

The Code of Ethics of a Clown

1. DON'T CONSUME ANYTHING INTOXICATING BEFORE MAKE-UP OR WHILE IN COSTUME.
2. DON'T FONDLE WOMEN WHILE IN COSTUME.
3. DON'T THROW ITEMS AT THE CROWD.
4. DON'T RUB YOUR MAKE-UP ON YOUR AUDIENCE.
5. DON'T IMPERSONATE A WOMAN, A BLACK, OR OTHER MINORITY, NOR DEGRADE THEM.
6. DON'T INTERFERE WITH THE OTHER CLOWN'S GIMMICK (UNLESS YOU'RE A PART OF THE ACT).
7. DON'T SMOKE WHILE IN COSTUME IN PUBLIC.
8. DON'T ABUSE THE SPECTATORS.
9. DON'T USE OBSCENE GESTURES OR LANGUAGE WHILE IN PUBLIC.
10. ALWAYS LOOK YOUR BEST (CLEAN AND PROPERLY MADE-UP). NO FULL OR PARTIAL FACE MASKS.

INTERNATIONAL SHRINE CLOWN ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

Please read the Code of Conduct and be prepared with questions or comments during the class session.

If one was to ask a group of people what a Shrine Clown is, he would get a number (probably the same number) of different answers. The definitions of 'clown' probably will be more similar than the definitions of 'Shrine'. Both depend on the person's perceptions of the individual Shrine Clowns he has seen. So what is a Shrine Clown?

Let me offer a definition: A Shrine Clown is a clown who also is a Shrine-Mason. A clown, a generic clown - is an imaginary creature who delights and entertains children whatever their age. He is a person with a painted face and funny clothes, often doing funny things to make people laugh. The Shrine in Shrine Clown is the Brand Name. Like other Brand Names it says something about the product. It denotes a minimum level of quality and effectiveness. It tells in one work what the world can expect from a clown with Shrine in front of it.

What is that minimum level? A shrine Clown always shows respect for his audience. He does not use vulgar language or gestures to get a laugh. He gives his best to every audience, his best make-up, his best costuming: his best performance. He is on time, prepared to perform, and does not stay beyond his welcome. He does not say or do anything in costume that may destroy the image of the character he has created. He does not smoke or drink (in costume) where or when he can be seen by the public. He has and shows a deep reverence for God and for all He created. He has a great love for children, more especially for those crippled and burned children in our hospitals. Much of what he does is for those children. He tries to build up instead of tearing down.

While there are other clowns who exhibit these characteristics, I am suggesting that our Masonic/ Shrine backgrounds make them a minimum standard for a Shrine Clown. Whenever we appear as Shriners or Shrine Clowns, bit by bit we help form the public's (and our own) perceptions of Shrine Clowns. Each Shrine Clown contributes to the reputation of us all. It is important, then, that we as Shrine Clowns look and act to enhance favorable impressions. It is equally important that we think before we speak or act. Perhaps we should check with a brother or a friend to be sure that what is heard

to some people, but not all. We should try to limit the type of things our audience might find offensive. The use of toilets, toilet seats, bedpans, dropping pants, etc. is offensive to some people. Yet the use of toilet paper as a 'walk around' "Morning paper" or "Daily Paper" or the "paper hanger" skit seems to have wide acceptance.

4. Not touch women while in costume in public.

Certainly in today's atmosphere of everything seems to be sexual harassment, discretion is the better part of valor. We should NEVER do anything to embarrass any member of the audience, male or female. Shaking hands is NOT entertaining! (If your wife, daughter, or girl friend runs out and hugs you, I'm not sure how to avoid touching them.)

5. Not throw items of any kind. This includes candy, gum, novelties, and balloons. These items may be handed out if other Rules and Regulations do not specifically prohibit.

Although liability (in this "Age of Sue the SOB") is a real concern, consider what COULD happen - and none of us would want to happen - if we tossed anything to the crowd: (a) a child might be hit in the eye and blinded, (b) a child might be injured in the rush of older children trying to get whatever was thrown, (c) Candy (sugar) got to a diabetic, causing a severe reaction...and so on.

6. Not to use any obscene gestures or language while appearing in costume, make-up or uniform.

Let's consider items 3, 4, and 6 in the light of the kind of entertainment we try to provide. Remember we are NOT JUST ENTERTAINING OURSELVES, we are trying to entertain children of all ages. Adult, "Blue joke", entertainment is not necessary for a clown to be funny; a Shrine Clown should not resort to it when entertaining the public..

7. Not impersonate a woman, Negro, or other minority group which might reflect unfavorably upon the Association and the Imperial Shrine. (See Imperial Bylaws, #335.11)

8. Shall not appear at any Association function without current Shrine and Association dues cards. Also the Association patch must be worn.

9. Not smoke in costume in public. The use of DEAD cigar butts will be allowed for tramp costumes.

If the clown smokes in costume ANYWHERE, won't that costume begin to smell of cigarette, cigar, or tobacco smoke? And how will that effect a child's belief in your character?

10. The passing out of candy, gum, or balloons will be permitted during functions of this Association, except from vehicles.

See item 5. Balloons are no longer permitted in the children's

wards in most hospitals because of the danger to small children.

11. Not use any live animals or fowl, domestic or wild, nor reptiles.

12. Not use full or partial face masks of any type.

13. Strive to look their best as a true Clown.

14. Not abuse spectators by subjecting them to practical, humiliating jokes or by squirting or shocking them.

I would like to see a couple of items added to the Code:

15. **Be Professional!**

a. Arrive on time, ready to go. If you cannot make it, arrange for someone to cover for you.

b. Give full measure, that is, all you have contracted for plus a little more.

c. Never walk on another performer's act! Don't steal his material and then use it right in front of him.

16. **Follow the Golden Rule.**

Come to think about it, if we are truly a "Professional" and we follow the Golden Rule, we won't stray too far from the Code of Conduct.



"Applejack"

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