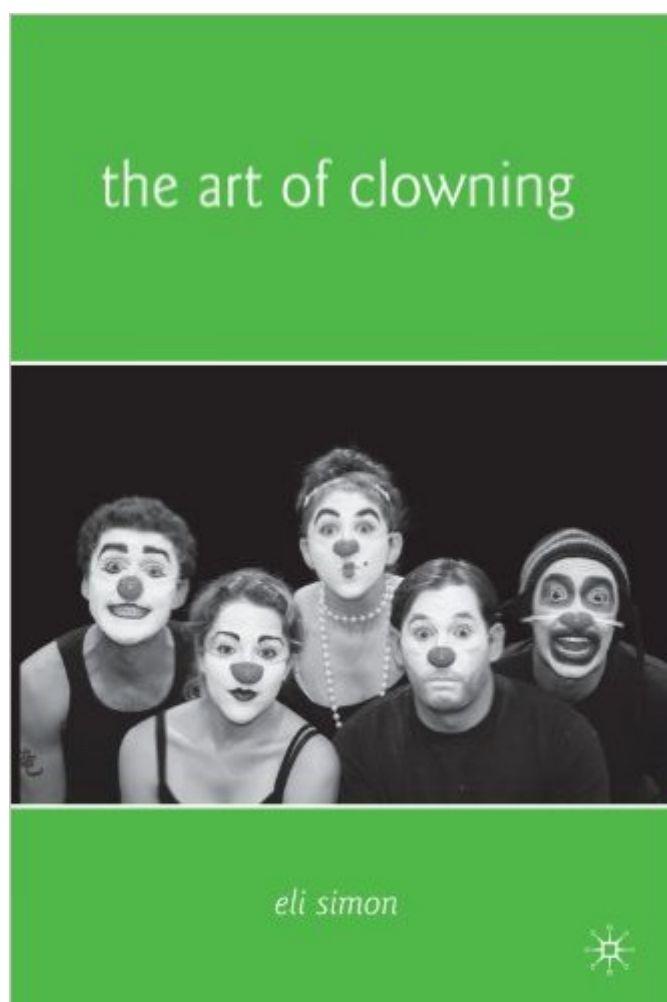


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# The Art Of Clowning



## Synopsis

The Art of Clowning is the first book on clowning technique and offers a step-by-step process for actors and other theatrical enthusiasts to discover their "inner clown." This fun and accessible guide expands on theories and exercises to help students and beginners develop solo and group performances. Using twenty years of teaching experience, Simon reveals a complete system of clowning that is a must-have for amateurs and experts alike.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #931,536 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus](#) #1081 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Acting & Auditioning](#) #5394 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts](#)

## Customer Reviews

Eli Simon's THE ART OF CLOWNING is a welcome addition to that rarest of genres, clown literature. In the past several decades, thanks in no small part to the influence of legendary pedagogue Jacques Lecoq, clowning - and its close cousin, commedia dell'arte - has expanded from its roots in the street and in the circus to become a central aspect of actor training, appearing as a curricular highlight in reputable conservatories, drama schools and MFA programs across the world. Some of this country's newest generation of best-known, best-loved and most influential acting teachers, including Simon himself, Chris Bayes, Jim Calder, Jane Nichols, and Orlando Pabotoy, are first and foremost exponents of the art of clown. Simon's book is addressed to students and practitioners of this evolving field, theatrical adventurers who believe that with the simplest of means - a red nose, an empty space, and a barrel-load of courage - actors can be coaxed to new heights of creativity. Basing his book on a progression of exercises, explained with admirable precision and an absence of jargon, Simon takes the reader on a journey from the most

basic principle of clown - vulnerability - to the more sophisticated joys of creating a unique clown and developing routines. Peppering his text with readily accessible examples of great clowning, from Charlie Chaplin to Lily Tomlin, Simon embraces the natural populism of his subject matter, proving to be a knowledgeable and friendly guide, avoiding the pitfalls of over-analysis or theoretical musings. The result is a sage, unpretentious, and entirely practical book that offers real riches to both the student and - especially - the teacher of clown. Match THE ART OF CLOWNING with Davis Rider Robinson's THE PHYSICAL COMEDY HANDBOOK, and you will have a tiny library devoted to the wonder of foolery. Contrary to its size, it will yield big rewards in your pursuit of this beautiful art.

This book is very special! So many instructional books, on so many topics, claiming to provide all of the answers, often disappoint in their actual content...not so in this case. If you passionately desire to discover the essence of clowning and particularly the key to discovering your own personal clown, then I recommend that you acquire this gem and begin to follow its clear directions as soon as you can. [ASIN:0230615236 The Art of Clowning]

Eli Simon's work is a practical source of information for people who are interested in finding the clown inside and understanding the essence of clowning. It is an inspirational discussion that outlines methods and exercises one can use to find the clown inside and to develop techniques to express this part of our nature in a constructive and entertaining manner with people of like mind. I have very little training in theater, but I extrapolate that Mr. Simon's book speaks to both the amateur and the professional, for he speaks directly to the fundamentals of self-expression. Mr. Simon's work specifically speaks to the physical expressions of performance. I think that his advice and exercise would be beneficial to all types of performers and specifically of benefit to those interested in improvisational theater both formal and informal.

Great book, seller is very recommended!

Great book! Valuable information on clowning. Only wish it had more clown/physical comedy routines. But that's just me wanting everything in one book.

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