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Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo

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Clown bringing fun to Guymon

Cody Sosebee has been recognized as one of the top acts in the PRCA

GUYMON, Okla. – Cody Sosebee has a larger-than-life personality and a gregarious nature that fits well in his extra-large frame.

It's one of the many reasons he's one of the preeminent rodeo clowns in the business. From his tight-fitting attire that serves as mockery for his size to his understanding of the sport and all that it encompasses as a form of competition and entertainment, Sosebee reaches an audience like few who make their living wearing greasepaint and making fans laugh.

"Some people see me weigh about 150 pounds more than the guy next to me, but that's OK," said Sosebee, who will work his entertaining magic during the Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo, set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 3; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Henry C. Hitch Pioneer Arena.

"I think a rodeo clown is supposed to be a court jester and is supposed to do things you don't expect. They'll get to see me do a front flip or do something acrobatic and high energy, and it surprises the crowd, but it's my job to keep moving for a solid two hours of a performance."

He gets that opportunity at some of the biggest rodeos in the country, which is why he's excited to be part of the Pioneer Days festivities in Texas County.

While modest, Sosebee is already in that category. He's been in the running for the PRCA's Clown of the Year and has been recognized as one of the top five barrelmen/funnymen in rodeo.

Why?

"I think I bring a sense of energy to an event, and I try to bring a new level of energy," he said. "I try to bring a high level of energy to your show. I think rodeo competes with other extreme sports, and I think we're in a class of entertainment like those.

"When people come to an event, they want to see the level of high energy for the entire two hours they're there, and that's what I want to give them."

What Sosebee provides actually goes beyond high energy. His job as a barrelman is to be a safety valve for others who are in the arena during the bull riding competition, but he's also a big part of the overall production of the show. He provides a flair for comedy, and he's pretty good at it.

Rodeo is nothing new to Sosebee. In fact, he grew up in the sport. His father was a pickup man, and his mother was a barrel racer. He admits to living with an alter-ego, where one day he's on his place in northwest Arkansas and another he is working his "stage" show in front of thousands of fans.

"I just love this," he said. "I enjoy making the crowd laugh. The times are hard and the economy's rough, and we've got people who are paying a price for the ticket; I want them to come and be entertained, and I want them to forget whatever troubles they're having for that two hours."