

DUO DYNAMICS—We primarily work in teams of two, both for comedic potential and emotional support.

- Tied at the hip—Often medical clown duos are “tied at the hip.” By this I mean, they arrive at the hospital, meet and usually will have coffee together. Then, they head to the dressing room, change, apply makeup and don their costumes, after which, they might very well perform some type of ritual which assists them to make the transition from normal, everyday life into the amazing world of medical clowning. Then, they wash their hands thoroughly before proceeding to their first area, usually a nurses’ station for check in. Up to this point, they have been partners, performing the same actions, tied at the hip. There is a comfort and habit of always being with your partner which can limit the artists. This often results in partners always working/playing a room in twos. However, many opportunities arise if and when a duo decides to have only one of them make the initial contact. This is one dynamic of a duo.
- To speak or not to speak; that is the question. When is it appropriate to speak and engage in dialogue and when is it appropriate to keep your mouth shut? What price do you pay when you become two talking heads?
- How do you address a situation in which you really don’t like working with a partner to whom you have been assigned? How do you manage that for the best result for your audience?
- How do you say difficult things to your loving partner? Zum Beispiel: Your breath stinks.
- How important is your partner to your emotional well-being?

## IMPROVISATION AND STATUS

- What is the healthy balance between improvised and already existing material? There is a place for both.
- What is the structure of a good improvisation?
- What is status and how can it work for us as medical clowns?
  - Question: What is the quickest way to establish status?
  - Answer: one of you keeps your mouth shut
- As a medical clown, your authentic nature has both high and low status features. How do they manifest in you as a unique individual and how can you use that in your work?

## USE AND NON-USE OF LANGUAGE

- How much can be said, felt, communicated without language and I don't mean mime!
- When is it appropriate to speak and when is it appropriate not to speak?