

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



***** ALL CLASSES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE *****

Blue Text = Magic classes
Red Text = Puppet classes
Green Text = Face painting classes
Purple Text = Balloon classes
Orange Text = Clown classes
Black Text = Everyone

Thursday, January 29th

7pm **Kidvention Pre-Jam (Skyview)**
Attendees are welcome to attend the Jam before Kidvention officially starts! Join us for some fun social time!

Friday, January 30th

10:00 am **Registration (Arlington Desk)**

1:00 pm **General Session (All Attendees)**
Louis Meyer: Welcome Session (Salon 4)
Louis welcomes all attendees to Kidvention and provides details for the upcoming days.

1:30 pm **General Session (1 Hour and 15 minutes)**
Chad "Chef Bananas" Jacobs: Reviews Gone Bananas (Salon 4)
Parents may forget a postcard, but they never forget a great review! In this laugh-filled session, Chef Bananas (Chad Jacobs)—one of the most-reviewed family entertainers in St. Louis—shares how he gets an unusually high percentage of his clients to leave glowing testimonials. You'll discover why reviews are more powerful than any business card, how to make it easy (and fun!) for parents to rave about you, and how to turn those reviews into steady bookings. With a proven track record of collecting heaps of five-star praise, Chef Bananas will teach you his exact "secret recipe" so you can whip up more reviews, more trust, and more shows on your calendar. If you're ready to go bananas with success, don't miss this one!

3:00 pm **Breakout Sessions (90 Minutes)**
Harry Allen: Comedy Magic (Rosslyn)
Harry is a magician's magician... you will learn how to entertain with your props. You will learn how to liven up an audience. Harry has been performing for over 60 years. He was hired by David Copperfield to perform for him and his entire cast. He has been on TV around the world, working and lecturing from the Pacific rim, Middle East, Europe, Asia, Central America, to cruise ships. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS HIS LECTURE!!

Kynisha Ducre: Who, What, Where, & How to Sell Clown Fun 365! (Alexandria)
Go beyond birthdays, corporate events, and libraries to book year-round. Learn how to match characters to venues, pitch with confidence, and keep your calendar full. You'll get: Ideas for holiday and seasonal characters that sell. Sample marketing letters you can adapt and send.

How to create AI-assisted merch such as books, coloring pages, and more that supports your brand.

Frida Haas: Cute to Couture (Salon 3)

Unlock the secret to versatile face painting with "Cute to Couture." This class will show you how to take a single design and transform it from cute and playful to sophisticated and couture, perfect for teens and adults. By mastering this transition, you'll not only expand your creative range but also attract a wider clientele and boost your earnings. Get ready to bridge the gap between fun and fabulous!

Heather Green: Beautiful Beginnings (Manassas)

New to face painting? You've come to the right place. In this class, Heather will teach you all about brushes, beginner lines, how to get started, the most-requested designs, how to use rainbow cakes, and give you the tools you need to add face painting to your business. This class is for all levels, and everyone is welcome.

Dutch: Zombies, Zombies, Zombies (Salon 5)

The title should say it all! One of the things I love to paint the most is zombies. In this class you'll learn a multitude of approaches to creating your own army of the undead! From the freshly dead to the cryptic and crusty, and all the ooey-goey varieties in between! Be ready to keep up with this fast-paced class as we explore depth and decay.

Joe Mock: Mr Mock's Linework that Rocks (Salon 4)

Join Joe for another amazing class filled with fresh new designs that are sure to be incorporated immediately into your repertoire. Due to many requests from past class experiences, Joe has crafted this class specifically for the linework approach to balloons. Although fast, functional, and lots of wow factor, MAKE NO MISTAKE, these designs have so much character that they can be used in almost any twisting scenario. In fact, Joe is certain that you'll be using these designs all the time in the very near future.

Anthony Lena: All Star Hits: Quick Twists, Big Reactions (Salon 6)

A greatest-hits set from Anthony's Balloons of Pure Awesomeness—his most requested, real-world-tested crowd-pleasers, perfected over years for speed, efficiency, and big visual impact. You'll learn top-performing sculptures, pro tips to boost efficiency and showmanship, and a ready-to-use setlist ideal for fast-paced events, plus a few brand-new, never-before-taught designs debuting at this convention. Come twist the hits and leave ready to steal the show.

Dan Nixon: Bonkers!!! 50 More Creative Puppet Ideas (Mclean)

50 MORE creative puppet stuff ideas! Wait! Hold on! Did you say 50 MORE?!? That's right! Last year we shared 50 ideas and this year we are back to share 50 MORE! We have packed 50 more creative puppet ideas you can use to enhance your puppet presentation!

