lees		Class Room B
			Body Language - Ruben Madsen		Class Room A
12:30pm	-	1:45pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN		
12:15pm	-		Group Photo		TBD
1:45pm	-	3:00pm	Hospital Clowning - Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley		Main Meeting Room
			-	4:30pm	Balloon Competition
3:15pm	-	4:15pm			Pocket Stuff - Nicole Portwood
			Back Drops, Signs, and so much more! - Julie Varholdt		Class Room B
4:30pm	-	5:30pm	Character Development - Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley		Class Room A
			Hey Scary Clown! Working with the Media - Tricia Manuel		Class Room B
5:30pm	-	6:30pm	Get Ready for Theme Party		
6:30pm	-	9:00pm	THEME PARTY!		Main Meeting Room
9:30pm	-		Hospitality and Jams		

**TUESDAY MARCH 5TH, 2019**

<u>Registration Open:</u> 8:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 5:00pm		<u>Junior Joey:</u> 9:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 2:00pm		<u>Vendor Schedule</u> 10:00am - 1:30pm 3:00pm - 6:00pm	
Start	End	Event	Room		
9:00am	-	10:15am	Juggling		Main Meeting Room
			Make and Take a Kazoo - Tricia Manue		Classroom B
9:00am	-	12:00pm	Facepainting Competition		Class Room A
9:00am	-	12:00pm	The Dramaturgy of Clowning - Ruben Madsen		Main Meeting Room
12:00pm	-	1:30pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN		
1:30pm	-	2:45pm	Group Skits and Variety Arts		Main Meeting Room
			Glitter Tattoos! - Nicole Portwood		Classroom A
			Black Light Puppets 1 - Dianna Hale (Lab Fee TBD)		Classroom B
3:00pm	-	4:00pm	Group Skits and Variety Arts		Main Meeting Room
			Clown Movement - Christy Atkinson		Classroom A
			Black Light Puppets 2 - Dianna Hale (Lab Fee TBD)		Classroom B
4:15pm	-	5:15pm	Group Skits and Variety Arts		Main Meeting Room
			Prize winning parade acts and walkabouts - Randall Munson		Classroom A
5:15pm	-	6:30pm	DINNER ON YOUR OWN		
6:30pm	-	Done	Single Skits		Main Meeting Room
AFTER SKITS		SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION		TBD	
9:30pm	-		Hospitality and Jams		

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 6TH, 2019**

<u>Registration Open:</u> 1:30pm - 5:00pm		<u>Junior Joey:</u> 9:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 2:00pm		<u>Vendor Schedule</u> 10:00am - 1:30pm 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Start	End	Event	Room	
9:00am	11:00am	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Main Meeting Room	
10:45am	12:00pm	I can play the uke in 2 notes! - Nicole Portwood	Class Room A	
		Mime/Clown Entertain with Dancing - Rosemarie Ballard	Class Room B	
12:00pm	1:30pm	WCA LUNCHEON		
1:30pm	2:45pm	Paradability	Main Meeting Room	
		Working with a Partner - Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley	Classroom A	
3:00pm	4:00pm	Paradability	Main Meeting Room	
		How to Interact with Children that are brought on stage - Ruben Madsen	Classroom A	
4:15pm	5:30pm	Water spiting - Lee Andrews	Main Meeting Room	
		Theme Performing - Christy Atkinson	Classroom B	
5:30pm	6:30pm	DINNER ON YOUR OWN		
6:30pm	9:00pm	Featured Performance Opening Act - Maggie the Clown	Main Meeting Room	
		Featured Performance - Dick Monday and Tiffany Riley		
9:30pm		Hospitality and Jams		

**THURSDAY MARCH 7TH, 2019**

<u>Registration Open:</u> 8:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 5:00pm		<u>Junior Joey:</u> 9:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 2:00pm		<u>Vendor Schedule</u> 9:00am - 12:00pm
Start	End	Event	Room	
9:00am	11:00am	Worship Service - Ben Christensen	Main Meeting Room	
		The Business Of Clowning - TBD	Class Room A	
		Birthday Parties - Patti Koopmans	Class Room B	
10:30am	11:45am	Clown Ministry - Ben Christensen	Main Meeting Room	
		How to entertain while being an assembly line - Julie Varholdt	Class Room A	
		Hospital Clowning - Kathy Westgate	Class Room B	
12:00pm	1:00pm	WCA LUNCHEON		
1:00pm	3:30pm	Caring Clown / Humanitarian Visit	TBD	
1:30pm	2:45pm	Writing Material - Dick Monday and Tiffany	Class Room A	
		PLAY! - Andy Davis	Classroom B	
3:00pm	4:15pm	Costumes on a budget - Robin Bryan	Class Room A	
		Something - Timmyto Bond	Classroom B	
4:15pm	5:30pm	Prepare for Banquet		
6:30pm	9:00pm	Banquet	Main Meeting Room	

## Writing

Magazines and newsletters are always searching for content. The problem is that many clowns do not think they can write. But the truth is, anyone can be an author. As troupe members, we all have a wealth of information that can be shared.

