

## Being a RED NOSES CLOWN is an art in itself!

5<sup>th</sup> International Clowndoctor workshop 11-14 July 2010, Altaussee

### Learning how to make others laugh

About 100 clowndoctors from six RED NOSES partner countries are expected to attend the annual international workshop in Altaussee (Styria) from 11-14 July. This is the first time the workshop will be held in Austria.

Here they will be able to immerse into their very special world - training together, inspiring each other and exchanging ideas. With recharged batteries they then have enough energy to face another year of spreading joy in hospitals.

### The workshop: Lots of positive energy needed for hospital work

The work of the clowndoctors also consists of practical experiences learnt whilst stretching their artistic limits. Inner strength, empathy, self-consciousness and community feelings are emotional key aspects which can be shared in the group. As RN clowns always perform in teams of two during their hospital visits, special emphasis is placed on team work during workshops.

"Last year we tried out a new training concept, *open space*, which allows for an intensive exchange of know-how and experience," explained Giora Seeliger, Artistic Director of RN. "A particularly fruitful and intensive dynamic develops, especially when roughly 100 artists, who all pursue the same goals, come together," he explained further.

Strengthened by the energy of the group and inspired by successful artistic exchange programmes, the clowns return to their respective countries ready to spread humour and joy to the beds of small and big patients alike.

### Professionalism and commitment

"All clowns are highly professional artists with an extensive range of performing experience and training," states RED NOSES Managing Director, Monica Culen. "Our annual international workshops are an important instrument for quality assurance and further development of means of artistic expression."

Equipped with their distinctive art of improvisation the clowns are always prepared for every situation as they make their way through the hospital. Furnished with a large artistic repertoire, musical instruments and funny magic tricks, they surprise patients and visitors whilst they walk down corridors, visit patients' rooms and stop directly at bedsides. To perform these tasks in a therapeutic environment, the clowns need special training, for in order to cope with working directly with pain, suffering and death, the need for personal sensibility and positive energy is high!

### Global laughter: RED NOSES partner organisations

All over the world, humour helps sick people cope better with medical dilemmas. For that reason, an umbrella organisation, RED NOSES Clowndoctors International (RNI), was founded in 2003 by RED NOSES Austria: RN partner organisations have since been set up in Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia and New Zealand. As full partners they are all bound to RNI by a partnership agreement. New Zealand, however, has the status of an Associated Partner.

Operationally, RNI is a highly renowned organisation on a national and international level, and is the largest group of hospital clowns in Europe. During the course of 2009, 219 professionally trained clowns made a total of 6,324 hospital visits to 146 medical institutions.

The international RN clowndoctor workshops take place once a year. After Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Austria is now the fifth host country. The closing ceremony between 11:00-12:00 on the last day of the workshop, 14<sup>th</sup> July, will be a grand finale parade with all the clowns.

The workshop is made possible through a successful cooperation with the "JUFA JUGEND UND FAMILIENGÄSTEHÄUSER."

Press information and photo downloads are available under:

<http://www.rotenasen.at/index.php?id=181>

For questions and inquiries please contact me!

With kind regards,

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