5:00pm Dinner Break (Vendors Open in Salon F and G from 5pm to 9pm)

5pm-9pm FRIDAY FORTUNE! (Salon F and G)

On Friday ONLY, for every \$25 spent in the Vendor Room between the hours of 5:00 and 9pm, you will receive one raffle ticket. At 11:00 pm, Kidvention staff will then raffle off various goodies from the Vendor Room. Raffle is in Salon 4

7:00 pm Night Jam Session, Face Painting Competition, Balloon Competition, and Games! (Salon 1,2,3)

Jam Session Sponsored by Rainbow Cheetah

Magicians, face painters, clowns, balloon artists, vents, and other artists get together to unwind, socialize, and practice their art forms. We will hold a Face Painting Games with Darci Mchenry as your host and Balloon Games with Billy Damon. All balloons for the Jam room provided by Gemar and Betallic.

Games begin after Vendor Room closes

Darci Mchenry Face Painting Game: Frankenface (Salon 3)

Contestants will draw a card from three different hats. Each hat will contain a characteristic to include in your face paint. By chance you can wind up with something very cohesive or you can end up with something very much outside of the box. Judges will make their decision based on execution, creativity, and overall impression. You must have a model prepared for this contest.

Darci Mchenry Face Painting Game: Blind and bling! (Salon 3)

Everyone loves my blind facepainting challenges! As always, everyone will paint the same design, but this year we have the added challenge of applying bling and glitter, to enhance your design. Bling and glitter will be provided by rainbow cheetah. Bring your adhesive of choice. Only some bling's will be self stick.

7:00 pm

Breakout Sessions (75 Minutes)

Mandy Gibson: Halloween Couture (Salon 5)

Halloween clients are coming! Transform popular spooky favorites into high-fashion, profitable looks. Learn how "the monster is in the details"—elegant gleam-meets-haunt styling, refined linework, elevated palettes, and finishing touches that photograph and sell beautifully.

Steve Petra: Puppet Mods, Props, & Music (Salon 6)

You've bought a puppet or several dozen but that's the easy part. How do we continuously come up with new, fun and wildly entertaining performances that are DIFFERENT from what we've done before or from what every other performer is doing? Everything you can change about your puppet will lead to new performance options. Steve will share how he uses puppet modifications, props and music and will reveal the principles behind each.

Magic Gareth: BALLOONATIC (Salon 4)

Blowing up your show with balloons, comedy, and chaos without becoming a balloon twister. This session dives into Gareth's sell-out stage show BALLOONATIC, showing how adding balloons can add energy, laughter, and 'special moments' into a magic act. Delegates will see how a few simple balloon skills can create: Balloon-and-magic routines that audiences remember. Practical strategies for using balloons as souvenirs, comedy tools, and brand-builders. Teach-in moments: show-ready balloon bits that attendees can add immediately. Behind-the-scenes insights on managing props, pacing, and flow when balloons are in the mix. If scheduling allows, delegates will also have the opportunity to watch Gareth perform BALLOONATIC live for a family audience, then unpack the routines in this lecture.

Racine Celeste: How To Look Good Holding a Ukulele (Alexandria)

Four strings, endless charm. A beginner-friendly guide to brave, musical moments you can add to strolling or stage work. Learn useful chord shapes, what music theory clowns actually need, and simple patterns that keep the laughs and songs rolling.

Mermaid Tasha: Making a Splash: Adding Mermaid Magic to Parties & Shows (McLean)

Designed for entertainers looking to expand their repertoire, this workshop covers how to incorporate mermaid themes into parties, festivals, and library events. Includes tips on costuming, educational storytelling, and audience engagement activities such as "mermaid treasure hunts" or storytelling.

8:30 pm

Breakout Sessions (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)

Robert Baxt: Live Lecture: Pak Small, Play Big (Rosslyn)

A fast, funny session of novel comedy magic that packs small, plays huge, and needs little to no setup or reset—perfect for performers squeezing in multiple gigs per weekend. Expect field-tested bits you can drop into real shows immediately.

Kynisha Ducre: Become a Bubble Chef (Hands-On Lab!) (Alexandria)

Add beginner-friendly bubble magic to indoor and outdoor offerings. High-impact, whimsical, and crowd-pleasing—perfect for kids of all ages. You'll learn: Hand-bubble basics and easy

routines. Bubble solutions that work in the real world. Hand tools, nets, and playful bubble games to build interactive moments.

Chad Stender: Choosing the Nose that is Right for You (Manassas)

Are you clown curious? Want to use a clown nose but do not know how to choose one? In this class Chad will discuss the various types of noses, their uses and how to choose the right one for you, your character, and your audiences. Through demonstrations, shared experience and some audience participation Chad will lend out the knowledge he has gained from over 18 years of using and making clown noses.

