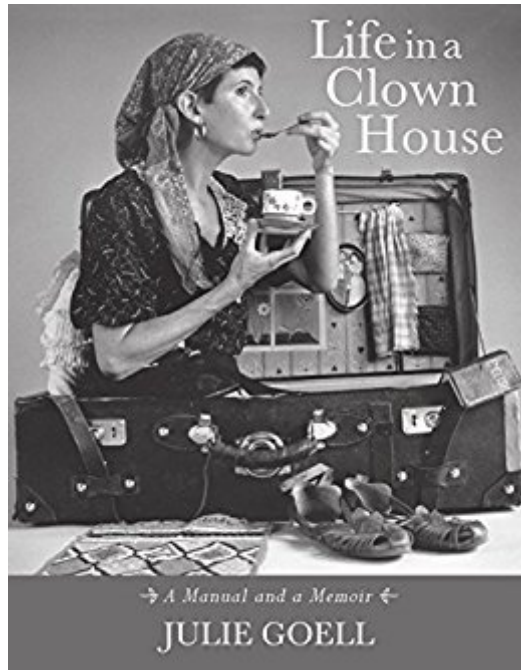




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Life In A Clown House: A Manual And A Memoir



Synopsis

Life in a Clown House: A Manual and a Memoir is an invaluable resource for both professionals and aspiring clowns. The first part of the book, The Manual, presents the Eccentric Principles, the core of the pedagogy she and her husband, Avner Eisenberg have developed and refined in over 25 years of teaching together. It all begins with the breath, and quickly moves into entrance onto the stage and the creation of the world of the clown. This is not the clown of the circus, but rather the clown that finds problems to solve at every turn. Even entering the stage is a problem to be addressed. Armed with this new approach, the reader is guided into a careful study of relationships with partners, place, and props. Having spent her formative years living and training in Italy, Julie brings a keen appreciation of the Commedia Dell'Arte to her practice of clowning with exercises from both the historical literature of Commedia and from her vast experience as a performer. The second part of the book, The Memoir, tells the stories of Julie's days as the Clown of Piazza Navona in Rome, Italy, her extensive touring throughout Europe, and founding one of the first mime troupes in America. Following these early stories is Julie's account, told with poignancy, humor, and grit, of confronting and living with a debilitating neurodegenerative condition. Life in a Clown House also includes a delightful photographic retrospective of Julie's career as an actor, mime and musician.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm enjoying this book. I can't say a lot yet because I've only just started reading it but the subject is SO unusual, I'm learning a lot from it.

A beautifully sensitive book~ Wonderful exercises for theater students, beginners and professionals. And I loved The Memoir too. Touched my soul and heart~

It is magnificent. Brilliantly written. A testament to what it means to be alive and to communicate with others.

The cover reminds me that this slim volume, like the piece of literature that it is, is to be sampled by the spoon full . If you're looking for a how-to-do-it clowning book, find something else. If you want to experience the deep soul-force of clowning, then this is the one to buy and cherish. It's not "about" anything: it is a "something" all its own. It is the sacred record of a journey into illness seen from the heart's perspective. Only a fool could tell it this way and with such tender beauty. Destined to be a classic for those who love this art form.

Quite a life and quite a life's story well told in this entertaining book that somehow matches the performer who wrote it. Glad to learn more about our Island neighbor and her intriguing path to success on many global stages. Exceptional photos compliment her narrative that serves as a superb textbook supporting her work as both a performer and teacher. Enjoy every minute !

Julie Goell's work as an international performer and teacher are legendary. Her efforts in the first half of the book to boil down core fundamentals of Clowning and Commedia are priceless, and her creation of "Flash Theatre" is one of my go-to drama exercises. As to the second, "memoir" half of the text--lovely, simply lovely. At times funny, at times melancholy, Goell handles an easily-morose topic with grace, wit, and humanity.

This is a beautifully written memoir, with the addition of some practical exercises.

What a great little read, both for performers and non-performers like me. Julie recently passed away, but she will live on through this beautiful memoir.

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