

Little Miracles

Real life stories
to make you laugh and think

Preface by

Rolando
Villazón



RED NOSES Clowndoctors International

AMALTHEA

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About RED NOSES Clowndoctors

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Preface

I've been a passionate ambassador for RED NOSES for many years. As »Dr. Rollo« the clown, I accompany the clowndoctors as often as I can on their visits to various hospitals, and I witness the great job they do again and again.

RED NOSES clowns are able to turn tears into smiles. They bring happiness and colour into the hospital room. With the brilliance of a rainbow, they transport sick people to a world filled with colours, motion, light and freedom, and their poetry remains long after they are gone.

RED NOSES clowns are not just a form of entertainment – their psychosocial support of people in difficult situations is of great importance.

Thanks to the clowndoctors, people can feel a spark of happiness and joy despite illness and worry. Everyone – whether young or old – needs to know that we can and may laugh, especially in difficult situations. Laughter is a part of human nature.

As I have often experienced RED NOSES clowns, I know the profound impact they have. Touching moments, such as those described in this book, are very familiar to me.

It fills me with pride to be able to call myself a part of the RED NOSES family.

Rolando Villazón

Star tenor, director and writer

Humour Ambassador of RED NOSES Clowndoctors International



About the Philosophy of RED NOSES Clowndoctors

Sigmund Freud once said, »Those who can't laugh laugh anymore, are no longer viable.« In our view, this sentence underlines the fact that laughter is an essential human need.

We not only witness the power of humour in our daily work in the hospitals, but it's also confirmed by doctors and nurses. In fact, happiness and laughter are often perceived as inappropriate in the hospital environment, especially in difficult situations. However, it's exactly in these situations that one should feel free to laugh for the simple reason that laughter can generate relief and a feeling of liberation, and it can have an immense effect on one's attitude towards life.

We demand high artistic and empathic standards from our clowndoctors. They have to train extensively to ensure that they can meet patients of all ages and under all circumstances with sensibility and respect, and then take them into a joyful, colourful and magical world.

The experiences of our clowns are as varied as life itself: from cheerful and happy to touching and emotional. This is also evident in the impressive stories in this book, all of which are based on true situations.

Enjoy reading them!

Monica Culen and Giora Seeliger

Founders of RED NOSES Clowndoctors



About This Book

As few people readily associate hospitals with joy and laughter, any patient's smile or laugh may, in itself, be viewed as a small miracle. If we were to include all of the little miracles that we, the RED NOSES clowndoctors, have experienced over the past 20 years in one book, we would have an impossibly large publication - a book of clown proportions :o). Therefore, we have chosen a handful of our experiences to share with you here.

RED NOSES Clowndoctors are active in 10 countries (until 2014 in 11 including New Zealand). Therefore, when deciding which stories to include in this volume, we chose to include stories from all countries. The authors are clowns who work regularly with patients in children's wards and geriatric homes.

We even included a story from an adult trauma centre, as our aim is to give you some insight into the depth and versatility of our work. As I put this collection together, I cried, I laughed, and I was reminded time and time again of