Laura Pennock: Henna Vibes (Salon 5)

Move beyond copying designs and tap into your own voice. Explore the five VIBES of henna design—Variety, Impact, Balance, Elegance, Symmetry—to strengthen your foundation and create fresh, meaningful work your clients will love.

Jason Fun: Stuffed with Tricks: Puppets that Perform Magic (McLean)

Turn your puppet into a magical partner—no matter your starting point. Learn easy, show-ready routines, clever props, and performance hacks from appearances to silly reveals that bring characters to life and wow family audiences.

10:00 pm

Special Friday Night Event:

Harry Allen: Comedy Magic Show (Salon 4)

Get ready for 45 minutes of nonstop laughs and jaw-dropping surprises as Harry Allen (of Daytona Magic) takes the stage for a special Friday-night, attendees-only comedy magic show at Kidvention! A true “magician’s magician,” Harry blends classic gags, quick wit, and worker-strong magic into a fast, crowd-pleasing romp where the punchlines land as hard as the effects. Expect smart audience play, visual bits that read from the back row, and the kind of seasoned showmanship only decades on the road can deliver. It’s funny, it’s fooling, and it’s pure Kidvention energy—don’t miss it

11:00 pm

Friday Fortune Raffle (Salon 4)

Saturday, January 31st



9:00 am

Breakout Sessions (1 hour and 15 minutes)

Barry Mitchell: For My Next Trick (Rosslyn)

Barry showcases some of his funniest magic and teaches tricks you can do, then breaks down the brain science of laughter—beats, timing, scripting and tagging gags—so you can engineer stronger reactions on purpose.

Genma Holmes: Branding with Ms Santa: Unwrapping Sponsorship Success (Alexandria)

Ho-ho-ho and hello, business-minded clowns! In this session, Genma Holmes, known as Ms. Santa, trades in her sleigh for a strategy guide, showing how a strong, unified brand can open doors to bigger sponsorships and lasting partnerships. With her mix of festive charm and practical know-how, Ms. Santa will help the clowning community explore ways to present themselves to organizations, sponsors, and audiences in ways that highlight both their heart and professionalism. Participants will learn how to package their unique clowning identity into a brand that shines year-round, making it easier for sponsors to say "yes" to supporting events. Through real-world examples, interactive discussions, and a dash of holiday cheer, this workshop will leave attendees inspired and equipped with tools to take their clown events to the next level. Learning Highlights: Building a brand that balances fun, professionalism, and community impact. How to "speak sponsor" by aligning clowning events with

organizational values. Creative ways to showcase the value clowns bring to audiences and partners. Tips for creating sponsorship proposals that sparkle.

Ana Ochoa: Speed Painting For Large Lines (Salon 3)

Keep designs fast, fun, and professional under pressure. Learn line triage, menu strategy, 20–60-second bases, one-stroke plus stencil assists, pacing, resets, and calm communication so your queue moves and your work still pops.

Jessica Wagner: Pretty Scary Skeletons (Salon 5)

In this class we will go over the many different ways to create pretty sugar skulls and scary skeleton faces. Not only will you learn how to do quick, easy bases to get your skeleton started, but I will also teach ways to dress up the traditional skeleton face by adding color and glitter so that you can take your paintings from basic to extraordinary. Next we will discuss the many ways you can do a sugar skull painting on any face. We will go over the layout and different approaches so that whether doing half face or a full face you'll be able to customize your design to give your client exactly what they want every time.

Shana Sharp: Princess Dolls (Salon 6) Sponsor: Gemar

Kids of all ages love the iconic princess characters! This class will teach you a modular princess doll design that takes, in its simplest form, 3 minutes to make and uses no technique more complicated than a pinch twist. Shana Sharp will teach the basic concept as a twist-along, then demonstrate the various color combinations and extra details that mimic the entire Disney princess lineup. Designs use: 260, 160, 360, and 6" heart — product provided by GEMAR.

Holly George: Cute Loops Characters (Salon 4) Sponsor: Betallic

Back by popular demand! Last year's Cute Loops class was standing-room only, and this year it's back with brand-new twists. Learn how to take the beloved Cute Loops style and transform it into today's most-requested characters. Discover fast, adorable designs that wow clients and keep your balloon work fresh and profitable.

Jason Snyder: Beginner Balloons 101 (Manassas)

Best class for new twisters, facepainters or any entertainer wanting to add balloons to your menu of services offered. Learn all the basics needed to start doing balloons, including basic twist and inflation techniques. We will also learn a few balloon animals to get you started.