You do not have to keep up a regular column. Brian has a monthly column in MUM, a magic magazine. But he also sends articles to “Clowning Around” and “The New Calliope”. Brian will admit that he did not get good grades with English in school.

Brian writes the articles and once he is happy with the content, he uses a grammar checker. The checker is free. He accesses the Internet, opens the checker and copies his article to it. He launches the grammar checker and the system highlights and underlines misspelled words, and grammar errors.

The checker suggests spelling and grammar corrections to be considered. He uses some of them, but needs to keep a few of the spelling annotations as they are specific to his article or materials. This extra step takes more time than just writing and sending the article. The grammar checker, makes Brian’s writings a lot more professional.

Brian welcomes articles from others in all his newsletters. Grease Paint is for the clowning industry. It is distributed through the Quad City Clown Troupe’s email system, and as a download from the troupe’s website ([qcclowns.com](http://qcclowns.com)). Abraca-Poof is a monthly newsletter for the magic industry. It is available as a free download from [www.lybrary.com](http://www.lybrary.com) (Search for Brian T. Lees as author).

Do not be surprised if once you begin writing you learn that you enjoy it. Brian started with a newsletter, branched into writing instruction books and then onto more articles for magazines. He received an author’s award for his writings in Clowning Around. His articles are what prompted the Society of American Magicians (MUM magazine) to ask him to write a monthly column.

Writing is never a pressured, scheduled activity. As long as you do not accept the commitment of a monthly column, you can write and submit as you want to. What is nice about that is you can take as long as you want to write your article. Some take notes for a month or so and then begin to write. Others take longer. The time is as not as important as the information you wish to share.

There are sections in the magazines that tell you who to contact or where to send your article. For newsletters, if there is a page that invites your submissions, follow those instructions.

As an example: Grease Paint welcomes articles, but you need to include a statement that you release your article for publication. Grease Paint also requires you to include a statement that there is no compensation beyond being recognized as the author.

If the newsletter does not have a page inviting your article, you can still ask to be published. Send an email to the newsletter publisher and ask if they will accept an article from you. They will respond and give you any special instructions you need to follow.

My advice is not to think of being recognized or the email you will receive from people who read your article. The best thing to think of is that you are sharing with the rest of the readers. Stop and think about it. If people didn't write articles, then there would not be as much learning materials available to us.

Brian enjoys the recognition. However, he will tell you that the most important thing is that he is trying to share his knowledge and experience with others. He has learned a lot just from reading. He recognizes the magazines and newsletters as valuable communication/education tools.

If you have questions or want more information about writing, feel free to contact Brian. He also provides ghost writing services at a reasonable fee. Regardless, he is a local contact to direct your writing questions to: [topperhtc@yahoo.com](mailto:topperhtc@yahoo.com)

## ***A Laugh At Whose Expense?***

Some things don't need to be said. And, there are times when stupid, hurtful comments are still made. As clowns we never go for a laugh at the expense of the volunteer we called up on stage. Watch clowns perform. The joke, always falls on another clown. The skit may hint another person will get the pie. But it always backfires and the pie goes into a clown's face.

When stupidity blurts out it is nice to have a professional manager around. As an example One young man said "be careful that clown has aids". I wear hearing aids and he was trying to make a joke about it. Before anyone could react the manager stepped in and pointed to my hearing aids and said yes he uses hearing aids.

Then he pulled the young man to the side and sharply informed him his comment was more than out of line. He also told the young man he had to leave. Once the man was out of the building he used the house sound system to get everyone's attention. His announcement was short and simple. This clown wears hearing aids. Any reference to anything else is not true.

When you speak to him be sure to look at him. He reads lips to help him understand what you are saying. It was a little drastic, but I appreciated him clarifying my hearing aids.

