

## CLOWN ONLINE with Joe Dieffenbacher 26 February to 20 March 2022

---

Four unique workshops exploring four different skills essential to good comedy.

### **The Clown and the Camera – Saturdays 26 February / 5, 12, 19 March**

**Start times:** 16:00 UK / 17:00 EU / USA: 11:00 EST / 10:00 CST / 9:00 MST / 8:00 PST

**The Clown and the Camera** explores how the camera can be used in comedic ways, how it mimics a proscenium, the frame for a live show. Knowing how to use this frame is crucial for clowns, actors, comedians, and filmmakers. You'll learn to use the camera in funny and provocative ways, and understand it as a tool for comic play, not simply as a recording device.

### **Clown, the Physical Comedian – Saturdays 26 February / 5, 12, 19 March**

**Start times:** 19:00 UK / 20:00 EU / USA: 14:00 EST / 13:00 CST / 12:00 MST / 11:00 PST

**Clown, the Physical Comedian** will teach you how to be more expressive, have greater presence, be more physically playful, to find funny ways to use your physique. You'll learn to create strong physical characters, tell a story with your body, communicate what you're thinking and feeling through gesture, posture and movement. This is essential work for clowns and actors.

### **The Clown and the Costume – Sundays 27 February / 6, 13, 20 March**

**Start times:** 16:00 UK / 17:00 EU / USA: 11:00 EST / 10:00 CST / 9:00 MST / 8:00 PST

**The Clown and the Costume** will teach you how to use your clothes to create comedy, utilizing costume manipulation, puppetry and slapstick. You can use costume play to create an act in any setting – party, nightclub, theatre, circus, street – and add comedy to any skill – juggling, acrobatics, stand up, magic, dance. Every bit of clothing becomes a potential playmate. Your costume becomes a *living partner* not just a decoration.

### **The Clown and the Prop – Sundays 27 February / 6, 13, 20 March**

**Start times:** 19:00 UK / 20:00 EU / USA: 14:00 EST / 13:00 CST / 12:00 MST / 11:00 PST

**The Clown and the Prop** will teach you inventive ways to use props as partners in play, utilizing object manipulation, slapstick, puppetry, and prop design. This workshop will increase your confidence: you can walk into any space and know you'll have a comic partner to play with whether it's a broom, a chair, a towel, a box, a table ... It'll expand your imagination and generate ideas for devising new acts!

**In these online workshops** you'll explore with artists from all over the world, get immediate feedback on how to make your ideas stronger, create more imaginative and inventive clown acts, and study with a teacher who has over 35 years of experience teaching, directing and devising new work.

**Joe Dieffenbacher** was Director of Clown Conservatory at the Circus Center–San Francisco, Physical Theatre Director for productions at Shakespeare's Globe and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, Circus Skills Director at the Scottish Opera, and master teacher at Dell'Arte International.

Joe was co-founder of the physical comedy troupes the *Abbotts of Unreason* and *Los Payasos Mendigos*. His company *nakupelle* has been featured in theatre seasons, festivals, circuses and cabarets all over the world. He's worked with British pop sensations, Take That, featured in the Closing Ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and Disney.

Joe is also the author of ***CLOWN: The Physical Comedian*** published by Bloomsbury, and ***Drama Games for Clown and Physical Comedy*** soon to be published by Nick Hern Books.

For more info: [www.joedieffenbacher.com](http://www.joedieffenbacher.com)

For video on his performances and work in the classroom, subscribe to his channel: [YouTube](#)

## ONLINE CLASS DETAILS

- 4 different classes, each one 2 hours long.
- Taking place on **Saturdays** and **Sundays**, over 4 weeks: **26 February – 20 March 2022**
- Classes will be taught in English but the focus is on visual and physical humour not verbal.

## WHAT YOU'LL GET

- Four 2 hour classes (8 hours of instruction) filled with information, imaginative play, silliness, laughter and insight, feedback and direction from Joe and your fellow students.
- Three e-books in pdf format: **Wordshop**: a description of the exercises in each lesson and insights into each subject. **Joe's Clown Bib**: an extensive reading list of books that focus on Clown and Physical Comedy. **Clown Quotes and Notes**: Informative and inspiring quotes Joe has collected from a variety of sources on clowning, comedy, physical theatre, play, and Life!

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A stable internet connection with access to Zoom. Joe will send you the link.
- A decent computer camera or webcam, a well lit room so you can be seen clearly.
- Enough space so you can be seen from the waist up, and be able to step out of the camera frame (for entrances and exits). Please be sure to test your camera, lights and space a few days before the class starts so you're not having to fuss with your set up during class. If you have any questions, email Joe at [joedieff@gmail.com](mailto:joedieff@gmail.com).
- A private space, where you won't be interrupted for the 2 hour session.
- Bits of clothing that can be used to create a look, a character, and be played with (nothing too precious that they can't take a bit of rough handling). This can include hats, scarves, ties, glasses, coats, etc.
- Small props that can be played with (nothing that can't take a bit of abuse) and easily seen within the camera's frame. You can use larger props such as a chair or coat rack as long as they can be seen.

## PAYMENT DETAILS

**Prices:** £120 / \$160 / €140.

This price is the same no matter which course you sign up for, and covers all 4 weeks of classes.

**How to register and pay:** email Joe at [joedieff@gmail.com](mailto:joedieff@gmail.com) and confirm which class you're interested in and what info to put on the receipt (name, address, email). He'll let you know if space is still available.

For those who want to pay in Euros or British pounds, pay to this PayPal address: [info@nakupelle.com](mailto:info@nakupelle.com).

To pay in US dollars, pay to this PayPal address: [joedieff@gmail.com](mailto:joedieff@gmail.com).

*To avoid fees, mark payment as a gift or family and friends.*

Once payment is made, you'll receive a receipt and a confirmation that a space is reserved for you.

**Maximum of 10 students per class. Spots are reserved on a first paid basis**, so if you wish to attend please contact Joe and pay as soon as possible to avoid losing out. **Closing date for payments is 18 February 2022.**

**Attendance:** You must sign up for the entire 4 weeks, no partial attendance. If you miss a class, there's no refund, so please be sure you can attend each class. You can sign up for more than one set of classes. Classes may be recorded so if you do miss out there may be a possibility of watching the recorded class on your own time.

If you have any questions or concerns please email Joe at [joedieff@gmail.com](mailto:joedieff@gmail.com).

## CANCELLATIONS

If you must cancel after a full payment is made, a refund will be allowed if enough notice is given so someone else can take your place. You can also use your payment to reserve a place at another 4 week session which Joe will hold at a later date in 2022. You must let Joe know you'll cancel at least one week before the start of the class you've signed up for. **If you pay then cancel any time after 18 February, you'll be charged a processing fee of £30 / \$45 / €40.**

This cancellation policy is to protect other participants and those on waiting lists. It's also to ensure the administrative work put into the course is compensated.

Joe has tried to keep the price low, while offering a course that is informative and playful, productive and entertaining.

**Let's bring a whole lot of play, laughter and joy into 2022!**