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Class Clown Comedy Education Workshop

MARKETING BROCHURE

5th Annual



Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy Class

Presented by the Cleveland Comedy Festival



Are you a class clown?

Learn stand-up comedy **BASICS** & perform on stage

Comedy classes for Cleveland-area kids and teens ages 11-17

SATURDAY Classes:

GRADUATION Show:

Visit

ClevelandComedyFestival.com

For registration & details



Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy Class

Presented by the Cleveland Comedy Festival

Are you a class clown? Or are you just a smart, funny kid? Well here's your chance to learn stand-up comedy from real professional comedians, hone your funny attitude into a real stand-up comedy act, and perform on stage in the annual **Cleveland Comedy Festival**.

Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy Class

- **4 weeks of professional instruction** on Saturday afternoons from 1PM – 3PM.
- Classes held at a public venue
- Graduation show for all students is open to the public (Family & friends encouraged to attend!)

What You Will Learn

- Microphone and equipment basics
- Joke creation and refinement
- Stage presence and confidence
- Dealing with a live audience
- Basic comedic persona development



**Rodney Bengston
& John Wellington**

*Comedy Teachers
& Cleveland
Comedy Festival
Directors*

Your Instructors

Your lead facilitators will have over 35 years of combined experience performing stand-up comedy in comedy clubs, theaters and venues all over the Midwest.

2020 will be our 9th year of doing the Class Clown class. It gets better every year!

Class Fee & What's Included

- Class fee is \$25 per student.
- Includes a course instruction book &
 - certificate of graduation
 - Cleveland Comedy Festival T-shirt
 - DVD of your performance at the graduation show.

SIGN UP TODAY & SEE YOUR CLASS CLOWN SHINE!

Visit

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For registration & details



Kennedy's Cabaret Theatre at PlayhouseSquare and Superelectric Pinball Parlor were used for Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy classes and the graduation show.

superelectric



I had a fantastic time learning the tricks and techniques of comedy, and showing off what I learned in a final performance last year and I'm looking forward to doing it again!

*- Clara
2012 Class Clown Graduate*

Visit
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For registration & details

Cleveland Comedy Festival would like to thank the following organizations for their sponsorship and support of the Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy Class.



Cleveland Comedy Festival, Inc., and PlayhouseSquare are non-profit arts organizations committed to serving the community.



Cleveland Comedy Festival, Inc., is a proud recipient of a programming grant from a generous, Anonymous donor.

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Class Clown Stand-Up Comedy Class

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Are you a class clown?



Learn stand-up comedy BASICS & perform on stage

Comedy classes for cleveland-area kids and teens ages 11-17

SATURDAY Classes:
oct. 22nd, 29th, nov. 5th, & 12th
GRADUATION Show:
Sun. nov. 20th, 2016

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Class Clown Comedy Education Program

**CLASS HANDBOOK GIVEN TO STUDENTS &
EXAMPLES OF COMEDY INSTRUCTION MATERIALS (2016 EDITION)**



2016 Class Clown Stand-up Comedy Classes

- presented by the Cleveland Comedy Festival
- Classes held at Playhouse Square
- 4 consecutive Saturday afternoons from 1 pm to 3 pm
- October 22 / October 29 / November 5 / November 12
- Class Clown Showcase: 3 pm on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at the Kennedy's Theatre at Playhouse Square

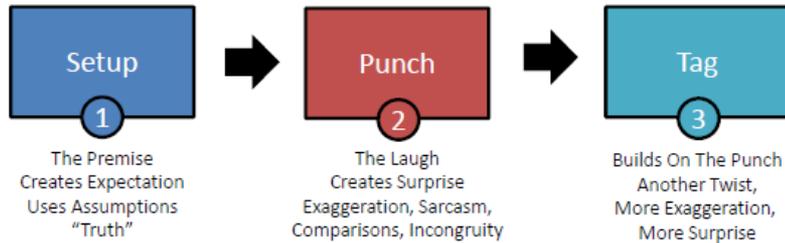
- Class Handbook written by J.D. Sidley (Class Clown Founder)
- Over 20 pages of class curriculum, notes, information on stand-up basics, joke writing, stage presence
- References and links to additional resources



2016 CLASS CLOWN COMEDY CLASS JOKE STRUCTURE



Classic Joke Structure



Examples:

Setup: "I saw my grandmother the other day...probably for the last time."

