



**DREW THE  
DRAMATIC FOOL**

# VISUAL **COMEDY** THEATER



curiously concocted by  
Drew Richardson

## **Innocent, Wholesome. and Deranged!**

Drew puts art back in the variety arts by combining high-stakes drama with circus skills, magic, and visual theatre. Inspired by animated cartoons, silent comedians, and absurdist plays, Drew creates comedy with heart for audiences who truly love to laugh.



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**<http://www.DramaticFool.com>**

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# ARTIST RESIDENCIES

## Helping Presenters Connect Creativity To Their Communities

For the past twenty years, Drew has brought his teaching and performances to the unlikelyst of places and to a diversity of populations, making him ideal for tailoring a residency to communities large and small and for making the arts accessible, practical, and fun.

### Make a Silent Movie

Drew and a group of 6-12 students will produce a short silent movie in one week. Students will get an overview of digital filmmaking while writing, acting, and editing. The finished movie will be shown as part of Drew's public show, and the workshop participants will each get a DVD copy. Junior high through college.

### Reading, Writing, and Juggling

Drew combines circus skills with reading and writing exercises to connect movement and the written word. This arts literacy program was originally developed for Chicago at-risk youths in an after-school program. Ages 7-13.

### The Art of Foolery

Ideal for a school assembly, The Art of Foolery is a performance/lecture on creative problem solving in which Drew demonstrates where he gets ideas, the history of foolery, and how foolery can be an art. This educational and entertaining presentation can feature excerpts from Drew's shows, screenings of his silent movies, and a question and answer period. All ages.

### Circus Skills and Performance

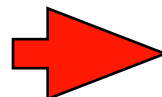
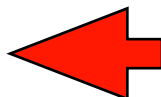
Learn to juggle, balance, and perform. The main lesson here is that it's not what you do, but how you do it. Inspires confidence while introducing theatre and circus arts. 30-90 minutes. Ages 7 and up (can be customized for 3-6 year olds).

### How to Think Like a Fool: Creativity in Life and Art

Learn how to come up with creative ideas to solve problems or just to express yourself. Look at the world upside-down and see things you've never seen before. Can be tailored for businesses, high schools, colleges, and specific organizations (such as a writers' group).

### Dramatic Foolery

Community theatre groups, high school drama clubs, university acting classes, and professional performers can all benefit from this foolish and physical approach to acting. They will learn how to make comedic acting more truthful and serious acting more expressive.



## P R E S E N T E R   Q U O T E S

“Drew ‘the Dramatic Fool’ Richardson is a thoroughly engaging, unmistakably dedicated, utterly delightful family performer. When 50-year-old grandparents and 5-year-old grandchildren emit knowing chuckles at the same moment in a show, you know you’re experiencing something very special. And Drew’s educational work is equally engaging. Book him!”

—**James O’Connell, Executive Director, Performing Arts Foundation, Wausau, WI**

“I have been presenting performing artists for young people and families for 25 years. Drew the Dramatic Fool is one of my favorite artists that I have presented during all these years. I especially encourage presenters to take advantage of the residencies that he offers.”

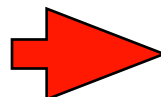
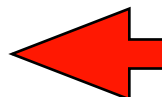
—**Jefferson Westwood, Director, Rockefeller Arts Center, Fredonia, NY**

“Your talent and cooperation make you a producer’s dream. I would recommend your show to anyone who is looking for an original, enchanting performance. We certainly hope to work with you again in the future. Your performance is universal—I’m sure it would work in just about any context and to an audience of any age, culture or background. The reviews during the festival and afterward were unanimous raves.”

—**Larry Groce, Executive Director, FestivALL Charleston, WV and Host of Mountain Stage radio show**

“The great thing about having my own theater is that when I see performers like Drew who are so awesome and unique, I get to share them with my community. We first saw Drew get a standing ovation in Baltimore and knew we had to bring him to our theater. We just fell in love with his work—it’s so much fun.”

—**Michael Miclon, Executive Director, Oddfellow Theater, Buckfield, ME**





## P R E S S   Q U O T E S

"Best Theatrical Experience of the year! It's always nice to attend an arts event and have your socks knocked off at the end of the night. If you like Bill Irwin, you have to see Drew the Dramatic Fool. He's world-class visual comedian."

—**Charleston Gazette**

"The variety and range of skills Drew exhibits in the show are impressive and amusing. A sweet show, enjoyable and accomplished."

