

A South African's Memories of Clown Camp By Piet Nortje



*The fine opportunity that I had to be one of 14 clowns to actually perform inside the ring at **Circus World Museum** is still in my mind as if it happened yesterday. I was performing the classical “washer women skit/gag” with Tokyo Mad and a clown from Canada. For one reason or another, Tokyo Mad and myself had just “clicked” and we actually had some people who thought that we had performed together for a long time. The truth actually is that all credit has to go to Kenny Ahern. It was under his guidance that we rehearsed this routine and it was his seasoned experience that helped to make this particular skit work out so greatly. After the **Circus World** performance, I think that we performed this same skit at least 4 other times at open mike sessions. It simply was great.*

*I took part in a ‘staff on stage’ make-up session. I applied my clown face on Jim’s (Howle) face while he applied his clown face on my face. It started out pretty normal, but towards the end it became ‘pretty messy’. It was so much fun that we did it again the following week, and the following week, and the following week. For those who don’t know, all the previous times that I have attended Clown Camp®, I stayed there for all four weeks. To use Jim’s words, ‘I am a slow learner.’
(Piet Nortje-Pretoria, South Africa)*