

What to Expect When Booking

Fool's ACADEMY

WHAT Does Set Up and Tear Down Look Like?

We will arrive no later than an hour before our first show. We will find our liaison and check in with the office. Once we have found the performing space: We will set up our background which is free standing. We will arrange our stage props in their places and set up our sound system. Next we will take ten minutes to make sure that we sound good by doing a sound check. During the sound check the performance space should be as quiet and empty as possible. Once we have done all of that we will change into our costumes. When students start to enter we will begin playing some music (up to 12 minutes before show time). When there are students, we will warm up the audience with clowning until our liaison gives us a sign that it is time to start. The show will run 45 minutes.

After our final performance we will need to organize and pack all of our belongings. We do not need any more space than the 10 x 10 minimum performance area during tear-down making it possible to share space with lunch or gym. We can remove everything and load our car within 30 minutes.

WHAT Do We Need From You?

10 x 10 foot minimum performance area (area should be clear and swept)
2 Adult sized non-folding chairs
1 student sized desk
Access to a working outlet within 20 feet of performance area

Our backdrop is free standing and Fire Retardant. (compliant with NFPA specification #701)

We are fully insured through Specialty Insurance Agency of the US- proof available on request

WHAT Does it Cost?

The basic fee for a single show is \$750.00. This covers the cost of two professional performers and the cost of producing the show and running an office. We only charge \$300 for additional performances at the same school. We do not charge travel within an hour drive of Astoria, NY. Outside an hour radius we charge roughly \$0.55 per mile.

*Ask us about our subsidization program.

Fool's Academy
WT McRae and Christina Gelsone
32-23 35th St. #2R
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About Fool's ACADEMY

Fool's Academy is Christina Gelsone and WT McRae. Together we are educators, acrobats, jugglers, and very funny-looking clowns with a mission to make learning fun.

Each of our shows has something to teach, and we do so while providing hands-on fun. We use a combination of juggling, acting, acrobatics, mime, and clowning to bring educational material to life. After researching NY state curriculum, we devise our programs to reinforce specific pieces of that curriculum.

One of our goals in creating a show is to make sure that students get involved in every single scene because we have found that if students physically participate both from the audience and onstage they retain more of the material. All of these tactics provide teachers and students with extra tools to reinforce their work in the classroom.

Students leave our assemblies excited about learning.

As for us, we both perform the shows, write the shows, create the study guides, book the shows, and run the office. We also polish the floors and clean the windows but we'll stick to the glamorous bits for this page.

Christina graduated from Princeton University and trained at the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. She has performed in over a dozen countries including Afghanistan and China. WT earned his BFA in Theatre at Adelphi University, and has performed for school children all over the US, including over 40,000 kids in 200 schools in the NY area. As teachers, we have taught Drama and English, Theatre and History, Theatre as Conflict Resolution, Acrobatics, Shakespeare, Circus, Clowning, and Improvisation to children ranging from pre-school ages to high school and college.

Our extensive background as educators and performers brought us together to create Fool's Academy, because we passionately believe learning is fun, and we had the unique combination of circus, theater, and teaching skills to make curriculum accessible to children.

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