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Marcel Marceau: Master Of Mime (Kar-Ben Biographies)



Synopsis

From the age of five, Marcel Marceau knew he wanted to be a silent actor, just like Charlie Chaplain. When World War II intervened, he joined the resistance, helping to get young Jews to safety during this dangerous time. But Marcel never forgot his dream of being a mime artist and entertaining the world.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Great kids book, but adults would like this too. I was looking for something more on his time helping children escape, but this will have to do.

Cute book and informative about the man - things I didn't know.

This book arrived on time and in great condition. We are studying the circus and this is a great non-fiction entry for my age group.

Marcel Marceau's life was filled with complexity and diversity. He accomplished so much long before he was known as a mime. Ms. Spielman does a wonderful job of showcasing the man and his amazing life in an accessible story format. Wonderful biography for the target age group and beyond.

I learnt so much I did not know in this engaging and informative book. It is well written and beautifully illustrated. Written on a level for young children but interesting enough for adults to read (probably many times).

Marcel smiled as he searched his father's wardrobe for an outfit he could borrow. When he donned his father's jacket, pants, shoes and hat, he was no longer a boy, he was "Charlie Chaplin, star of the silent movies". Ladies in the streets of Strasbourg would smile and clasp their hands in front of their chests in awe of his budding talent. Marcel's father had taken him to see one of Chaplin's movies and the impression was so strong, it was at that point he decided he "would grow up to be like Charlie." Other children were in awe of him and loved to see him perform, but the winds of war were stirring and happy times would soon change to times of fear and dread. Hitler "had come to power in Germany and wanted to rule the rest of Europe." Strasbourg was evacuated by the French Government and Marcel and his older brother found a safe haven in Limoges, "a center of French Resistance." As a Jew, Marcel began to use his drawing skills to alter the identification cards of young people so they "would seem to be too young to be sent to labor camps." Marcel did a few alterations of his own and his last name became Marceau. He began to take children to the Swiss border in order to save him from the Nazis. His newly formed boy scout troops were on their way to a fictitious camp. Marcel had a new life smuggling children out of France, but was he ever going to be able to live his dream of becoming another Charlie Chaplin? Would he even survive the war? This is an amazing story of the dangers Marcel Marceau had to face as a young man during WWII. Many people have heard the silence of Marcel, but have never heard the story of his struggles during the war. The story is one of bravery, struggle, and one of the heartwarming tale of his work in the French resistance. The artwork is simple, but speaks volumes as it intertwines with the tale. If the reader simply flips the pages after reading the story, one can silently listen to the story of Marcel's early years. In the back of the book is a brief commentary on his career and a four photograph portrait of him practicing his craft as Bip. This is an unusually well crafted biography for the intended age group (9-12) you really should consider adding to your library or classroom shelves! This book courtesy of the publisher.

Born to be an entertainer like Charlie Chaplin, Marcel Marceau lived in Strasbourg, on the edge of France and Germany, at the time of World War II. Luckily, Marcel was picked to study at Dullin's drama school in Paris, where he learned the art of mime. When Paris was liberated from the Nazis,

Marcel performed for the allied troops, and as the war ended, Marcel continued to perform, as his own character, Bip, a clown without words: a mime.

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