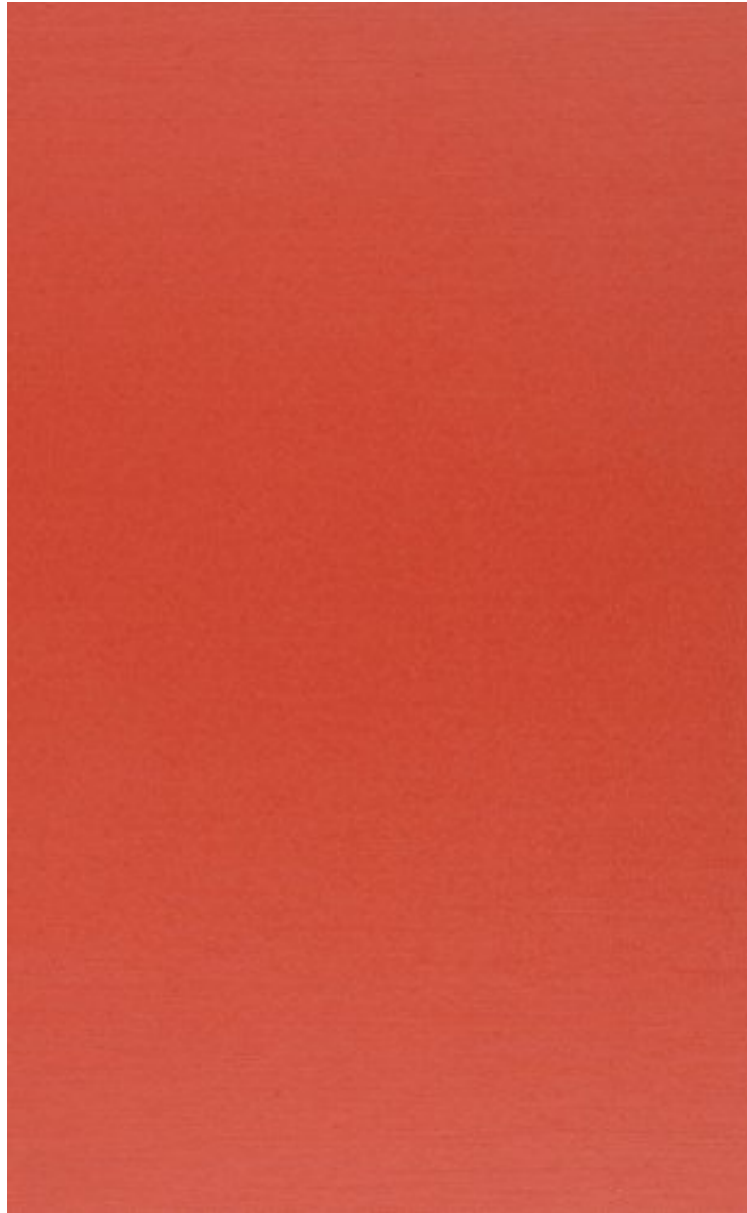


(Mobile book) The Pickle Clowns: New American Circus Comedy

The Pickle Clowns: New American Circus Comedy

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From Southern Illinois University Press : The Pickle Clowns: New American Circus Comedy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pickle Clowns: New American Circus Comedy:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A FANTASTIC BOOK ON MODERN AMERICAN

CLOWNING By Patrick Cashin A serious study of the revolutionary Pickle clowns is certainly welcome and long overdue. By choosing to publish separate interviews with the Pickle Family's clowns, Joel Schechter gives the reader the history of Pickle clowning from several different perspectives, allowing and insight into the performers and their craft that no other book on the subject of clowning has ever come close to. 2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. representing everything that's WRONG with our culture By Chet Morton Criminy! Talk about a book fulla nothin'! Save yer dough and buy somethin' useful instead, like maybe some used boxing trunks, or one o' them nice vintage pearlloid terlet seats. Sheesh!

The Pickle clowns have performed to great acclaim with Cirque du Soleil, Circus Flora, and the Pickle Family Circus in dance concerts, one-person shows, and plays by Beckett, Brecht, Fo, OCasey, Shakespeare, Jonson, and Moliere. For the first time outside a circus ring, the Pickle clowns reveal all about their popular comedy acts, their eccentric dances, and the state of the circus in the United States and abroad. This volume offers conversations with the clowns themselves, Lorenzo Pickle (Larry Pisoni), Willy the Clown (Bill Irwin), Mr. Sniff (Geoff Hoyle), Queenie Moon (Joan Mankin), Ralph Deliberate (Donald Forrest), Ms. Wombat (Andrea Snow), Pino (Diane Wasnak), and Razz (Jeff Raz). Also interviewed are Ramona the Tap-Dancing Gorilla (circus choreographer Kimi Okada) and artistic director and choreographer Tandy Beal. Four clown acts are included to best demonstrate both the unique humor and craft of the Pickle clowns. The Pickle Family Circus began in 1975 in San Francisco as a clown-centered, cooperative one-ring circus, far more intimate than circuses heralding themselves as the greatest show on earth. Clowning comics in the spirit of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Lucille Ball, Jackie Gleason, and Laurel and Hardy, the Pickles prove that a small circus can be innovative and provocative, adventurous and hilarious. This collective history of the Pickle clowns, recorded in their own words and featuring fourteen illustrations, constitutes a unique account of the art of clowning and an introduction to some of the finest comedians of our time.

There are many books on the American circus that cover clowning but not clowning like this! This is one of a very few studies of clowning not dedicated to the large three-ring format. The fact that the book is mostly first-person accounts of the show by the clowns themselves makes this study particularly valuable. When you add the fact that the interview questions are intelligent and interesting, this book becomes truly one of a kind, and a treasure. Sarah J. Blackstone, author of *Buckskins, Bullets, and Business: A History of Buffalo Bills Wild West*