

# **ARE YOU INCLUDING CARICATURES AT YOUR ALL-NIGHT GRADUATION LOCK-IN PARTY?**

**HELP US RAISE THE BAR FOR CARICATURE ARTISTS AND IMPROVE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR PARTY AND FUTURE LOCK-INS FOR EVERYONE BY GOING OVER THIS CHECKLIST WITH YOUR ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE!**

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## **1. Have you had any especially bad experiences with caricatures? If so, which:**

- ✓ Artist or artists showed up late.
- ✓ Artist or artists did not show up at all.
- ✓ Artist or artists were impersonal, made students feel uncomfortable while they drew.
- ✓ Artist or artists were unprofessional (for example, wore ipods or talked on cell phones, etc.) while drawing.
- ✓ Artist or artists were painfully slow, resulting in long lines, producing very few drawings per hour, and making it not much fun to watch.
- ✓ Drawings did not look much like students who were being drawn.
- ✓ Some drawings looked like the students being drawn, but many bore little or no likeness.
- ✓ Drawings made students look ugly, not funny.
- ✓ Drawings were sloppy or poorly crafted.
- ✓ Drawings were not overtly bad, but just lacked any quality that made them particularly worthwhile—that is, drawings were boring.
- ✓ Drawings were so poor students were leaving them behind or throwing them away.
- ✓ Drawings were mean, caused students to cry or complain.

## **2. Have you had any especially good experiences with caricatures? If so, which:**

- ✓ Artist or artists went beyond merely making students comfortable, were extremely friendly and cordial and made it fun to be drawn.
- ✓ Artist or artists were not merely making pictures, but were truly entertaining students, engaging them and making them laugh.
- ✓ Artist or artists were drawing in a way that was great fun to watch.
- ✓ Artist or artists went the extra mile to do things that made the performance a success (for example, setting up the area in an interesting way, putting up signs, actively inviting students over to get things started, etc.).
- ✓ Artist or artists were amazingly fast, making their performance fun to watch and keeping the lines short so that students were not spending half the night waiting for this one party item.
- ✓ Drawings truly captured the students who were being drawn, achieved unmistakable likenesses.
- ✓ Artist or artists had an almost perfect “batting average,” almost every drawing achieved a very striking resemblance to the students being drawn.
- ✓ Drawings were truly funny, comical, without being mean or negative.
- ✓ Drawings were drawn in a style that went beyond mere technical craft, achieved special artistic merit—uniqueness, personality, compelling to look at, etc.
- ✓ Drawings possessed a spark of “genius”—that is, drawings had a decisive “WOW” factor that impressed students and parents.
- ✓ Drawings were well liked by students, and virtually all students took them home.
- ✓ Drawings were crafted in a way that made them suitable for framing, students clearly treasured them.

### **3. When you hire caricature artists, do you do the following?**

- ✓ Insist on seeing **video** of every artist who will be drawing at your lock-in so that you can verify that they do high quality work, are able to capture likenesses, are entertaining, and can draw at a reasonably brisk pace.
- ✓ Insist that the video show each artist drawing several complete drawings from **beginning to end**, so that the time it takes them to do so can be measured.
- ✓ Insist that the video **not be edited** in any way to make it appear that the artist is drawing faster than they are—that is, no cuts, dissolves or speeding up of the video.
- ✓ Insist that the video be a documentation of actual performance **at a real event**, not something staged in a studio where there can be numerous retakes until the artist finally “gets it right.” At your party, they will get only one chance per person being drawn.
- ✓ Ask for a **written guarantee** that the amount you pay for each artist will be based in large part on the **number of students they draw** during their performance.
- ✓ Insist on seeing **photos** of at least 10-15 caricatures drawn by each artist at an **actual event**, not drawn at a mall or amusement park where they could have taken a great deal more time on each drawing than they should at a party.
- ✓ Reject looking at sample caricatures of celebrities drawn over the course of a few hours in the comfort of their own quiet studio, which has very little relationship to what they will be able to do when drawing students in a few minutes each at a busy, loud, bustling party.
- ✓ Insist on **resumes** for each artist showing that they have a proven record of taking caricature seriously as an art form and a profession, including jobs as a cartoonist or caricaturist and juried awards, publication in major newspapers or magazines, years of experience as a caricature artist.
- ✓ When checking resumes, discern between **specific experience** as an artist in areas that have a direct relationship to caricaturing, such as cartoonist or comic book artist, as opposed to unrelated areas such as realistic drawing, painting, etc.
- ✓ Ask for **references** from other grad lock-in parties that have used the artist in the past.
- ✓ Have a **parent helper** take 10-15 **photos of students holding up their caricatures** (10-15 for each artist), both good and bad, so that future committees can use these to help judge whether they want specific caricaturists to return to your school or not.
- ✓ **Issue one ticket each (good for one free caricature)** to students in their student packet at the beginning of the night, and have the parent helper assigned to the caricature stand to collect one ticket for each student drawn. Collect them in separate boxes or envelopes for each caricaturist and then count up the totals at the end of the night to see how many each artist did. **Count and keep track of average number per hour and pass this along to future committees so that they can use this information to judge whether they want specific caricaturists to return or not.**

**CALL PETE WAGNER 612-729-7687 FOR MORE INFO, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKINGS.**

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**VISIT [WWW.WAG.NET](http://WWW.WAG.NET) FOR PRICING & PHOTOS FROM EVENTS.**

**MINNE HA! HA! STUDIOS, INC. PO BOX 6626, MPLS, MN 55406**