

# Cross Talk

August CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

## THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Next month the Circus is coming to Matsuyama bringing with it all the excitement, the skills, thrills, spills and laughs we can see and experience anywhere throughout the world when the “Big Top” comes to town. There will be trapeze acts, juggling acts, animal tricks and many more. Everyone has their own favourite and behind each act there is a tradition that



can be **traced back** perhaps thousands of years. However, it wasn't until its establishment in England in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century that the modern Circus started to take anything like the **spectacle** we know and love today.

The modern circus is a genuinely **universal** experience and although it has changed much since its new beginnings in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there are elements in it that will never change; for if they did, the circus would no longer be the circus!

And what would a circus be without one of its most **endearing** icons – the Clown!? Like most circus acts, the clown can trace his **lineage** way back to the very beginning; back to Greek times. This is when the original clowns first appeared in the theatre.



“Classic Whiteface” and “Tramp” clowns

Contrary to most people's belief, clowns do not paint

their faces to hide or disguise their natural features, but rather to **empathize** and exaggerate them. This tradition started in the Greek theatre where lighting was poor and a white base with black markings on the face served well to **illuminate** the actor/clown's features.

Nowadays, we can find three basic clown characters at



An “Auguste” Clown

the circus: the most traditional “Whiteface” clown is always seen as the “boss” clown, the “Auguste” clown does most of the **tumbling** and falling, and finally there is the poor old “Hobo” or “Tramp” clown. The former is divided again into two varieties, the “Classic Whiteface” and the “Comedy” or “Grotesque Whiteface”. All of these clown types have greatly influenced comedy acts and comedians way beyond the confines of the circus. Their influence can be found from early vaudeville, to Broadway comedy, to Hollywood and beyond. This influence is most **apparent** when we watch, and laugh at, “slap-stick” comedy.

Perhaps the most famous clown of all is Bozo, a “grotesque whiteface”. His influence has been so great that his name has become a **colloquial** expression to refer to anyone who is, in your opinion, a complete fool!



The ultimate “Grotesque Whiteface” – BOZO!

## Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

<b>traced back</b> 過去にさかのぼる	<b>spectacle</b> 華やかな光景	<b>universal</b> 万国普遍
<b>endearing</b> 人の心をひきつける	<b>lineage</b> (過去の) 道筋	<b>empathize</b> 感情移入する
<b>tumbling</b> 転びやでんぐり返し	<b>apparent</b> ハッキリと分かる	<b>illuminate</b> 明るくする
		<b>colloquial</b> 口語表現

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** The news this month, or rather next month, is that we have a new teacher arriving at Crossroads. Her name is Alice and she is from England. She has studied drama, singing and dancing and has been teaching English in China for two years. We are looking forward to welcoming her on our teaching staff and trying some new lessons in singing in English and even dancing in English!

**Junko Says** I saw another TV program of interest! It was about the human brain and how it reacts to adversity. It seems that our brains really shift into top gear when there is a crisis in our lives. We become capable of extraordinary achievements. The program featured some people who had achieved great things in their lives. They all experienced a great crisis that triggered their success!



**Iain Says:** Can you believe those gas prices? It used to cost me about 3500 yen to fill up the tank in my little Honda, but now it is over 5000 yen! I think we should feel lucky to live in Japan because we have many options for transportation like the train or bus or even walking. These days I have decided to ride my bicycle wherever I want to go now. It is actually nice to go a bit slower. I'm starting to notice buildings and shops I had never seen while I was going so fast in my car.

**Greg Says:** During the Obon season I had the chance to slip across to Kyoto to catch up with some of my friends. The last time I went to Kyoto was for only one night 9 years ago. This time I had the chance to catch some great sights and amazing Japanese gardens. We didn't go to any main tourist spots but rather to the off the map places....they were spectacular. One in particular blew my mind. It was behind an ancient looking doorway of a house. The door was half my size. But on the other side; it was paradise.



**Adrienne Says:** At the time last month's Crosstalk was written, North Korea was shooting missiles at Japan and the "North Korean Missile Crisis" was big news! My Saturday morning 11:00am class had some very good advice to give Mr. Koizumi. They suggested that Japan should kidnap the woman's dance group (it is called the "Joy Club") that entertains President Kim and his friends!

**Dean Says:** I have just returned from an extended Obon vacation in Australia. I had the chance to catch up with my family and friends and, although I was kept very busy, I enjoyed the break. But one thing that really surprised me was the increase in prices – for everything! Japan has the reputation of being very expensive, but not any longer! In Australia, the cost of living is now probably higher than even in Japan!



**William Says:** This weather is ideal. Hot, but not overpowering. This reminds me of the best days of summer in Newfoundland. However, we rarely swim in the ocean because it's so cold; rather we usually gather at the lakes and the rivers. And in Newfoundland lakes and rivers are everywhere!

**Yuka Says:** Hello Everyone! Are you enjoying this summer? The other day I had a chance to visit one of my friends in Osaka for the first time in five years. Although we had been keeping in touch through e-mail and letters, it was much better to talk with each other face to face. Despite the terribly hot weather, we really had a great time. I am lucky that I have a great friend whom I can confide in.



# A Word From You

## Notice Board



### IT'S CAMPAIGN TIME!

Free gifts and tuition fee reductions for you and your friends when they join us! Check out the details in the office with Junko!!



### Meet our new Teacher, Alice!



Alice is going to be our new teacher from next month. She has been teaching English in China for two years and has been a freelance writer in the past also. Alice has been an actress, singer and dancer and has given public performances in all of these arts. She graduated in Drama and Theatre Studies from university in England, her home country. Alice will take over the Drama Cosmopolitan class and we are going to start a new singing class too! Check out the details from Junko in the office!

### News from Natacha in Canada...



Hi everyone! Isn't life full of surprises!!! My new job is basically promoting the Art of the Circus within Canada and the US! Should be fun! My office is in the National Circus School! So, outside my door there are trapezes, trampolines, people practicing to spit fire, or walk on a rope, and so on. I feel right at home! I work with the Cirque du Soleil, Cavalia and Ola Kala and other circuses! The next time you see me, maybe I'll have a red nose!



## Net News

### NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

### NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For info on absolutely everything about clowns go to: [http://www.clown\\_ministry.com](http://www.clown_ministry.com)

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

### Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

#### GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week  
1 x's 90mins / week  
Private 1 x / week  
Semi-Private 1 x /week

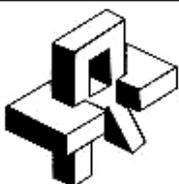
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private  
KIDS, group or private

#### COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with William  
Yoga with Dean  
Guitar with William  
"Cooking in English" with Dean  
"Magic in English" with Iain  
Piano with Adrienne  
Drumming with William

FRENCH with Natacha  
SPANISH with Patricio  
RUSSIAN with Natasha  
GERMAN with Marita & Matthias  
CHINESE with Noriko  
KOREAN with Kim

**NETLESSONS:**  
group or private



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