Amanda Cowles: Puppetry 101 (McLean)

This is an introductory workshop for entertainers interested in adding puppetry to their repertoires. We'll explore a variety of puppetry forms including hand and rod, marionette, and shadow. Attendees will have opportunity for hands-on learning and are encouraged to bring their own puppets and working scripts and ideas to the class. This workshop is suitable for anyone curious about how puppetry may fit into their current performances. It is also suitable for those who are already using puppetry and are curious about different forms or how to improve on the form they are using.

10:30 am Breakout Sessions (1 hour and 15 minutes)

Robert Baxt: Performing at Private Parties (Rosslyn)

How to crush shows in living rooms, parks, cafeterias, office breakrooms—any non-theater space. Robert shares practical strategies to present what you already do to its best advantage and earn more 5-star reviews. You'll learn: room setup and sightlines, audience management, pacing without stage tech, smart sound and lighting choices, pre-show communication, and simple follow-ups that drive online reviews.

Bri Crabtree: Silly Stuff with Hats (Alexandria)

Discover the wonderful world of hats! Hats are a fun and easy way to connect with your audience. Bri Crabtree will teach a variety of simple hat moves, sight gags, and interactive things to do for your stage show or strolling entertainment. If you love physical comedy and want to take your comedy performance to the next level, this class is for you! NOTE - Bring

your own hat! It doesn't have to be a juggling hat, but a hat that can fall on the ground, or get folded is best. Bri will also bring some hats to borrow or purchase.

Shannon Holt: Elegant Blacklight Body Painting for Adults (Salon 5)

Create stunning, adult-focused blacklight designs that shine at high-end events. Whether you're painting a promo model or the general public, these techniques and protocols will help you create show stoppers! Be stress-free and deliver a VIP-quality performance!

Mandi Ilene Schiff: Fast Fair Faces (Salon 3)

Bust the line without cutting quality. Master smart workflows, brush control, one-stroke efficiency, stencil assists, and design choices that speed you up and boost income—perfect for fairs, festivals, and busy parties.

Chris Burch: Bugging Out! (Salon 6)

From Chris's "instructional" download Bugging Out, learn a unique collection of cute, high-impact insects perfect for any event. Expect relatively easy builds with big visual punch, plus pro tips for durability, speed, and color choices that pop in photos.

Tim Thurmond: Customizable Human Faces (Salon 4)

No two faces are alike—your balloons shouldn't be either. Build a versatile face base you can transform into anyone: superheroes, athletes, celebs, or the guest in front of you. You'll learn: foundational structure, feature mapping for eyes, nose, and mouth, likeness cues, color choices, and finishing details—plus step-by-step demos and hands-on practice.

Yoly Pacheco: The Magic Behind the Voice: The Basics of Ventriloquism (Mclean)

Are you curious about ventriloquism or ready to start your journey as a beginner? Ever wondered how ventriloquists make their puppets come alive? This fun and interactive workshop is perfect for curious minds and first-time ventriloquist performers! You'll learn the essentials of ventriloquism, including proper lip control, clever techniques for pronouncing tricky letters, and effective practice methods. We'll also explore how to create unique character voices that bring your puppet to life!

12:00 pm **Lunch Break (Vendors Open Until 1:30 in the Salon F and G)**

1:30 pm **General Session (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)**

Heather Green: BIG Business (Salon 4)

Are you looking to scale up? Do you want to write bigger contracts and land bigger events? Then this class is for you. Learn how to go after corporate accounts and sports teams, add subcontractors to expand your business, and double your sales.

3:00 pm **Breakout Sessions (90 Minutes)**

Reggie Rice: Find Your "IT": Where Passion and Talent Collide (Rosslyn)

Every great performer has something that makes them unforgettable — their "IT factor." In this high-energy session, Reggie will help you: Discover the unique blend of passion plus talent that sets you apart. Learn practical tools to grow your "IT" and connect with any audience. Embrace your individuality and make every performance memorable.

Lee Andrews: Clown Makeup 101 (Alexandria)

Design a face that works on your face. Lee covers smart design choices, feature-highlighting, and application methods so your look reads from the stage and survives the show. Bring your own clown makeup if you have it!

Elodie Ternois: Unicorns- Cartoon Style Magic (Salon 3)

Turn unicorns into adorable, character-driven showpieces. Learn cute proportions and expressions, flowing one-stroke manes, elegant horn shapes, vibrant palettes, and shimmer accents—optimized for both quick festival lines and photo-ready looks.

Shannon Holt: Easy Top-Feed Iwata Airbrush Class (Salon 5)

Learn the art of airbrush body painting for adults, incorporating hand-painted black details for precision and drama. Learn my preferred equipment and materials, airbrush anatomy and assembly, maintenance, and travel tips from suitcase to setup. Airbrushing will soon feel like second nature!

