

Joe Dieffenbacher

Actor, Director, Designer, Teacher

49 Hill View Rd
Oxford OX2 0DA England
m. +44 (0)7408 842925

joedieff@gmail.com / www.joedieffenbacher.com



PERFORMANCE

Just Dance Live! - US Tours - 2018

Master of Ceremonies for Interactive Dance Rave Party
Concert Hall Tour Miami, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles
MC and Scriptwriter for show, Circus Acts

Take That! - UK Tours - 2009-2015

Comic Characters in TV Special, Circus Tour, Music Video, TT3.
Stadium and arena concerts with British Pop group Take That
Co-Creator of Opening Spectacles, Dancer, and Hot Air Balloonist

London Olympics and Paralympics Closing Ceremonies - 2012

Featured Character in Olympics and Paralympics Closing Ceremony.
Co-Creator of Opening Sequence in Paralympics Closing Ceremony.

Nakupelle European, Asian and North American Tours - 1996 – present
Original Solo and Duo work in Mask, Puppetry, Theatre, Slapstick and Clown.
Co-Founder, Co-writer, Director and Lead Performer.
Mask, Puppet, Set and Prop Designer.

The BIG Show European Tours - 2003-2008

Comic Trio specialising in Illusion Magic, Slapstick and Silent Comedy.
Co-writer and Lead Performer.
Puppet and Prop Designer

Los Payasos Mendigos North American & European Tours - 1991-1998

"The Mexican Monty Python" - Original work in Slapstick & Comic Acrobatics.
Co-Founder, Co-writer, Director and Lead Performer.
Mask, Puppet, Set and Prop Designer.

Dell'Arte Players North American Tours - 1990-1997

Theatre Company specialising in Agi-Prop Theatre, Mask, Puppetry and Physical Comedy.
Co-writer and Lead Performer / Mask, Set and Prop Designer.

Disneyland / DisneyWorld Anaheim / Orlando - 1986-1988

Physical Comedian, Stilt Walker and Unicyclist / Co-creator of two original shows.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus USA Tour - 1984.

Clown & Elephant Jumper.

FILM / TV

Bizarre: appeared as self in documentary on acrobatics master, Lu Yi of Circus Center, SF.
Filmed in San Francisco, Released February 2016.

Take That Live 2015 / Take That Documentary: These Days on Tour: Lead character. DVD

Take That: The Circus Live 2009: Lead character. DVD

Take That Comes to Town: played *Clown* in televised performance with Take That and comedian Peter Kay. Aired 7 December 2008 on ITV1. Filmed in Manchester, UK

Silent Witness: played *Junkie* in film with William Hurt, Jennifer Tilly, Dennis Leary and Michael Chiklis. Filmed in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 2000

Where the Elephant Sits: played *Comic Character* in independent film directed by Mark Lowenthal. Filmed in Los Angeles, CA, April 1997.

SKILLS

Circus: Juggling 3-5 balls, clubs, fire torches / Staff Manipulation / Bottle Flair / Fire-Eating / Unicycle / Stilt-walking / Equilibratics / Club & Fire Torch spinning / Slapstick / Solo and Partner Acrobatics / Trampoline & mini-trampoline / Prop Slapstick.

Theatre: Actor / Pantomime / Mask Performance / Commedia dell'arte / Circus & Theatre-based Clown and Comic Characters / MC and Stand Up Comedy.

Design: Set Designer / Prop Maker / Costume Designer / Maskmaker / Painter / Sculptor.

TRAINING

Dell'Arte School - 1988-89

Lecoq / Decroux / Gaulier - based training in Mask, Clown & Commedia

New York Festival of Clown Theatre - 1986

Clown Studies with John Townsend and Sigfrido Aguilar

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus Clown College- 1983

Circus Clowning, Slapstick, Dance, Arena Movement and Circus Skills

TEACHING / DIRECTING

Ariadne aux Naxos - Glasgow, Scotland, **Scottish National Opera** 2018

Circus Skills Director.

Emilia, Shakespeare's Globe – London, UK - 2018

Co-directing and choreographing physical comedy ensemble scenes.

Oliver! based on the book by Charles Dickens, **Regents Park Theatre** – London, UK - 2017

Stunts & Physical Theatre Director.

Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare's Globe – London, UK - 2016

Co-directing and choreographing comic duos, physical comedy, acrobatics and slapstick.

