



Commedia Dell'Arte: An Actor's Handbook

By John Rudlin

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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.

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Editorial Review

Review

'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*

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