



Character Sheet

v.02 · MMXXVI

Jeff Patterson

«The Clown»

Name:	Jeff Patterson
Alias:	«The Clown»
Age:	~65 – 70 years
Nat.:	British
Era:	Late 1800s – 1900s
Arc:	Shedding the mask
Status:	STILL HERE

«The Clown» for almost the whole film. Jeff emerges only after the Act IV match cut – off screen, as the vision closes.

PHYSIQUE

Build: Short and stocky, almost squat. Not a nimble clown – a clown with weight, a solid and motionless physical presence.

Head: Completely shaved, or nearly bald.

Skin: Deeply wrinkled, marked by decades of greasepaint.

Hands: Large, articulated, with visible veins.

Eyes: Small but intense. Visible through the white makeup, almost incongruous within the painted mask. The eyes of an old man who has seen much.

THE MAKEUP

Base: Opaque white greasepaint over the whole face. Never fresh – always a little worn, faded, the wrinkled skin showing through.

Tears: Three vertical black lines per eye, from the lower lids down the cheeks. Not stylised but heavy, almost brutal. The clown is already weeping – he need not do so for real.

Mouth: Widened in dark red. Not the bright red of the comic clown – a deep, almost wine-dark red.

Hat: Small and conical, worn bordeaux/brown, slightly tilted on the shaved head.

Evolution: Act III, frame 15: a real tear falls and carries the black makeup. Frame 18: the rain dissolves the makeup – the boundary between fiction and reality physically dissolves on the face.

THE COSTUME

Masked (I·II·III)

Bordeaux circus coat with gold embroidery and trim, highly ornate but worn. Dark high-waisted trousers. Oversized black clown shoes. Beige/gold gloves. Bordeaux conical hat. Full makeup. He wears the costume AT ALL TIMES, even on the deserted street – he is never offstage: he is onstage even when no one is watching.

Unmasked (Act IV)

Dark bordeaux overcoat. Dark bordeaux bowler hat. Brown leather suitcase with a worn handle. No makeup. No conical hat. No circus coat. An ordinary old man, dressed for a London winter.

TWO STATES · ONE CHARACTER

01 / MASKED

«The Clown»

White makeup, painted black tears, bordeaux conical hat, circus coat with gold embroidery. Always visible – Acts I · II · III.

State:

Masked

Owns:

Ring · Spotlight

Audience:

Thousands



02 / UNMASKED

«Jeff»

No makeup. Wrinkled skin. Bordeaux overcoat. Bowler hat. A worn suitcase. An ordinary old man. Act IV only.

State:

Unmasked

Owns:

Suitcase · Fog

Audience:

No one

match cut

PSYCHOLOGY & ARC – THE MASK**The persistence no one asked for**

Jeff Patterson devoted his whole life to the circus. He was never famous. He was never loved the way he dreamed. His mask does not hide the sadness: it EXTERNALISES it. Being «still here» is not a triumph – it is a weight he carries with dignity.

The theme of the mask

«Some masks don't come off. They wash away.» – The film states it explicitly in the title card between Act III and IV. Jeff's mask is not removed: it is dissolved by water. It is not a choice. It is a loss. Who Jeff will become is the question that stays open.

Water as agent

Water is a purifying agent throughout the film – not merely a transition, it is what washes identity away. The puddle is a portal. The tear is the first water that washes – born of pain, it carries off the first black of the makeup. The rain dissolves the rest. The match cut happens on water. Purification and loss coincide.

The puddle as passage

The puddle is not a mirror. It is a passage. The reflection first confirms the clown, then darkens, and within the water-mirror the show appears. When the last spectator leaves, the character begins to dissolve. Only at the match cut has the Clown lost his audience – and with the audience, his mask.

AI CONSISTENCY PROMPTS

Base prompts to keep the character visually consistent across generations.

- Physique base

aged male clown, ~65-70 years old, short stocky build, completely bald head, deeply wrinkled face, large hands, intense small eyes visible through face paint

- Makeup (masked)

white greasepaint covering full face, three thick black vertical tear lines from each eye downward, dark red painted wide mouth, worn small conical hat in dark bordeaux, slightly tilted on bald head

- Costume (masked, ring + street)

ornate bordeaux / dark red circus jacket with gold embroidery and trim, worn and aged fabric, dark high-waisted trousers, oversized black clown shoes, beige-gold gloves

- Costume (unmasked, Act IV)

old man same physical build, no face paint, weathered pale skin, dark bordeaux long overcoat, dark bordeaux bowler hat, old worn brown leather suitcase in right hand

- Environment - Circus

Victorian era circus interior, circular ring with dried leaves and sawdust floor, red velvet curtains and drapes, wooden staircase structure center background, oil lamp and gas light warm amber glow, ornate wooden details, period-accurate 1890s aesthetic

- Environment - Street

Victorian London night street, wet cobblestone pavement, gas lamp posts with warm orange glow, dark brick Georgian terraced buildings, heavy rain, puddles reflecting lamplight, no other people, atmospheric fog / mist

- Mood

dark atmospheric cinematic, painterly lighting, deep shadows, warm amber highlights, NO oversaturated colors, NO pop aesthetic, filmic grain acceptable, emotional weight, Victorian melancholy

- Negative prompt

colorful happy clown, modern clothing, bright daylight, plastic appearance, cartoonish, anime style, cheerful circus, modern buildings, CGI-look, clean perfect makeup, young face

- Jeff Patterson -

Character Sheet · Still Here · Written and Directed by Alessio Galfo · MMXXVI