



# Comicality and Commedia dell'Arte – Texto de Abertura

Vilma Campos dos Santos Leite

This issue includes comic-related studies, dealing, for example, with the dimension of the clownesque and jester's language, as well as others that address the mask, even if not restricted to the genre connected to laughter. Another direction included in the following pages are studies that focus on *commedia dell'arte*, with an approach beyond the mask.

The term mask is understood not only as the object used in the face, but also comprising more expanded concepts from the idea of masking. We bring to light coded performing traditions and also reflections on masks that are present in rituals and surround relevant aspects to performativity and rituality.

The articles aim to deepen these issues, both by theoretical questions and by analyses of practical experiences.

We open with the article **For an anti-history of the modern show: first notes about the ciarlatani theater**, written by Roberto Tessari and translated by Ivanildo Piccoli. Approaching an unpublished topic in Portuguese, the text extends our understanding of the period that surrounded the flourishing and expansion of *commedia dell'arte*.

**Buffon: masks and ritual connections** sheds light on the understanding of the jester's mask, accompanying this figure over the course of a chronology. It analyzes oppositions and complementarities with the clown's mask. The author Joice Aglae Brondani also articulates these principles with one of the lines of work of *commedia dell'arte*, connecting it with aspects present in popular cultures.

In **The dialectics of masks**, José Benedito Almeida Júnior identifies specificities of the masks, such as in religious rituals and in theatrical performances. He approaches the case of *commedia dell'arte* for better understanding the artistic work in itself and the contrapositions present in religious rituals.

Danielle de Jesus de Souza Fonsêca, in **Masked on scene: drollery, walking and festivities in the Encontro de Bois em São Luís do Maranhão**, deals with the mask of the *brincante*

*Pai Francisco* (Father Francisco) at São Marçal festivity, bringing aspects involving its spectacularity and about how people reinvent their beliefs and customs.

Two articles deal more closely with issues related to the clown pedagogy. In **Dramaturgy as a shaping element of the clown's repertoire**, Pedro Eduardo da Silva approaches the artist formation inside the very work in the circus environment and from the oral tradition. The author emphasizes technical and ethical aspects of this process. In **Clownesque pedagogy: the school of the only I in primary education**, Frederico de Carvalho Ferreira and Ana Elvira Wuolff reflect about an Arts teacher who brings the very clown as a possibility for working in the space of the elementary school.

Another field of activity quite relevant in the contemporary world is the hospital space, which has expanded the knowledge about clowns and their relationship with everyday life, a topic that Daiani Cezimbra Severo Rossini Brum and Karenine de Oliveira Porpino discuss in the text **Clowns: a route to the hospital stage**.

In **Clown apocalypse and creepy clowns**, Fabio Dall Gallo discusses recent events involving clowns that scare and inspire terror. He historically evokes elements of the cultural heritage that could be associated with this phenomenon and, at the same time, analyses the distance of these figures from the work of the clown.

Eduardo Silveira, in **On the Birth of the Clown**, talks about his own experience in acting as a clown, focusing on principles that help us understand the otherness in this artistic relationship.

We finish the issue with **Pedagogy and masks: an interview with two Canadian masters**, which are fragments of two interviews conducted by Vilma Campos dos Santos Leite in the context of a post-doctoral research. The respondents cast peculiar looks on the work and pedagogy with mask and clown, besides bringing aspects regarding the emotion and improvisation within these languages.