Vincenzo Musto : TBD (Salon 4) Sponsor: Gemar
TBD

Tim Thurmond: How To Make Anything Out of Balloons: Intermediate-Advanced (Salon 6)

Conquer the "can you make...?" request. Tim shares the philosophy and methods he's refined over decades to create virtually anything on the spot. You'll learn: design decomposition from silhouette to structure to detail, proportion and anchoring, layering and stability, negative space, fast iterations, and a repeatable idea-to-sculpture workflow so inventing feels natural.

Steve Petra and Gene Cordova: Character Voice Chemistry (McLean)

How many reasons are there to be able to create new character voices? Keep your puppets from sounding like you. Sound really ill when you call in sick. Confuse your pets. Avoid detection making prank phone calls. Well, let's concentrate on the first one. Steve Petra and Gene Cordova will show you the 5 elements that make up Character Voice Chemistry. You will be able to expand your range of voices, giving new life to your puppet performances and generally making life more fun for everyone around you. The 5 Voice Elements of Pitch, Texture, Placement, Tempo and Rhythm and Mouthwork will be at your command.

5:00 pm Dinner Break (Vendors Open in Salon F and G from 5pm to 9pm)

7:00 pm Night Jam Session, Face Painting Competition, Balloon Competition, and Games! (Salon 3)

Jam Session Sponsored by Silly Farm

Magicians, face painters, clowns, balloon artists, vents, and other artists get together to unwind, socialize, and practice their art forms. We will hold a Face Painting Game with Silly Farm as your host. All balloons for the Jam room provided by Gemar and Betallic.

Games begin after Vendor Room closes

Heather Green Face Painting Game: Inspired by.... (Salon 3)

Details of this game provided at the time of the game!

Heather Green Face Painting Game: And Tag Team! (Salon 3)

Details of this game provided at the time of the game!

Balloon Game! (Salon 3)

During the jam session at Kapital Kidvention, play a balloon game by one of our balloon sponsors.

7:00 pm Break Out Sessions (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)

Lee Andrews: Summer Reading Show Construction & The Business of Libraries (Rosslyn)

From one-trip load-ins to rave reviews: see how Lee builds a library show start-to-finish, plus booking, marketing, and relationship strategies to conquer the library market.

Genma Holmes: Mrs. Claus at the Big Top: Sharing the Spirit of Joy (Manassas)

Join Mrs. Claus as she brings her timeless holiday spirit to the clown community! This engaging session explores how the values of warmth, kindness, and joyful giving can enhance clowning performances year-round. With a touch of North Pole charm, Mrs. Claus will guide participants through interactive activities, storytelling techniques, and audience-connection skills designed to add heart to any act. Perfect for clowns of all experience levels, this class will leave you with practical tools and a renewed sense of purpose in spreading

cheer wherever you perform. Learning Highlights: Using generosity and kindness as performance tools. Techniques for creating warm, memorable audience connections. Blending seasonal themes into clowning without losing your unique style. Tips for keeping the "magic" alive on stage and beyond.

Bri Crabtree: Juggling 101 and Beyond (Alexandria)

Learn to juggle or sharpen your skills. Bri Crabtree has been juggling for 25 years, and brings a strong foundation of juggling theory and practice. Bri will teach you the basics of juggling with scarves. We will also explore silly things to do with scarves, and how to make juggling ENTERTAINING. Bri has 15 years of experience making juggling FUN for kids to watch. NOTE - Bring your own juggling props that you want to work on. Bri will provide juggling scarves for beginners.

Mandy Gibson: FX Overload: Burns, Cuts, Blisters, & More (Salon 5)

Add jaw-dropping FX to your services without breaking the bank. Build a smart starter kit and master fast, safe techniques for cuts, burns, blisters, and texture. Includes materials, setup, hygiene, and speed workflows for busy events.

Amanda Cowles: The Driving Audience (McLean)

In this workshop, we'll examine relationships between the performer, the audience, and the characters on stage. We'll explore what happens when expressions and reactions from the audience inform the performance, and we'll practice loosening routines to allow for responsive improv. Interaction is encouraged. The class will be taught using a combination of performance examples, games, and exercises. Attendees are invited to bring their works in progress, including puppets, routines, and working scripts. This class is suitable for beginner to intermediate level puppeteers.