It makes no difference if the audience member has something that could turn into a funny joke, clowns do not use it. Audience members are to be entertained. No clown singles anyone out to make fun of, talk down to, or belittle. All those actions are directed to another clown.

## ***What Happened to Today's Youth?***

Technology has become a growing concern with our youth. Many of us can remember applying ourselves for recreation. We had our neighborhood group. We always spent outside time in play. We were not glued to cell phones. An afternoon of fun was not sitting down with a video game. We knew there was a life beyond Candy Crush and the other time demanding games.

As a clown troupe, we are no different than many other organizations. It seems no one has the key to attracting and keeping our younger generations involved. Participation in bowling, golf, and other activities has dwindled. But we recognized that idle time opens the doors to many other problems. So, today there is an overload of things to get involved in. Summer theatre, band, music camp, sports, and other community activities are available for kids to get involved in.

One of our major challenges in 2019 will be to bring in kids. A few things need to happen. First we must increase our marketing efforts to keep the troupe in the public eye. At this point I am referring to individual efforts. With all the advertisements out there buying media coverage would be expensive and probably will not have an impact.

We also need to get the "fun" back into clowning. This includes our meetings. Look for programs that get members involved. Add to that we need to do what we can to increase the number of public events we work. Today's youth does not want to sit classroom style and learn without getting out in front of the public.

A small percentage of our youth are interested in more than just video games. I have a friend who's son goes to his room and teaches himself card magic. I know of another who likes the fact her daughter is learning balloon sculptures. So the nice thing to know is that there are young people out there who would be receptive to clowning. Our problem is to find them and invite them to our meetings.

# Clown Show

Clowns entertain in many ways. We walk-around, and do skits. But it does not have to stop there. One can produce a clown show. I am not talking about a show where the alley members all gather and perform skits. I am talking about a one person show. It only takes a little planning and a few props to produce one.

Many begin their show with music. You do not have to, but the added touch of the music helps make the show more entertaining. From there they combine simple magic with storytelling and a couple one-person skits. Chances are you have plenty of items to work with now. But you need to sit down and do some planning.

A show has three parts: opening, middle and end. The opening has one primary purpose. That is to get the audiences' attention. Conversations will come to an end, cell phones will be hung up and the audience will direct their focus on you. This is a very short window. You need to capture their attention with a very good opening.

Here are a few suggestions for a simple quick opening. You can pick up a small spring bouquet of flowers. The bouquet needs to be small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Put the flowers in your palm and then cover them with your glove. Start your show talking to the audience and remove your gloves. Take the other one off first. Then when you take off the one with the flowers give it a light toss allowing them to spring to bloom as you catch them.

Another opener is to blow up four balloons, but do not tie them. When you step out to greet the audience and let them go to the curtain behind you. You can follow that up saying you hope to make their troubles and the day's pressures fly away for a while. That is really the purpose of your show. Help them forget their troubles while you entertain.

Things you can do in the middle might be simple magic. Or a routine you do with storytelling. A simple magic trick called the Professor's Nightmare is a good one. It involves three different sized ropes: a short one, medium size and a long one. They can represent anything you want. I have watched a routine where they talk about truth. A small fib, a tall tale and a major lie are related to the different ropes. The ending where they all are manipulated to be the same size is when I say a lie is a lie regardless how big. One should always tell the truth.

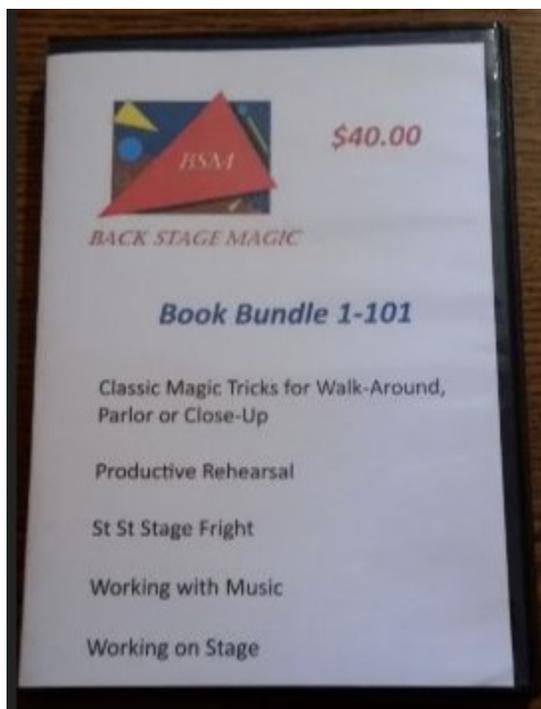
You will need to come up with some simple magic to use with volunteers. It does not have to be expensive or a big production. You need something you can tell a story with, or just lead the volunteer through a simple routine.

