



Mime, Clowning and Circus Skills
Artist: Albert Alter



Albert Alter

Grade Level:
K-12, After School

About the Artist:

Albert Alter tours internationally performing and teaching physical comedy, mime and clowning. He has performed in concert with the Oregon Symphony as both a mime and clown, and with the Washington-Idaho Symphony as a physical comedian. He toured as a clown with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circuses and was the assistant director of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in Tokyo, Japan. Albert tours has appeared on national television as a solo performer as well as with The BoZoArtZ Duo, a comic art song recital combining physical comedy with music. When taking a break from touring, Albert takes time to share his art forms in schools, colleges, prisons, hospitals, theaters and communities. He also conducts "Playshops" for teachers, corporations, social service and government agencies and has produced a video series "The Physical Comedy Video Library." Albert is currently working on a video series of tapes for using mime and drama in the classrooms.

Objectives:

- To learn drama and mime skills and how to use them in creating performance pieces
- To learn about how mime and drama skills are used in our daily lives
- To learn how to make and wear masks and how they are used in our and other cultures
- To develop self-confidence and self-esteem
- To enhance reading skills through kinetic experience
- To learn how to critique a performance
- To learn about the role of clowns in cultures around the world
- To learn everyone can do art and that it is fun

Activities:

In *Everyone Can Mime*, all participants will learn mime and drama skills and how these skills are used in their everyday lives, including nonverbal communications. Participants in grades 4 and above will create their own performance pieces and learn how to critique performances. Younger students will act out stories they have read in language arts classes, poems, nursery rhymes, or a story they create as a group. They will learn how stories are created and how they can be changed.

In *The Art of Clowning*, students will learn the history and role of clowns from cultures around the world. They will also learn clown skills including acting, juggling, miming, object-balancing, improvisation, magic, and other circus skills. (If a clown makeup session is desired, the cost is \$1 per student.)

In *The Masks We Wear* the students create their own masks and learn how to bring them to life through movement. Students will learn about masks and how they are used in other cultures and throughout history. There are several *Teacher In-Service and Performance* options which can be designed to help meet

Benchmarks. The artist welcomes the school's desire to tailor the program to site-specific needs.

Workshop Size Limits:

- Based on the activity chosen and desired goals.

Special Equipment:

- NA

Space Needed:

- Large classroom, gymnasium or cafeteria

Connections to the Curriculum

- History, social studies, art, science, drama, physical education and language arts