

An Exciting Asian Clown Camp® Program **By Richard Snowberg**

The world of clowning continues to expand as evidenced by the turnout of participants at a Clown Camp® program held in Singapore this past July. Sixty participants attended, with the majority of participants coming from Asian countries. Attendees included participants from Japan, New Caldonia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the United States. Local coordinator, Knik Pang, did a remarkable job of making all the local arrangements, which provided wonderful accommodations and innovative experiences for everyone.

This, the 30th anniversary Clown Camp program, was one that included a diversity of activities. Participants and staff took part in providing seven school appearances, a church program, a visitation to the KK Woman's and Children's Hospital, and a community arts festival outing that drew thousands of attendees. Additionally the staff of Brenda, Kenny & Natalie Ahern, Norm Barnhart, Bruce Johnson, Dave Mitchell, Lee Mullally, RONE & Gigi, Sam Tee, and myself-Rich Snowberg provided three public shows -all hosted at the famous Raffles Hotel Theatre. One of these performances, the Mayor's Show, had invited guests from throughout the city's various social services agencies.

This educational program featured three days of classes, with several concurrent sessions taking place during each class period. Participants had opportunities to attend sessions on physical comedy, balloon sculpturing, clown ministry, caring clowning, basic makeup application, puppetry, comedy magic and other classes of interest to both new aspiring clowns as well as those with significant experience. All of the classes were held in the program's host hotel-the Gallery Hotel.

Attendees had many opportunities to get out and see some of the cultural diversity and attractions in beautiful Singapore. The Night Safari and visits to Chinatown were two sites that the majority of participants visited. The Night Safari is the only such attraction of its kind in the world, and provided a great kickoff to the group's week together in Singapore. Chinatown was a great fun place to visit for eating, shopping and visiting the museum and an adjacent religious temple. One of the hallmarks of Singapore is the diversity of shopping opportunities, as well as the abundance of tailors awaiting to make a suit or silk shirts within 24-48 hours. Attendee Diana Ciepeila visited one of these tailors and had a new silk clown outfit made while she was in town. Pictured her is Diana wearing her new costume.