8:30 pm

Breakout Sessions (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)

Chad Jacobs: Full Audience Participation: A Different Way to Engage Every Kid (Rosslyn)

Most kids magicians bring children on stage to help with tricks—and that works! But what if there were a way to involve every child in the room, all show long, without needing to call anyone up? In this upbeat and idea-packed session, Chef Bananas shares how he uses full audience participation to keep energy high, minimize downtime, and make each child feel like they helped make the magic happen. It's not better, it's just different. And it might change the way you think about how your audience connects to your show.

Lee Andrews: Welcome to the Claus Family (Alexandria)

A welcoming intro to Christmas performance for new Santas, aspiring Mrs. Claus performers, and elves. Lee shares portrayal fundamentals, industry insights, and joyful touches that make the magic believable. Bring your bells and your holly-jolly spirit!

Laura Pennock: Good, Better, Best (Salon 5)

Start in your comfort zone, then push into new territory with targeted skills that boost courage, confidence, and design quality—so your work reads stronger on-site and on camera.

Puppet Showcase and Jam (Salon 6)

The ultimate meetup for puppeteers, vents, and the puppet-curious! Bring your favorite character—hand, rod, marionette, monster, whatever—and jump into a fun, open-mic style share: quick 2–3 minute bits, spontaneous duets, voice swaps, movement experiments, and friendly mini-challenges. It's a zero-pressure, all-levels-welcome celebration of creativity where you'll swap tips, spark new ideas, make friends, and leave with fresh material (and sore cheeks from laughing)..

Racine Celeste: Balloons After Dark Session: Balloon Shibari (Manassas)

A business-minded look at the overlap between rope work concepts and balloon tying for adult events. Discuss safety, consent, design ideas, and how to build a tasteful, on-brand offering that complements not conflicts with your family work. Includes lecture and build concepts. Note: Not a traditional Kidvention class. Adults only.

11 pm

Magic Show: Reggie Rice: Adult Daycare (Salon 4)

Buckle up for **Reggie Rice's "Adult Daycare"**—a late-night, **attendees-only** comedy magic blowout on Saturday that's strictly **adults only**. Reggie mashes up edgy humor, wild storytelling, and unbelievable sleight-of-hand with the kind of audience participation that blurs all the lines (in the best possible way). It's fast, fearless, and laugh-out-loud outrageous—the perfect chance to unwind after a full day of sessions. Come ready to let loose, howl with laughter, and watch the impossible happen right in front of you.

Sunday, February 1st



9:00 am

Breakout Sessions (1 hour and 15 minutes)

Michael Reist: Let's Go to Church! (Rosslyn)

Calling all entertainers: magicians, face painters, ventriloquists, foam and bubble party practitioners, puppeteers, balloonists, clowns, and more. Come learn about a market you may not have even considered—the church market. You may be surprised, but the church market is quite vast, and you can make a very good living by marketing and entertaining at churches. This lecture is part marketing seminar, part overview of the church market and its related submarkets, and part demonstration of things Michael does at church and church-related events—plus advice on what works best. If you are not marketing to and entertaining at churches, you are missing out on opportunities. To perform at churches: You do not have to be a Gospel entertainer. You do not have to regularly attend church. You do not even have to be a Christian. So come on out—and let's go to church together!

Victor Thomas: Caring Clown for Hospitals (Alexandria)

Bring warmth and laughter to sensitive spaces—thoughtfully and professionally. You'll learn: Before You Walk in the Room — small wins that get a giggle before a word is spoken. Picking the Right Musical Instrument — from kazoo to tuba: choose what fits you and the setting. Three Things a "Doctor" Should Never Leave Home Without — beyond the smile... discover the must-haves that support safe, joyful visits.

Meredith Hilt: Airbrush Tattoo Tips & Tricks from the Trenches: How to Survive and Thrive in Your Kid-Event Business (Salon 5)

This class is designed for face painters, party entertainers, and festival artists who want to expand into the exciting world of airbrush tattoos. Whether you're brand new or trying to make your current setup more efficient and profitable, this workshop delivers the guidance and shortcuts you need.

Mandi Ilene Schiff: Fragmented Faces (Salon 3)

Half faces, full impact. Learn on-trend split-face designs—broken doll, Hulk, sugar skull, and more—with placement, contrast, and finishing details that read from across the queue and pop in photos.

Jessica Wagner: Airbrush Bootcamp (Manassas)

To airbrush or not to airbrush, that is the question many face and body painters ponder at some point in their career. In this class you will learn everything you need to know to help you make the right decisions. Learn the different types of airbrushes and how they work. What kind of compressor and paint setup is best for different events. Learn how the airbrush works, how to troubleshoot clogs or air pressure problems. When deciding whether to invest in an

airbrush setup, you want to know you are making the right choice and this class can help you with that.

