

Doc Rory

by Muriel “Hayou” Stone

of the Oasis Caring Clowns

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On reading The Caring Clown by Richard Snowberg, I was impressed by Bonnie Donaldson’s puppet, Dr. Roarshack, and decided to create my idea of the good doctor.

After asking each person in the toy store if they thought he looked like a convincing brain surgeon (as I didn’t even mention clowning, they probably thought I was nuts), I finally brought him home. After making three pages of names, with my husband’s help, the good Doctor refused them all and wanted the same name as Bonnie’s doctor, except he spelled it “Rorshak.” So he became Dr. Rorshak, affectionately known as “Doc Rory.”

Doc Rory is a specialist within a specialty, in that he only treats the worries’ portion of the brain. He has a magic wand that I can’t see, but sometimes other people say they do. He very gently waves his magic wand over the top of the person’s head, until it has soaked up all the worries there. Then he puts all the worries in his mouth, chews them up and swallows them - and you know where they end up - flushed out of the system!

Sometimes the doctor decides to take a pulse, puts his hand (with my help) where the pulse should be, looks at me and shakes his head ‘no” and then we have quite an argument. When I get angry and insist he find a pulse, he turns the hand over and kisses the back of the hand - then nods and we are all happy at his success. I forgot to mention that the good doctor either doesn’t speak English, or doesn’t feel that he wants to confer with ordinary people, as he whispers to me and lets me repeat what he wants.

He was absent from Med School the day they discussed how to give shots, but he thinks he knows all that anyway. When a patient wants to keep him longer than he wants to stay, he decides a shot is in order, and disaster always follows, with my fighting him for the needle, but as he is holding it the wrong way it usually ends up in the doctor himself, and I have to leave with him to find a bed for him to sleep it off. He never learns.

Doc Rory is a very believable puppet, and nurses love him I think more than the patients do, but he is fun to work with.

Puppets are great in the hospital. As I usually work “alone,” they are a welcome partner as I “room hop.” By personalizing a puppet you can give them life. Shobi’s Dr. Scrub wears real hospital scrub boots, a rather large nose (from a pair of “Groucho glasses), specs (from the doll section of a crafts store), but most impressively (for staff), he has an official hospital name tag with a photograph. You can imagine how much fun we had in Security with that one. Well, it’s not easy to get a name tag with the proper coding to get you onto the surgery floor and he has it. Of course security denies having had anything to do with it.

– Shobi

From “Dr. Pildare”

A.k.a. Richard Alex Chamberlain of Eagle Idaho, who clowns at St. Alphonso Hospital.

“I was visiting a six-year-old who lost an eye due to an accident at home. He hated the taste of his medicine. I gave him a red foam nose, pushed the call button, and told him to say to the nurse while pointing to his red nose, “Is this a normal side effect of the medicine?” She roared with laughter, he regained some control and always puts on the nose when taking his yucky meds.”