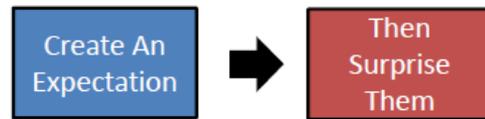
Punch: "Oh, she's not sick or anything, she just bores the hell out of me."

Setup: "My wife ran off with my best friend last week."

Punch: "Boy do I miss him."

Setup: "I had a mud pack facial done, and for three days my face looked much better."

Punch: "Then the mud fell off."



You can create **Expectation** (Setup) & **Surprise** (Punch) in lots of ways:

- Your words
- Your mannerisms
- Your physical appearance
- What the audience thinks they know about you, the situation, what the host just said when they introduced you, etc.



2016 CLASS CLOWN COMEDY CLASS TYPES OF JOKES



Jokes That Use Lists (i.e. The Rule of Three)

- The Rule of Three is about using a sequence of three ideas (a list) to make a joke.
- The first two ideas/elements are similar and establish a pattern that is based on the premise (the set-up)
- The third idea/element is the punchline. It breaks the pattern (a little) and creates surprise.

Examples

- "I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land."
- Jon Stewart
- "I can't think of anything worse after a night of drinking than waking up next to someone and not being able to remember their name, or how you met, or why they're dead."
- Laura Kightlinger

Examples of Rule of Three Patterns

Same Category/Same Category/Different Category
(T-shirt which lists world-class cities: Paris/Tokyo/Fargo).

Expected Trait/Expected Trait/Unexpected Trait
(She was pretty, she was shapely, she was a man).

Something Everyone Loves/Something Everyone Loves/Something Everyone Hates

(A Las Vegas wedding package contains everything you will need; music, flowers, a divorce document).

Ordinary/Ordinary/Ridiculous

(I go to Las Vegas to see the shows, eat at the buffets and visit my money).

Extreme/Extreme/Ordinary

(Speaking to thousands, appearing on Oprah, taking a nap)

What's the set-up?
Item #1?
Item #2?
Item #3?
Why is #3 funny?

#1 and #2 share something in common

#3 is different and funny

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EXAMPLE PHOTOS OF CLASS CLOWN STUDENTS





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Class Clown Comedy Education Program

TESTIMONIAL FROM PARENT (DAVID ADAMS)

Testimonial, Cleveland's Comedy Festival's "Class Clown" class

August 25, 2015

By David Adams

Assistant Director, Global Markets, EY

Bay Village, Ohio 330-801-1963

My son, Charlie Adams, now 14 years old, has participated in the "Class Clown" class for the past two years. He was drawn to the class for a variety of reasons, but mostly because he loves performing, the theater and being center stage.

Firstly, to credentialize Charlie's perspective, it's important to know his performing experience. In the past three years, he has performed in eight different performances at three well-regarded local theater institutions, including the semi-professional Near West Theatre. Other venues include The Beck Center for the Performing Arts, and TrueNorth Theater in Lorain County. Performances include "Shrek, the Musical," "Cinderella," "13," "Scrooge," and "A Christmas Story," and others. He has also performed on stage at Bay Middle School and even Bay High School (invited to perform even though he was only in the seventh grade in middle school). He has also taken singing and voice lessons at Beck, and music and singing lessons at Rocky River's School of Rock.

So, Charlie -- even as a relatively young age -- has lots of experience in lots of different situations, working in many places, learning under many different directors, coaches and teachers, each with different styles and perspectives and impacts. Charlie has dressed backstage in closets, wore heavy masks, costumes, has endured hurried mid-performance character-changing make-up sessions. He has learned about voice projection, body positioning, costumes, staging, props, entering/exiting the stage, etc.

Yet, amidst all of these experiences, his experience in the Class Clown class is the one he most often points to as being his most enriching, most fulfilling and, usually, most fun.

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Testimonial, Cleveland's Comedy Festival's "Class Clown" class
August 25, 2015

By David Adams

Assistant Director, Global Markets, EY

Bay Village, Ohio 330-801-1963

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Even in just regular conversation, he often make reference to things such as timing, strategic pauses, eye contact, hand motion, telling a story, punchlines, etc., things he learned at Class Clown. He talks about leveraging audience response, using that contact, how to ad lib his content off a wave of laughter, and even how to respond to nothing but silence. He thinks even now about how and when to know when a story is dying or when it's a big hit. He is more attuned to external on-the-fly feedback. I think this has paid off even just in regular conversations with his parents and his peers.

