



## RUDY BURNS

*"I never wanted to do anything but be a rodeo clown. Clowning is my life."*

Growing up in downtown Baton Rouge, Rudy Burns was known as a "city slicker". But he was a class clown – both in, and out, of school. Playing pranks or telling jokes; he would do anything to get a laugh. But it was a rodeo at LSU that inspired Rudy to pursue his profession. Gaining further inspiration from watching such rodeo clowns as Rick Young, Quail DOB's, Junior Meeks, H.R. Williams, and Jean & Bobby Clark, Rudy realized, "I can do that."

When the scheduled clown failed to show up at rodeo in 1972, the stock contractor gave Rudy - a known prankster - his chance. He made the best of the opportunity, later working the Amateur Finals in the bull riding, and also as a rodeo clown and bullfighter. When he joined the PRCA in 1975, his career really took off, working many rodeos such as Jackson, MS; American Royal in Kansas City, MO; Parker Ranch Rodeo in Maui, HI; Palestine, IL; Fort Smith, AR, and many more top rodeos.

In the 90s, Rudy was voted by the Wrangler Bullfighters to work the barrel at the N.F.R. seven times. In 1995, he was selected by the bull riders to work the barrel for all ten performances of the N.F.R. He was also selected as the Coors Man in the Can in 1995, and again in 2000. According to Rudy, these two awards were the highlights of his career.

