

Teaching Without Preaching And Funny in the Process

From Betty Shrader of Louisville Kentucky

Betty shares this skit her clown group did at a staff meeting at Hospice of Louisville. Betty says "It is something we created to show the various emotions staff members have (and are) going through as team membership has been changed. We think it will teach without preaching and will be funny in the process."

Purpose: to show through mime, the variety of emotions we may experience when faced with changes in our lives.

On Stage is a sign hanging in background: "New Dance Studio, moved from 123 Clown Street to 321 Mirth Avenue."

- 1) Clowns A and B are together; A is showing B a new dance step, e.g., the Charleston. Clown C is standing, waiting for her partner to arrive. Clown D enters, carrying a large map, wanders around trying to find her way to the dance studio. She may mime to various members of the audience for help. She finally arrives and primps before entering the studio. She and clown C rejoice and begin to do the waltz.
- 2) The dance instructor calls out, "Everybody change partners."
- 3) Clowns all look shocked because they are presently comfortable with their partners.
- 4) Clown C expresses indifference and resignation; D becomes angry and stomps her feet; B is sad and cries; A is fearful. A and B cling together. D decides she likes the looks of B, flirts, and pulls him by his tie to be her new partner.
- 5) A and C move together as new partners; however, each continues to do the original dance she had been doing with her former partner. Finally they stop and turn their backs on each other.
- 6) Clowns D and B repeat step 5.
- 7) A and C try a different step together and are successful.
- 8) D and B point to A and C and then repeat step 7.
- 9) All join hands and do a circular dance.
- 10) All face the audience and bow.

Clowns express with gestures the following emotions:

Anxiety at being lost in a new geographical area; relief at finding the right place; shocked at the sudden change; indifference, resignation, anger, sadness, fear, anticipation, disgust pessimism depression hope relief acceptance joy.

A Christmas Surprise



Nalle Laanela from Sweden, wrote me in late December. The only time I had to see him was Christmas Day (that day I go to the Hospital). "Do you want to come along?" His reply "Well, I've never clowned in a hospital, only in war torn areas."

Nalle is the Director of *Clown and Circus Arts* in Stockholm, Sweden and Director of Sweden's *Clowns Without Borders*. Pictured above is Shobi and Nalle at Kaiser Hospital on Christmas Day. I wish the picture

was in color. Nalle has green hair, which is part of an act he does with street kids in Argentina. I loaned him my "Take out Chicken" (my lunch box full of rubber chicken site gags) and my three rubber eggs (which he juggled). He was great. The staff is still talking about him. In a future issue we will print part of his Sarajevo journal.

From Sunflower ♥♥♥♥♥Lorraine Rogers

I would like to share a personal experience I had when I visited my dear aunt who is confined to a nursing home due to a stroke. As I have been living in another state for some years now, we had not seen each other for quite a while. I visited her on a recent trip home, as my self on the first of 3 consecutive visits. I was now a complete stranger to. My heart was broken as I was her favorite niece.

The next day I made arrangements with her nursing home to visit and entertain the residents as "Sunflower." All were gathered in the lounge and had a wonderful time with my clown magic and silliness. During this time my aunt was included in the merrymaking and she leaned over and told her daughter, "That's my niece Lorraine. She doesn't usually look like that, but that's her!" as I was passing out hugs before leaving, she squeezed my hand and said "Lorraine, you were terrific!" I must have triggered something in her past that helped her to recognize my voice as well as my childlike mannerism.

The next day I went back to the home (as myself) to say goodbye and I was once again a stranger to her. But I knew God has opened her heart to recognize me for those few hours as a gift for the both of us.

-- Lorraine "Sunflower" Rogers, Dalzell, South Carolina