—**nytheatre.com**

"Drew the Dramatic Fool is a great comedian ... a clown and slapstick artist of considerable talent"

—**DVDTalk.com**

"With an audience-winning stage presence, he is as expert at designing quietly humorous activity as he is at executing it. It's a fun show."

—**Philadelphia Inquirer**

"Ingenious!"

—**Chicago Tribune**

"It's obvious he's pushing the limits of contemporary clowning. He relies instead on physical humor, using his expressive furrowed brow and wonderfully nuanced bearing to invite us to join in a good laugh at his expense. His physical fluidity mirrors Charlie Chaplin's or Buster Keaton's. The sight gags, physical humor, and expressive reactions afforded by his overarching idea are priceless."

—**Chicago Reader**

"If Teller of 'Penn & Teller' had ever become pregnant by Harpo Marx, Drew Richardson would be the one to arrive out of that strange scientific amalgamation. Watching Drew Richardson perform as Drew the Dramatic Fool is exactly like watching the Marx Brothers, Buster Keaton, or any of the great screen comedians for the first time. It's laughter that doesn't make anyone feel cheap. It's genuine. Watching him, laughter becomes a new form of oxygen. Go forth and have hundreds of chuckles."

—**Film Threat Magazine**



# STAGE SHOW #1

## ***“Help! Help! I Know This Title Is Long, But Somebody’s Trying to Kill Me!”***

**Created and Performed by Drew Richardson**

**Directed by Avner Eisenberg (Avner the Eccentric)**

Part One-Man Vaudeville Show, Part Whodunit, Part How’s-He-Gonna-Do-It?

### **Audience**

This family-friendly show has been enjoyed by adults, college students, and kids.

Non-verbal for deaf and international audiences.

### **Length**

85 minutes

### **Description**

The show must go on even when a suspicious character has eliminated the entire cast! When every entertainer in a vaudeville variety show is mysteriously dispatched, Drew the Dramatic Fool must take over every role in the production, from a 36-ball juggling act to the old saw-the-assistant-in-half trick. If he fails? Let's just say that bad reviews can be murder. *“Help! Help!”* is a wonderfully comic examination of our deepest anxieties, from the fear of failure to the fear of death.

### **Director Bio**

Avner Eisenberg’s show *Avner the Eccentric* was a hit of the 1984–1985 Broadway season. He appeared on Broadway in *Ghetto* and *The Comedy of Errors*, but he is probably best known for his portrayal of the scene-stealing holy man in the film *The Jewel of the Nile*. Avner continues to tour his one-man show internationally.



# STAGE SHOW # 2

## **Drew's on First!\***

**Created and Performed by Drew Richardson**

A mixed-up variety show that starts with “The End” and ends 50 years later.

### **Audience**

For family and children's series, school bus-ins, and festivals.  
Non-verbal for deaf and international audiences.

### **Length**

30 to 60 minutes

### **Description**

The signs introducing each act get dropped and shuffled, and so does the show, the performer, and time itself. Juggling balls are found in a guitar case, props fall apart, and whatever can go wrong, will go worse. Only a Dramatic Fool can save the day by creative problem solving and never giving up!

\*This is a lighter, murder-free version of “*Help! Help!*” with many of the same routines.





**How did this guy... become this guy?**

dramatic fool. It starts in the parking lot and ends up onstage. Customized to the theater where it's performed, the show celebrates the arts and the places where live performance happens.

**Coming in 2011!**

***“What The Fool?!?”***

**Created and Performed by  
Drew Richardson**

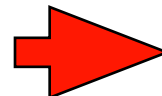
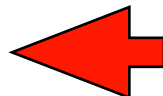
**Audience**

Adults and families.

Non-verbal for deaf and international audiences

**Description**

A site-specific show about an accident-prone conformist who goes to the theater and discovers he's actually a



## P A S T V E N U E S

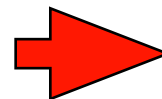
### Highlights

**Reg Lenna Civic Center–Jamestown, NY**  
**Rockefeller Arts Center–Fredonia, NY**  
**Grand Theater–Wausau, WI**  
**Festival Olala–Lienz, Austria**  
**Gallaudet University/QuestFest–D.C.**  
**KO Festival of Performance–Amherst, MA**  
**FestivALL Charleston–Charleston, WV**  
**Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts–Suffolk, VA**  
**Plaza Arts Center–Eatonton, GA**  
**Kenan Center–Lockport NY**  
**Middletown Arts Center–Middletown, NJ**  
**First Night Montclair–Montclair, NJ**  
**First Night Bradford–Bradford, PA**  
**First Night Evanston–Evanston, IL**  
**First Night State College–State College, PA**

