The Doctors of Joy – So Funny it's Serious

For children

Composition
Humor.....100%
Graduate in the Professional arts and further.....100%
Systemization and availability of understanding – Study Center.....100%
Efficient administration and fund-raising.....100%

History
In 1986, Michael Christensen, an American clown and Director of the Big Apple Circus in New York, performed at a commemorative event at one of the city's hospitals. Whilst there he asked to visit the children who were staying there but who couldn't come to the event. Improvising, he replaced the hospital images for others that were happier or funny.

In 1988 Wellington Nogueira joined the American group. Returning to Brazil in 1991, he decided to start a similar project here, while some of his ex-colleagues did the same in France (Le Rire Medecin) and Germany (Die Klown Doktoren). The preparatory work was sheer hell, but it was worth it: in September of that year, thanks to an enlightened move by the 'Hospital e Maternidade Nossa Senhora de Lourdes' in São Paulo (today called the 'Hospital da Criança' – Children's Hospital), our program took off.

Symptoms Treated:
Trauma linked to child hospitalization: loss of control over the body or life; negative attitudes relating to illness and recovery.

Symptoms Not Treated::
Non-existent.

Follow-up Treatment
Nonsenseology should be applied daily until the patient no longer knows how to be unhappy. This is a medicine for life.

The Doctors of Joy – Art, Training and Development

The Doctors of Joy is a non-profit making civil organization which has as its aim the spreading of joy through the art of the clown in non-conventional spaces. Supported by companies and

individuals through patronage, sponsorship and association, the organization was a pioneer in the introduction of theater into the hospital room.

Since 1991, when the Doctors of Joy was founded in São Paulo by Wellington Nogueira – actor, clown and today General Coordinator of the organization, its clowns have visited more than 550,000 children and young people in hospital, as well as reaching around 600,000 families and involving more than 13,000 healthcare professionals.

Today, the Doctors of Joy organization operates in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife and Belo Horizonte with a team of 21 employees and contributors in the areas of research, training, management, administration and mobilization, and 58 artists who currently work in 19 hospitals. Eleven of these artists also participate in the management of the NGO.

In 2007, the organization launched the 'Palhaços em Rede' ('Clowns Network') program in response to an ongoing demand from groups throughout Brazil which, inspired by the Doctors of Joy, decided to develop similar activities in hospitals across the country, for the most part on an entirely amateur and voluntary basis. The program offers guidelines to individuals or groups selected by means of public notice, whilst at the same time reinforcing the character of each of the participants.

Since 2004, the Doctors of Joy has also promoted training in the theatrical arts and the language of the clown for young people between the ages of 16 and 21 from areas in São Paulo where access to culture is difficult to come by. The program runs for two years and also includes the establishment of a local research center by the young people themselves, which acts as a reference point for the history of the circus and the art of the clown in Brazil

Other activities developed by the Doctors of Joy include speeches, creation and production of theatrical presentations, made to measure visits to companies, and publications such as the 'Boca Larga' collection – a series of regularly published booklets with articles and interviews which look at the formation and historical origins of the Brazilian clown as well as the ethics and quality of work of clowns in the hospitals.