Class Clown has been instrumental in giving him the "I'm-the-only-one-on-stage" confidence, erasing stage fright and helping give him an appreciation of what it's like to have all eyes on no one else. But perhaps more importantly, the Class Clown class taught him the value of content, of thinking about what is funny and insightful, and how to deliver that story, seemingly echoing the age-old trade of story tellers of long ago. He is constantly on the lookout for new content and new materials, and for this reason, has a new and fresh view into the world and people all around him, a perspective that he would not otherwise have if not for Class Clown. The class taught him empathy and sympathy, to think through other perspectives and to see through others' eyes.

Additionally I would add the value and benefit of this class goes beyond Charlie, to wit:

- It is ridiculously cheap, almost unfair to those who are the teachers. To me, this is the best cost-to-benefit I have ever made into Charlie's development as a performer, and, in some ways, into him as a thoughtful, insightful and engaging kid.
- The staff is flexible, communicative and accommodating. Despite my own hectic life and challenges balancing homework, extracurricular activities, etc, the Class Clown organizers worked well with us, bending when necessary to make things work.
- Having Charlie involved in the Class Clown gave him access and exposure to Clevelandy-type things that he would not have otherwise been able to experience. For example, behind-the-scenes and onstage work on prominent Playhouse Square theaters has given him a strong sense of pride about our community and bragging rights to friends when he tells them that he has performed there. This has generated a strong sense of community pride, and has also bolstered his sense self-esteem and belonging. This has helped him become an advocate for the theater, for comedy, for Cleveland, for being engaged, supporting the value of investment into oneself even despite being busy with homework, friends and so on. After this class, I am more confident that in the decades that follow, he will be more inclined to ensure that his children are similarly engaged and involved. This reassurance to me, as a parent, is priceless.

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Class Clown Comedy Education Program

PAGE FROM COMEDY FESTIVAL PROGRAM SHOWING CLASS CLOWN GRADUATION SHOW

Cleveland Tonight! – “We Can Be Heroes” with Mike Polk Jr. and Diamond Dogs

7:30 – 9:00PM

Playhouse Square Hanna Theatre
Sat 11/19



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

Tickets: \$15 / \$18

Back in 2014 Mike Polk Jr. rocked the Hanna Theatre with a live “Tonight Show” style variety show. Well, Cleveland’s favorite comedic provocateur is back with an all new edition of Cleveland Tonight! but with a special theme and goal. “We Can Be Heroes” will be a music/comedy variety show celebrating the vision of the incomparable David Bowie and will feature the music of Diamond Dogs – a live tribute band that embodies the sound and vision of David Bowie. The show will feature multiple songs with Diamond Dogs, comedy and video segments from Mike Polk Jr. and his comedy cohorts and interviews with special guests including Cleveland radio legend John Gorman (the architect of WMMS during its time of rock radio dominance) and chief content officer at oWOW Cleveland.

And, that’s not all – the show will also serve as an important fundraiser to benefit the Cleveland Food Bank. **100% of the net proceeds from the show will benefit The Greater Cleveland Food Bank.** You definitely want to get your tickets now for this special one-time extravaganza. Join us for a fun and entertaining evening and help support The Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



Mike Polk Jr.



Diamond Dogs



John Gorman

CCF Contest Finals – Presented by oWOW Cleveland

9:30 – 11:00PM

Playhouse Square Hanna Theatre
Sat 11/19

Tickets: \$12 / \$15



The 2016 Cleveland Comedy Festival Contest will conclude on Saturday, November 19th as the top 12 comedians from a field of 48 will compete for a top prize of \$2,000. See some of the best up-and-coming comedians in the entire U.S. Audience vote will count for 50% of the scoring so come out and support your favorite.

See ClevelandComedyFestival.com to see which comedians advance to the finals for this show.

CCF Class Clown Graduation Show

3:00 – 4:30PM

Playhouse Square Kennedy’s Theatre
Sun 11/20

Tickets: \$10 / \$12



Our co-founder JD Sidley envisioned Class Clown as a way to develop the next generation of Cleveland comedians. He would be proud as this year’s class has exceeded our expectations. See our Class Clown comedy class students graduate and perform their first 5-minute stand-up routine. These young comedians have worked hard for 4 weeks honing their routines and are ready to show the world how funny they are. This year’s class will feature Charlie Adams, Leo Bures, Steven Perrier, Emma Blemaster, Dante Palmer, Brianna Collins, Alexander Johnson, Joey Kubic, Lukas Evans, and Charlie Snow.