

CLOWNING AROUND

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Rone & Gigi

They're Back!



As featured on the 2002 cover of *Clowning Around*, the remarkably talented RONE and Gigi will be back in the United States sharing their skills as the headline entertainers and lecturers at the 2009 Denver WCA convention. After completing a successful tour in their home country of Japan, they will be coming directly from Tokyo-compliments of their sponsorship from the Carole Jackson Memorial Fund, with travel and housing expenses provided by Clown Camp®. This dynamic duo has twice before appeared at WCA world conventions in Jacksonville, Florida (2003), and in Albuquerque, New Mexico (2004). You won't want to miss their laugh filled and skillful evening of family entertainment on the WCA's main stage.

Who Are RONE & Gigi?

When audiences first see the clown duo of RONE and Gigi they begin to recognize why many now rate them as the best performing female clown duo in the world. Their physical comedy, basic skills, facial expressions, and unique performance style continues to amaze audiences from Japan, Moscow, Australia and beyond.

RONE was born into a traditional family, but had a unique father who was a well known Kabuki actor. She began training at the age of six in this cultural performance style. Early in her career she became an actress that performed in stage musicals. During her early years she also began to write-mostly humorous scripts.

In 1989 she discovered formal clown training as a result of her successful enrollment in the then new Ringling Bros. Clown College Japan. During this program she met her soon to be longtime partner, Gigi. Following her training at Clown College, she and Gigi went on to seek further training experiences at the Kiev Circus School and Estrada University in Russia.

The duo returned to their hometown of Tokyo and began to develop a market for their clowning skills in their native Japan. And since there was no other real recognition for clowning in their country, let alone any other classes or training, they established their own school:

Open Sesame. This program provides small group instruction, and as students became more proficient, they branch out to do clown group performances. Some of their students have now become accomplished performers in their own right.

RONE and Gigi did not devote all of their efforts to their school. They maintained a strong effort to expand the recognition of clowning in Japan, as well as continued to travel and experience success via appearances in many other countries. (At that time, now less than 20 years ago, clowning was largely unknown to the residents of this country. Citizens saw some Ronald McDonald images, but did not recognize how diverse and popular clown entertainers could be for both children and adults.)

In 1991 the duo returned to Russia where they won a special prize at the Moscow International Clown Convention. They have likewise won awards and acclaim in the United States, England, Scotland, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, and Monte Carlo. They were even asked to showcase their skills for Cirqque Du Soleil. And while this prestigious group marveled at their talent and offered them the opportunity to be performers with them, they declined the offer. Their heart was in Japan and they did not want to have to change their basic clown appearance and style of work.

Each year they provide an annual provincial tour of Japanese elementary schools and junior high schools where they feature a new show each. Besides their extensive appearance schedule in Japan, they have taught at Toho University, as well as for the last nine years at Clown Camp® programs in the United States and Canada.

