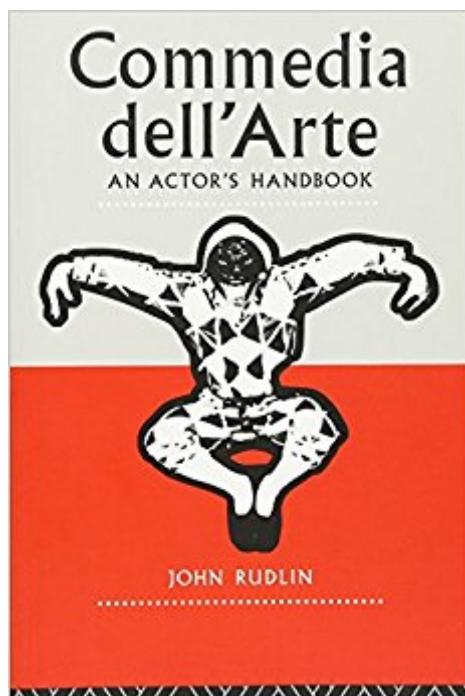


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Commedia Dell'Arte: An Actor's Handbook



Synopsis

There has been an enormous revival of interest in Commedia dell'arte. And it remains a central part of many drama school courses. In Commedia dell'arte in the Twentieth Century John Rudlin first examines the origins of this vital theatrical form and charts its recent revival through the work of companies like Tag, Theatre de Complicite and the influential methods of Jacques Lecoq. The second part of the book provides a unique practical guide for would-be practitioners: demonstrating how to approach the roles of Zanni, Arlecchion, Brighella, Pantalone, Dottore, and the Lovers in terms of movement, mask-work and voice. As well as offering a range of lazzi or comic business, improvisation exercises, sample monologues, and dialogues. No other book so clearly outlines the specific culture of Commedia or provides such a practical guide to its techniques. This immensely timely and useful handbook will be an essential purchase for all actors, students, and teachers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'This new book by John Rudlin is much more than a re-examination of a theatrical style long past - in Rudlin's hands, the whole subject becomes not only vital to today's creators of theatre, but to the future as well.' - Theatre Scotland

As someone who teaches movement for actor training, I highly recommend this book for your reading list and for required reading for any Commedia work. Terrific resource!

If you are interested in Commedia dell'Arte and are lucky enough to run across a copy of this book

as I did, at an affordable price, you should snap it up.

Excellent

One of many books used for a college research paper. For a book that covers a lot of ground had fairly good details.

Obviously commedia dell'arte is a live theatre form, and obviously you know a bit about commedia otherwise you wouldn't be reading this review. As far as any book can help anyone do live theatre, especially a form so comic and forceful, then this book can. Nowhere it loses sight of the fact that its job is to encourage people to action and performance and then begin to discover for themselves. It is not an esoteric bible of secret facts which will allow anyone to become a commedia performer. It is an actor's manual and, if you cannot find adequate live teaching of the form, it is one of the best books you can find to start with.

If you're at all interested in Commedia and have not yet read this book, I highly recommend it. It would be beneficial for anyone at any level. Every section is just wonderful and gives out so much "secret" information. There's even an appendix on how to make leather masks in the traditional method. I have searched and not been able to find many other books that touch on that subject. It's an interesting read the whole way through and handy as a reference forever after.

Rudlin explains in the world's most comprehensive guide to the performance of commedia dell'arte, the stock characters, masks, improvisational style, and influence of this incredible art form. The book greatly aided my study of commedia, and continues to guide me now as I am a teacher. Without Rudlin's great teaching, I could not be the teacher that I am now. A must-own for any aspiring actor or comedian, or fan of comedy.

John Rudlin describes in great detail every aspect of commedia dell'arte. Having personally studied with John Rudlin, he is today's master of the masked world. In-depth character analysis, sample plots, illustrations, pictures of masks, detailed background information, and an overall 'everything you need to know' by the man who knows better than anyone.

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