**Roanoke Island Festival Park–Manteo, NC**  
**Waynesburg College–Waynesburg, PA**  
**Titusville Council on the Arts–Titusville, PA**  
**Parrish Art Museum–Southampton, NY**  
**Phyzgig Comedy Festival–Portland, ME**  
**Montgomery College–Takoma Park, MD**  
**Clover Auditorium–Clover, SC**  
**CLO Cabaret Theater–Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Palace of Variety, Times Square–NYC**  
**MotionFest–Baltimore, MD**  
**Oddfellow Theater–Buckfield, ME**

**NY Clown-  
Theater Fest–  
Brooklyn, NY**

**Capitol City  
Playhouse–  
Austin, TX**





# DREW'S BIO

## Youth

As a youngster, Drew began performing magic and juggling to compensate for his shyness. Now he plays the fool to take advantage of his increasing baldness.

## Training

Drew's life-long personal tension between drama and foolishness gelled while studying Theatrical Clowning with John Townsen 25 years ago at Ohio University, where Drew received a B.F.A. in Theatre. He continued his studies in physical theatre with Jacques Lecoq in Paris.

## Stage Solos

Drew the Dramatic Fool has performed his solo stage shows in theaters and festivals all over the United States and abroad, from Austin to Austria. Drew has created six one-man shows including *The Psychology of Clumsiness* (twice picked as "Critic's Choice" by The Chicago Reader) and the current "*Help! Help! I Know This Title Is Long, But Somebody's Trying to Kill Me!*" directed by Avner Eisenberg (Broadway's "Avner the Eccentric").

## Devised Theatre

Drew has been involved in ensemble created theatre and performance pieces as an actor/creator in groups such as Brazen Theatre (Madison, WI), 89 Fighters (Philadelphia, PA), The Clownarchists (Chicago, IL), and Night at the Fights (Chicago). Drew has also toured with Squonk Opera and The Daredevil Opera Company. Drew recently directed Quest4Arts's NANO as part of a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Artist and Community grant.

## Filmmaking

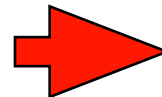
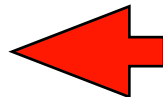
Drew is best known as the first person in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to have new silent movies shown in major motion picture theaters across the United States. ("If Drew Richardson was born 100 years ago, there's a good chance he'd be a household name today." —DVDTalk.com).

Drew's first short silent moving picture, *The Guy Who Lived on a Chair*, was screened at The Chicago Short Comedy Video and Film Festival, Pittsburgh Film Kitchen, and The Silent Film Society of Chicago. His *Theatre Etiquette 101* movies are currently being shown in performing arts centers as pre-show.

## Teaching and Residencies

Drew has been a guest teaching artist at such institutions as Point Park Conservatory, the University of Michigan, Roosevelt University, Columbia College, and The Art Institute of Chicago. Drew also taught "Improvising Physical Comedy" at The Big Stinkin' Improv Festival in Austin, Texas, and "Creating Visual Comedy" at MotionFest in Baltimore. In Chicago, he served as clown consultant/instructor for 500 Clown Macbeth, Strawdog Theatre, and Powertap Productions/Next Theatre Lab.

Drew served as Artist in Residence for the Chicago Park District and Free Street Theatre, where he combined circus skills, movement, and poetry writing to create performances with at-risk youths. At Little City Foundation in Palatine,



# TECH RIDER

## Basic technical requirements:

- ☐ Proscenium or moderate thrust.
- ☐ Minimum size of 20 feet wide by 15 feet deep, and at least 12 feet high.
- ☐ General lighting wash.
- ☐ Connection to sound system for iPod audio player, upstage center.
- ☐ Outlet stage-right for an electric jigsaw.
- ☐ One set of “stage to house steps.”
- ☐ Video projector, DVD player, and screen (performer can provide these).

**Download full Tech and Hospitality Rider at <http://www.DramaticFool.com/Rider>**



# P R E S S   P H O T O S

Download a zipped folder of high resolution photos at  
[http://dramaticfool.com/images/Drew\\_Fool\\_Photos.zip](http://dramaticfool.com/images/Drew_Fool_Photos.zip)

