



**THE JUMBO SHRIMP CIRCUS**  
**818-775-5733**  
**[www.jumboshrimpcircus.com](http://www.jumboshrimpcircus.com)**

## Heide Karp

For as long as she can remember, Heide wanted to be a clown. She remembers watching Red Skelton on television (at that time she would have been three years old or younger). Then came her admiration for the Marx Bros. and the desire to have her dog jump through a hoop. At the age of nine, Heide's father taught her how to juggle, and not long after she mastered that skill, her father brought home a unicycle. Three years later she was tall enough to learn to ride the one wheeled monster and has not raised the seat since the very first day.

As Heide grew older, she was distracted from her dream only once by an interest in physiology. So off she went to college to study the human body. Heide's second year of higher education was spent at Illinois State University, which boasts one of two intercollegiate circuses in the country. Needless to say, her academic career hit the road and so did Heide. In the summer of 1983, Heide traveled with a small European-style circus throughout the Pacific Northwest and Northern California, which simply confirmed that the circus lifestyle was for her. In 1984 she was accepted to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, where she was taught by such notables as: Lou Jacobs, Tanya and Yuri Belov, and Ronlin Foreman. She continued her education through master classes in Philadelphia at the International Clown, Mime and Movement Festival and with the late Mime Master ,Tony Montonaro in Hawaii.

Heide worked for small circuses throughout the west. In 1986, Ringling Bros. brought the circus to Disneyland, and Heide made her debut as a clown singer at "Coke Corner" on "Main Street USA." In 1988, she was able to encapsulate her experience and love of clowning while teaching a UCLA extension course. Heide continued working as a clown at county fairs, small circuses and variety shows across the country and a lovely festival in Sapporo, Japan. "Traveling as a clown around the country and in Japan, I was introduced to many different parts of society I am sure I would have never encountered otherwise. I have traveled the societal spectrum from Chowchilla to the Royalty of Brunei and everything in between. I love it".

**The Jumbo Shrimp Circus is about fun.**

**We are committed to bringing children, adults and communities together for the sake of sharing laughter.**