

AT RISE: We're on a stage. The CLOWN walks out, a person wearing business dress. They wear a full face of make-up.

CLOWN

The playwright has asked me to come out here and perform for you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. The playwright has asked me to slap myself.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you. The playwright has asked me to tell you that he has asked me to slap myself because that might entertain you. The director has told me this is called slapstick humor. Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

The playwright has complained that the rule of threes does not apply to slapping. The playwright has said if I continue slapping myself, you'll grow bored. The playwright has said the only value in my snare shots is their shock value. The playwright has said I should electrocute myself. The producers have said that would increase their insurance premiums. The playwright has asked me to do it secretly anyway. The director has told me to act as if I was struck by lightning. The playwright has asked me not to because that would look stupid. Lightning has struck. Lightning strikes with thunder.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you.

(Slap.)

Thank you. The playwright has asked me to tell you that you may stop me from doing this at any time. The playwright has asked me to grab my neck while I slap myself. The playwright has said this is punishment for not electrocuting myself.

(Choke. Slap.)

Thank you.

(Choke. Slap.)

Thank...

(Choke. Slap.)