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Be A Clown



Synopsis

Make 'em laugh! Take a look at the world's best jesters and expand your understanding of comedy. Here are the (literal) tricks of the trade: ideas for choosing distinctive costumes, finding a comic rhythm, and mastering physical skills that will have people rolling in the aisles. Actual routines unfold in a series of photos and descriptions, with tips on selling them. It's the perfect clown school!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Be a Clown by Mark Stolzenberg, photos by Padua Kassel, offers some seriously funny tips on the art of clowning around, including getting into character, mastering basic routines and creating a signature act. Color photographs offer step-by-step instructions, and a glossary and index round out the volume. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

How many young people dream of joining the circus? Even today, the glamour seduces quite a few who don't realize the work and professionalism that circus entertainment acts demand. Stolzenberg, a New York City actor and author, introduces readers to the thinking of and practical realities of becoming a clown--yet with a droll and intriguing narrative and lots of color photographs picturing him and friends in various stages and poses. Adopting the appropriate image is first and foremost. Using different props and exercises, from hats to faux boxing, he then teaches readers how to try on various faces with the ultimate goal of finding "your clown." Exposing readers to a bit of history and famous clowns is another valued part of his lesson, which just might be a great substitute for

psychotherapy. Barbara Jacobs Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book contains a lot more than expected this is great for beginners who are looking for a place to start. It is a short read but is jammed with information so much so that I'm going to reread it again and start putting it to practice. Clowns and Clowning mean so much to the individual and the clown character portrayed by the individual, this book gives an amazing starting point for exploring that individuality through structured play. Mark gives an amazing overview and even a writing structure for creating your own sketches or Clown Entrees. This would be a great book for someone looking to lead structured play such as a teacher or just a clown collective. This book is worth having in your library for so many reasons. I think both beginners and all clowns interested in expanding or refreshing your ideas can benefit from this book. There really is to my knowledge a very limited number of books that cover clowning in the sense and light that it should be taken in. Overall a good starting point in my opinion anyone truly interested in pro clowning should start here then check out further titles such as Angels can Fly by: Alan Clay and as well as The Art of Clowning by Eli Simon. The hardest part about clowning and learning clowning may be the fact that it is really hard to work solo for structured play. But this book should be considered as a great source to get any clown out there started. Hope this review was helpful. Wishing you all the best in all your Clowning Endeavors

This arrived in an even better condition than my library's copy, personally! One critique was that the first two blank pages were sliced out (by an xacto blade, by the looks of it). No biggie, as they were blank, but still slightly annoying. A couple of pages were torn, but I am cool with taping them up. It's my book and hopefully won't leave my possession until after I've left this world. I learned a lot from this book when checking it out at the library, now it's mine and I get to keep it!!!

If you only have one clown book on your shelf, make it this one. It has lots of helpful tips, great photos and even classic routines mapped out, it has been my fav clown book for over over 20 years. p.s. I am a professional clown! :O)

It was very informative. Clowning skills such as juggling and balloon sculpture etc. are not in this book. The author was a real Ringling Brothers clown and is a professional actor. You learn about the soul of clowning.

This is a very good instruction book for those who choose to become a clown. It only has a few skits, but they are very well illustrated and described. This may not be an all inclusive guide to clowning, but it's a good start.

Books by successful performers tend to be filled with self-adulation and are very sparse in usable how-to advice. Stolzenberg's book is a brilliant exception. For me, as an adult, it teaches many humorous subtleties we can use in every-day life. For my daughter, this book gave her the ability to expand her self-awareness beyond her persona. The writing is clear, non pretentious, yet eloquent. If there is a better book on the subject of clowning, I am not aware of it.

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