

1



2



3



By playing games and chatting with the children, clown doctors offer a welcome respite from the medical routine. "Every visit is like a date with the kids," Dr Amy said with a smile. "We want them to feel that they are being cared and valued by someone." She is most satisfied when the kids laugh happily during the visit.

Supported by the Theodora Foundation from Switzerland, clown doctors were first introduced in Hong Kong in 1996, with the Queen Mary Hospital being the first hospital to try the scheme.

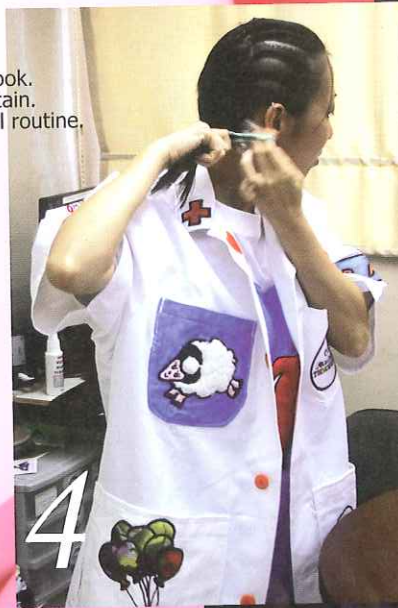
There are currently six clown doctors in Hong Kong, all of whom have passed interviews and personality tests before they started their unpaid work. A 16-week training course is also provided for the clown-doctors-to-be to acquire knowledge about children's diseases and psychology, as well as how to play magic tricks, perform puppetry and twist balloons.

With the same goal of bringing happiness to the others, members from the Kei Fai Elderly Clown Team also like to entertain, by performing simple magic tricks and twisting balloons.

Established in 2004, the group is the first elderly clown team in Hong Kong. Aged between 67 and 80 years old, all of the 10 volunteers come from Po Leung Kuk Wong Yau Cheung Memorial Neighbourhood Elderly Centre.

bi Wai-wong (Dr Amy) is putting on a clown doctor's make-up.
amy with her funny mask.
e back of Dr Amy's "doctor gown", with her name on it.

Amy is tying up her hair to prepare for the clown doctor's look.
loon-twisting is one of the tricks that Dr Amy uses to entertain.
Amy offers the children a welcome respite from the medical routine.



The group has been invited to spread joy to different places, including Yuen Long and Wong Tai Sin. Putting on loose, colourful outfits before every show, the aged performers can easily grab the audiences' attention. To complete their comical appearances with a finishing touch, the elderly spend one to two hours more putting on their individualised make-up.

Using their faces as palettes, the elderly draw hearts on their noses and flowers on their faces with a steady hand. "First, you put on the white base colour. Then you apply the red colour, one colour at a time," said Fung Hang, the oldest clown in the team, as he explained the delicate procedures to achieve a multi-coloured face.

The 80-year-old team member admitted that they only know simple and common tricks that the audiences may have already seen in other shows. Yet, performing glamorous magic tricks is not the goal of the elderly clown team. Rather, delivering happiness is.

"When we perform, we feel the joy of the audiences, and thus we are happy as well," said Fung, laughing. Although magic tricks are not their main skill, their wrinkled hands can twist long colourful balloons into various shapes including hats, flowers, swords, dogs and turtles.

Despite the volunteers' age, they do not act it during the performances.

致 意

With the Compliments of

Doctor Amy &

Thank you for your kind support!

Varsity reporters

Sam Wong
Margaret Chan

Grace Yin

Rainbow Ngai



新聞與傳播學院 香港中文大學
School of Journalism & Communication
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T.
電話 Tel: (852) 2609-7680 傳真 Fax: (852) 2603-5007
電郵 E-mail: com@cuhk.edu.hk