



Clown Scenes

By Tristan Remy

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The intimacy of the one-ring circus produced the classic clown routines that flourished until the mid-twentieth century and then disappeared with the rise of the grand circus. They have been lost until now. By seeking out the little band of surviving clowns who worked in the old tradition and setting down their scenes, Tristan Rémy, the eminent circus historian, has rescued a theatrical treasure. Thanks to Rémy's persistence, the forty-eight scenes presented here contain not only the spoken words but the manner of line delivery and the physical turns. So they remain superbly suitable for performance. Most of them are written for just three actors?the white-faced clown, August the stooge, and the supercilious ringmaster. Sets are unnecessary. And their combination of the verbal with the physical has timeless appeal. Bernard Sahlins's translation is masterfully attuned to present-day audiences. In his foreword, Mr. Sahlins notes that these scenes have been continually remounted in Europe, attesting to their fundamental vitality and universality. "Clearly there is a debt, witting and unwitting, owed to the clown of the ring by the great comedians of our century. With this book these scenes and the clowns who invented and played them now take their honored place in our theatrical legacy."

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Editorial Review

Review

A welcomed translation...a fascinating perspective on the world of clowns. (Joel Schechter *Theater Magazine*)

Admirable and essential. (Don Stacey *World's Fair*)

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

From the Back Cover

Clown Scenes recaptures the classic clown routines that flourished in the intimacy of the one-ring circus. They have been all but lost with the rise of the grand circus in the mid-twentieth century. But Tristan Remy, the eminent French circus historian, has pursued the little band of surviving clowns who worked in the old tradition, carefully recording their scenes. Like all popular theatre forms, these scenes developed as oral collaborations. They were invented and jealously guarded by those who played them. No active clown of the time would have considered writing them out for the benefit of his rivals. Thanks to Remy's patience and persistence, the forty-eight scenes presented here contain not only the spoken words but the manner of line delivery and the physical turns.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ginger Knowles:

What do you about book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Clown Scenes to read.

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Dena Ramirez:

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