Chris Burch: Quick Pokemon Characters (Salon 6)

Level up your linework with quick, crowd-pleasing Pokémon characters. Since their '90s breakout, Chris has been one of only a handful granted the right to produce these characters by the original U.S. distributor—now he's sharing fast methods, smart structure, and presentation ideas fans love.

Shana Sharp: Making Faces (Salon 4) Sponsor: Gemar

If you are intimidated by drawing faces on your balloons, OR you are confident in your 2D art but unsure how to translate that to 3D sculptures... this is the class for you! Shana Sharp teaches her step-by-step princess face, in its simplest form adding 1 minute to your sculpture, along with general tips and best practices for adding marker details to your balloon art. To draw along, please bring: Sharpie markers and a white paint marker such as Edding 750.

Tim Pressley: Magical FX with Puppets (McLean)

Unlock the secrets to creating stunning, magical moments in your puppet performances! In this workshop, you'll learn how to incorporate realistic special effects and illusionary techniques to take your puppet routines to the next level. Discover magician-inspired tricks and behind-the-scenes secrets that will add jaw-dropping production value and elevate your show to new heights. Don't miss out on this opportunity to transform your puppetry with the power of illusion!

10:30 am

Breakout Sessions (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)

John Abrams: How to Make a 6-Figure Income Performing in Schools (Rosslyn)

Picture this: you're earning a six-figure income while working only on weekdays, wrapping up your shows by 1:00 PM, and taking every weekend completely off. Every performance is in front of a packed crowd, giving you the chance to create more engaging, powerful magic that not only thrills your audience but also skyrockets your brand. This is the lifestyle you've been waiting for—more freedom, more success, and more impact, all on your terms. You'll learn how to: Earn a six-figure income performing shows only on weekdays. Be home by 1:00 PM with the rest of the day to yourself. Enjoy every weekend off while others are still working. Perform for packed crowds every single time. Elevate your magic and your brand with more engaging, memorable performances.

Maiya Kim: The Power of a Bubble-Advanced Bubble Workshop (includes a live bubble demo) (Alexandria)

This advanced session is designed for performers who already use bubbles or know the basics and want to level up to stage-caliber, sellable shows. Maiya teaches pro techniques, dialed-in setups, and performance strategies that turn bubbles into a headliner. You'll learn advanced focus: Pro gear and chemistry: custom rigs, solution ratios, additives, weather-proofing. Environment control: humidity and wind management, floor protection, indoor vs. outdoor setups. Stagecraft and scripting: pacing, musical beats, volunteer management, safe spectacle. Signature moments: kid-in-a-bubble, bubble-in-bubble, compound shapes that read on stage and camera. Business and ops: pricing premium packages, rider needs, tech sheets, and festival logistics.

Frida Haas: Elevate Your Face Painting with Airbrush and Hand Painting Techniques (Salon 3)

Take your face painting skills to the next level by mastering the powerful combination of airbrush and traditional hand painting techniques. In this class, you'll learn how to seamlessly blend freehand airbrush and stenciled textures with intricate hand-painted designs. Discover how these dynamic techniques can create striking, multi-dimensional looks that captivate and elevate your artwork. Perfect for artists looking to add depth and impact to their creations!

Ana Ochoa: Festival Survival Guide (Salon 5)

How to thrive during 10–12 hour events without burnout: packing lists, ergonomics, shade and setup, hydration and fueling, break planning, hygiene, crowd management, payment flow, and keeping quality high from open to close.

Anthony Lena: The Balloon Show Experience: Build a Show with Magic, Comedy, & Balloons (Salon 4) Sponsor: Betallic

For balloon artists ready to move from linework to the stage, this session shows how to build a complete, professional, all-ages show that blends balloons, comedy, and easy-to-master magic—perfect for birthdays, libraries, corporate events, and more. Anthony covers structure, pacing, narrative, and stage presence, then teaches his signature interactive "Balloon Game Show," including audience involvement, setup, and performance tips, so you leave with a bookable, sit-down, fun-filled show and the tools to expand your offerings and land more stage gigs.

Vincenzo Musto: TBD (Salon 6) Sponsor: Gemar

TBD

Jason Snyder: Beginner Balloons 102 (Manassas)

Continue learning beginning balloon animals. Also learn how to add a second balloon to your creations to add a wow factor. After completing these two classes you will be ready to start charging customers for your balloons.

Yoly Pacheco: Bringing Your Puppet to Life (McLean)

Want to make your puppet more than just a prop? In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to create engaging puppet characters through voice development, manipulation, and acting techniques. Discover how to give your puppet a true personality and confidently integrate it into your next show!