Wuqiao International Circus Festival – Shijiazhuang, China - 2015 / 2017

Director of Clown Training and Slapstick - training students for International Circus Festival.

Circus Center – San Francisco, CA - 2011-2015

Director of Clown Conservatory - training in Clown, Slapstick and Commedia.

Directing Student and Professional Productions.

ACT - American Conservatory Theatre – San Francisco, CA - 2011.

5 week intensive in Physical Comedy.

Belfast Community Circus – Belfast, Northern Ireland - 2005-present.

Workshops: Slapstick, Clown, Physical Theatre / Directing Student & Professional work.

artea Zaragoza, Spain - 2006-present.

Workshops: Slapstick, Clown, Physical Theatre / Directing Student & Professional work.

Teaterstudion – Stockholm, Sweden - 2003.

Workshops in Clown.

Juilliard School / Circle-in-the-Square / Cirque du Soleil / Dell'Arte – 1999-2005.

Created actor-training masks for student program and resident company.

Dell'Arte School Blue Lake, California - 1992-1998.

Lead Instructor Maskmaking and Performance, Slapstick-Acrobatics & Clown.

Directing Student and Resident Company Projects.

for more information, photos and video please go to
www.joedieffenbacher.com

PRESS

"The wedding scene is condensed into a silent, slow-motion mime sequence, dissolving description and dialogue into vivid action. There's pace, energy, and a real clarity to all the stage business."

The Arts Desk on Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare's Globe, London

"The physical comedy is brilliant. It pushes through the script with so much comedic momentum that it has more pace and hilarity than I have ever known *The Taming of the Shrew* to have. The cast works as an ensemble to make us laugh with clowning, physicality and wit that doesn't drop." ***A Younger Theatre, web blog***

"Circus skills imparted by Joe Dieffenbacher add some genuinely entertaining tricks to this sparky display of all the talents." ***Claudia Pritchard on Ariadne auf Naxos, Scottish National Opera for Culture Whisper***

"The vaudeville troupe threaten to up-stage the classical in Act 2. Circus skills director Joe Dieffenbacher has mentored his tutees expertly, [they] form a compelling vocal and kinetic ensemble. And, to be honest, it's a relief, after several recent productions, to have a vaudeville troupe who are more Berlin satire than barbershop saccharinity." ***Claire Seymour on Ariadne auf Naxos, Scottish National Opera for Opera Today***

"Dieffenbacher's physical comedy, inventive juggling, and acrobatic skills were brilliant."

Georgia Straight, Vancouver, Canada

"A specialist in the art of movement astonishing everyone who sees him."

El Periodico, Zaragoza, Spain

"Nakupelle's performance at Manchester's Xtraxx Festival was one of my personal favourite shows of the year. The energy, the relationship with the (potentially difficult!) audience and the simple audacity of the show, were all tremendous." ***Jonathan Holloway, Festival Director National Theatre, London***

"One of the most dynamic and inventive series of performances I've ever seen on any stage. Under the direction of Joe Dieffenbacher, the show ran the total range from macabre and terrifying to hysterically funny ... Technically and artistically brilliant." ***Eureka-Times Standard, California***

"The end of a class in Clown Theatre and Masks under the direction of Joe Dieffenbacher: think Marx Brothers meet Feydeau. Performers tumble, swoop, clamber, jump, and fall, they get soaked, and revel in chaos. A closer look confirms the suspicion that all this madness is the result of exhausting and disciplined work."

STAGE DIRECTIONS MAGAZINE - USA

"The high point of the (Limburg) festival. Every detail of his show is carefully constructed. With a never ending stream of comic business, movements, actions and reactions, he kept the audience spellbound. The talent to pretend as if he invents and experiences everything for the first time during his performance, highlights every detail. A clumsy virtuoso, an elastic looser. This is slapstick in the very best tradition, that of Chaplin and Buster Keaton." ***Jos Prop, Limburgs Dagblad***

"Dynamic, entertaining and unique ... Nakupelle works to the highest standards, and have combined talents for performing, maskmaking, puppetry, and comedy that can rarely be found in one company."

Peter Buckley, Director - Dell'Arte School

"Imagination, innovation and improvisation at its best!"

Grainne Millar, Programming Manager, Temple Bar Properties, Dublin