

# the great zucchini

## /2/ the skills

### in spite of the lack of skills you've become very successful. why is that?

like I said, I **am aware of** my limits and I wouldn't **dare to** test them. **if I had to** do a show for ten-year-olds, I'm pretty sure I would **fail miserably. good thing** I know that **or else** I **would have made** a fool of myself a lot of times.

### have you been asked to perform for older kids?

I **have been asked to** do parties for eight-year-olds and I **have turned them down** politely **knowing** it **would have been** a disaster. my shtick **is being** a **clumsy** old clown who **may have no** skills and can't **get anything right** but still **keeps trying**. you know, **no matter how many times** he falls on his ass, he just gets up and **keeps going. that's what** I do, that's the shtick I **stick to**.

### what do other magicians think of you? they must have heard of you by now, right?

I **remember them laughing at** me when I first **got started**. all of them **have graduated from**

clown colleges or **whatever they're called**. I **mean**, they have actual **degrees** from these places and they **believe** that **unless** you **know how to** juggle five apples **at the same time** you can't **make it** in this business. but I **did make it** even **without having all** these skills. I **proved them wrong** and they're taking it pretty hard.

**do you suppose they might feel threatened by you?**

I **guess** many of them **did**. some of them **have come to** realize that they don't have to **feel threatened by** me because we do totally different things. we don't really **compete against each other**. some of them understand that. but **none of** them has **actually** come up to me and said I **am doing a good job**.

**you have a very busy schedule. do parents brag about hiring you for their kids' parties?**

that's a funny thing. I think they're **actually** kind of **ashamed of having me over at their place**. they **would rather have** someone more **sophisticated**, someone **whose name** they could **drop** in front of their friends. but their kids **aren't interested in watching** an artist. **what they want is** laugh at a **loser**. I'm **happy to be** that loser **as long as I get paid**.