12:00 pm Lunch (Vendors Open from 11am to 1:00 pm---LAST CHANCE to purchase from Vendors! Salon F and G)

2:00 pm Breakout Sessions (1 Hour and 15 Minutes)

Magic Gareth: You Can Pick Your Nose but Don't Pick on Others (Rosslyn)

Comedy, control, and kindness - turning chaos into connection. This is a session about managing kids comedy and audience dynamics with respect and impact. Drawing from thousands of live shows, Gareth shares the methods that keep children laughing while keeping the show on track. Topics include: Creating space for spontaneous comedy while avoiding tired, scripted gags. Adding a moment that physically and mentally gives magic to the child. Why empowering kids makes shows more memorable for the whole audience. Kindness-first comedy: how not picking on others makes you funnier, faster, and more memorable. Delegates will leave with practical approaches to turn chaos into comedy, give kids the spotlight, and keep every show fun, kind, and under control.

Chad Stender: Listening with Your Nose! (Alexandria)

Want to engage with kids on a deeper level? Want to add value to your performance without more technology? In this performance lecture Chad will give you the tools and concepts he uses to read his audience, hold their attention and speak in the universal language of emotion. "My clown nose is the simplest and most powerful tool I have and I never leave home without it."

Elodie Ternois: Boy Designs: Bold, Graphic, & Crowd Pleasing (Salon 3)

Masks, creatures, flames, and "hero" shapes that read from across the room. Master dynamic silhouettes, comic linework, fast shading and highlights, and speed tricks so designs stay quick without losing impact.

Dutch: Blobology (Salon 5)

By popular demand! My signature technique Blobology teaches the fundamentals necessary for creating quick miniature masterpieces on the face and body. This is not one stroke with split cakes or swirls. It's characters, logos, pop culture icons, and so much more. If a child can dream it, I'll teach you how to create it!

Joe Mock: Game On! (Salon 4)

Join Joe for another AMAZING class where he helps you learn how to create large, fun, and interactive ways to keep parties, crowds, and big events engaged and roaring with laughter. Joe will teach multiple new designs, as well as describe how to utilize them in real-time for almost any event. Joe will also explain how to offer and add these on to your existing bookings, providing opportunities for more profit. If you've been to Joe's past Kidvention classes before... Then you surely will not want to miss this one.

Holly George: Party People (Salon 6) Sponsor: Betallic

Princesses, superheroes, and more! Discover easy techniques for creating balloon people and character figures that can be adapted to any request. You'll walk away with versatile skills to handle customer favorites — from royalty to everyday heroes — and keep your lines happy.

Jason Fun: The Puppet Hack: Big Reactions, Zero Skills Required (Mclean)

Want puppet moments without becoming a puppeteer? Get plug-and-play bits, character tricks, and stage-tested shortcuts that deliver maximum fun with minimal effort—no fancy voices or vent needed.

3:30 pm

General Session (45 Minutes)

Louis Meyer: Close More Clients: Louis' Booking System (Salon 4)

Turn inquiries into paid gigs with a simple, repeatable process you can use the same day. Why this matters: Most entertainers focus on craft—but conversion is what fills your calendar, stabilizes income in the slow months, protects your rates, and fuels referrals without buying more ads. A better close rate equals more revenue from the leads you already have. You'll learn: A 5-step sales flow from first reply to signed booking. Discovery questions that surface budget, decision-maker, and timeline fast. Pricing and packaging frames including two-option offers, anchor pricing, urgency without pressure. Objection handling that keeps you friendly and in control. Follow-up cadences, templates, and a lightweight pipeline tracker. Email and DM scripts you can copy, paste, and personalize. Takeaways: printable call outline, proposal and quote template, 3 follow-up messages for "ghosted" leads, and a one-page pipeline

sheet.

4:30 pm

Closing Ceremony (Salon 4)

Join Louis as everyone comes back together to wrap up our convention. Closing comments and announcements!

5:00 pm

Dinner Break

6:00 pm

Kapital Kidvention Children's Pre-Show (Arlington Ballroom Pre-Function Space)

Close-up magicians, face painters, clowns, puppeteers, and balloon artists will have an opportunity to show off their skills by entertaining young attendees prior to the BIG Show. We are hoping for all to participate and paint the kids and make some balloon animals for them!

7:00 pm

Kapital Kidvention BIG Show! (Salon 4)

Watch our Kapital Kidvention presenters entertain a local audience with their style of magic and comedy. Come join the fun!! Registered Kidvention attendees receive one ticket to the BIG Show. More tickets can be bought for family members.

After Show

Night Jam Session, Face Painting Competition, Balloon Competition, and Games! (Salon 3)

Magicians, face painters, clowns, balloon artists, vents, and other artists get together to unwind, socialize, and practice their art forms.