

Joe Dieffenbacher

Actor, Director, Designer, Teacher

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PERFORMANCE

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

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

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.

Centre Sélavy - Artistic Director John Rudlin Poitiers, France - 1999.

Lead Instructor of Clown / Directing Student and Resident Company Projects.

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

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

Directing Student and Resident Company Projects.

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

"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

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