

The “Rules” for the Clown

(as learned from Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Bill Irwin, Lucille Ball, and others)

- Always make an entrance.
- You wake up in an entirely new and wondrous world every day (not unlike a duck or a goldfish).
- You are NEVER “alone” onstage; there is no such thing as a fourth wall for you. *EVER*.
 - This makes you *the most* vulnerable and accessible person on stage at all times.
 - Your heart is on display 24/7. No breaks, even when *you’re* the one breaking.
- You have no self-awareness of how ridiculous you are, and all of your actions are driven by your greatest desire (this is a deeply personal thing for each individual clown, but some common examples are food, love, money, applause, etc.).
 - This frees you from shame.
 - Caveat: You might, however, have perfect awareness of the ridiculousness of others.
- Normal laws of physics and proportion do not apply to you.
- Logic (aka common sense) does not apply to you. This does not necessarily mean you are an idiot, it just means that you might take unusual pathways toward solving everyday problems.
- Always make an exit.