

**Audience
Choice**

Elgin Fringe
Festival

**Pick of the
Fringe**

Cincinnati Fringe
Festival

'Joyful Mess'
Staff Choice

Minnesota Fringe
Festival

"A perfect clown show! I was laughing nonstop start to finish."
Chicago Humanities Podcast

Help Me Help You Help Yourself

**"You never laughed so hard at something
so simple"**

The Elgin Review

"★★★★★"

Borderlights Theatre Festival

Created and Performed by: Danny Wightkin

Directed by: Hannah Baker

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“There’s no story. There’s no character development. There’s nothing but laughter.”
Pioneer Press



The show begins with an empty stage.

A clown enters with their luggage.

The show ends with a stage containing 300 ping pong balls. With 247 keys. Don't forget the 80 cups.

And 1 Waldo costume.

Oh, and of course, the 40 decoy Waldo costumes.

And that's just a partial list of the objects that the clown Your Silent Partner brought to explore and play with. Backed by a musical track, this silent show offers a whimsical interactive experience where the audience engages in more and more ridiculous situations. A banner is created one letter at a time. Someone is blindfolded and their trust pushed to the limit. There is a slow dance with 6 foot long extendible arms. This show has it all.

Winner of the Elgin Fringe Audience Choice Award, Cincy Fringe Producer's Award, and Staff Pick at Minnesota Fringe, *Help Me Help You Help Yourself* is mindless, silly fun for human beings aged 4 to 104. Join the clown Your Silent Partner for a nonsensical hour of pure entertainment.

Help Me Help You Help Yourself was developed with the goal of giving audiences a break from reality, as well as giving them the opportunity to engage with childlike play. The only lesson that could possibly be gleaned from this show is:
You are allowed to have fun.

Otherwise every part of the production is designed to embrace pure absurdity and ridiculousness. There is nothing to read into or hidden meaning behind any of the pieces. Sometimes things in life can simply be silly like taking part in a live action Where's Waldo page.



Original One Act Production: 50 minutes

Ages: 4+

Language: None

The Second Helping: extended 80 minute show (+ 15 minute intermission)



Danny Wightkin is a Chicago-based clown and performer with over a decade of experience. During this time, he has appeared across Chicago's many stages, delighted audiences of all sizes with interactive performances, and toured multiple solo shows across the country. His teachers include clown master Philippe Gaulier in France, Avner the Eccentric from Celebration Barn in Maine, and Dean Evans in LA. He currently teaches clown and variety performance at The Annoyance Theater, and recently starred in the *Chicago Reader* recommended show 'Clown Brunch'. Beyond the stage, he enjoys appearing as the creature in films and was the titular monster in the award winning horror-comedy short 'The Spaghetti Man.'

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Help Yourself To A Workshop!

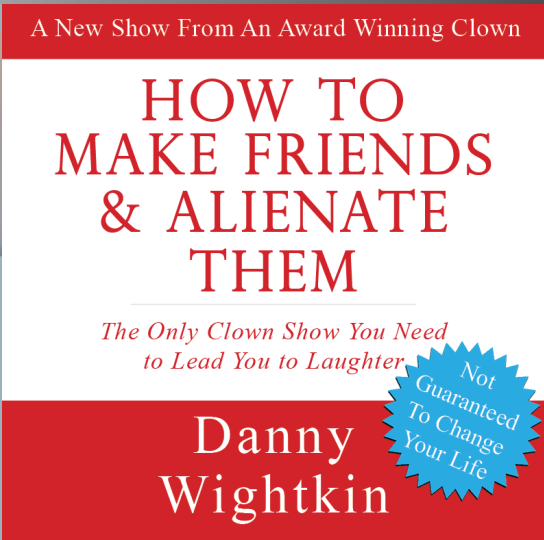
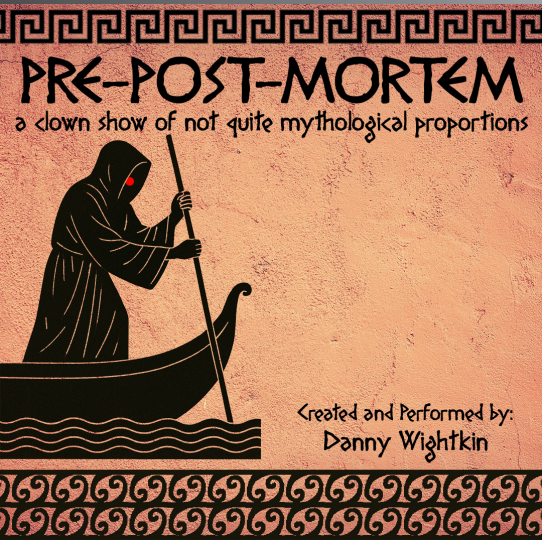
Clown is an unique art. There are few other forms of entertainment where the performer and audience can intimately interact with each other. Not only do they interact, but the audience can effect the show itself as they become part of the performance, driving the action forward.

Clowning builds on a large foundation of principles: creating rapport with strangers, becoming comfortable with failure, finding a personal state of play, and much more. These principles are invaluable to performers as they pursue any art-form, but are useful to anyone who wants to move through life with a stronger connection to others, as well as a bit more levity.

Danny teaches workshops that specialize in audience connection and effectively sharing your own playfulness with any audience. Clown is a personal art with many avenues of approach, and workshops can be customized to fit your needs.

Workshop Length: 3 hours (Variable)
Participants: Up to 16
Ages: 14+

Other Shows



Pre-Post-Mortem

Want to get away? Take your next vacation to the beautiful, barren banks of the River Styx. Meet Charon and get a sneak peek of the afterlife with this limited time two-way trip!

Cats That I Know

Carve an hour out of your life to see literally hundreds of pictures of cats. There are occasional musical interludes, but the topic never changes, so hopefully you are a cat person!

How To Make Friends & Alienate Them

A self-help seminar goes off the rails when the host doesn't arrive, and one brave clown decides to step up to run the show. Too bad he hasn't done this before...