Do not forget skits. I have done the "Candy Store" by myself. I bring up volunteers to be the

different elements. One for the sign, two for the doors and one for the welcome mat. I also have another that serves as a cash register. As I add different volunteers I start the routine from the beginning. There are a few laughs as the sign may not work or the doors fail to make the swish sound I asked them to. When I get to the cash register I may not hear the “Ching, Chong”. I asked them to say. So I start from the beginning one last time.

When it all goes well I look at the audience and say: “you may not believe I have a store”. “You don’t see any candy.” “But I have all these suckers”. That is when I give each volunteer a sucker thanking them for their help. I always get laughs and a good round of applause when I perform Candy Store.

It does not take much to arrange your activity into a short twenty minute show. And, that show can be performed in libraries, schools, community centers, seniors and church. What would make your show that much more unique is if you included a safety theme such as “Good Stranger/Bad Stranger”, or anti-bullying. A quick trip to the library would provide ideas of the information you could share through your show. (If you want Brian’s script for a single person Candy Store skit, email: [topperhtc@yahoo.com](mailto:topperhtc@yahoo.com))



## ***Book Bundle 1-101 DVD Collection***

Back Stage Magic, Brian’s magic supply business will highlight a bundle of his books on DVD. These books are priced at \$15 each and if purchased separately would total \$75.00. However, the bundled special price is \$40.00. he will offer during the WCA Convention in March will be \$40.00.

The DVD contains “Classis Magic Tricks for Walk-Around, Parlor or Close-Up”, “Productive Rehearsal” “Stage Fright” and “Working with Music”. Brian will present two lectures from the books in this bundle during the WCA Convention in March.

If you are interested in purchasing Book Bundle 1-101, email: [bsmagic2018@gmail.com](mailto:bsmagic2018@gmail.com).

## ***2019 Goals and Plans***

January is the time to set goals and make plans. Even as hobbyist clowns we need to set goals for ourselves. Is there a costume or prop you want? Maybe you want to learn some magic or a few new skits. Perhaps you want to find a partner to team up with for your clowning. We all need to set goals for our clown growth.

January is also a good time to plan. Look at the conventions, seminars and workshops that are available. If you see something that interests you, then begin to budget and plan for it now. It is a lot better to plan ahead, both with your schedule and finances.

The WCA convention is in Albuquerque in March. You know there will be a MCA Round-up as well as a COAI convention. Do not discount or forget about Moose Camp. There should also be some Christian events announced early in 2019 as well.

This is also the time to share your plans with others. Sharing the drive and hotel costs, saves money. You can also save by taking advantage of the early registrations. But the only way to make this work is if you find other clowns that want to attend the same conventions/seminars that you do. Make your plans and start searching for others to come along.

Conventions are not the only source. If you want to do more in the areas of magic, balloons, face painting or skits this is the time to look around for ideas. Both the WCA and COAI websites have educational information. Do not forget newsletters. The Mooseburger newsletter is always packed with helpful information.

You can also find groups on social media you can get involved with. We learn a lot from books through our local library. There is no reason you cannot pick up some education from the messages and posts on social media.

January is a great time to take a good look in the mirror. Make some plans on which areas you want your clown to grow in. Then look for resources to help make that happen. Some clowns pack their growth plans so full they have trouble getting it all done. Others, pick one or two areas they want to improve. Regardless the size of your "learn it" list, January is a great time to start gathering the sources/information you plan to work with.



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Articles are welcome from contributors. Two documents need to be submitted by email. The first would be the article itself. The second would be a document that specifies: Grease Paint is authorized to publish and that no compensation will be paid. The individual will be recognized as the author and a short bio will be included.

Send articles and the release acknowledgement documents as a PDF files to:

[topperhtc@yahoo.com](mailto:topperhtc@yahoo.com).

**NOTE:** Grease Paint is openly published on the Quad City Clown Troupe's website. To access the website, direct your browser to: [qcclowns.com](http://qcclowns.com). At the end of the year all issues of Grease Paint are made available on CD for purchase. Because of these open distribution sources, articles received without the supporting release and acknowledgement statements will not be published.