

ATTIVISE THE WAYNESSEE

Secrets Of The Sideshows

Joe Nickell

Secrets Of The Sideshows:

Secrets of the Sideshows Joe Nickell, 2005-09-09 Joe Nickell once a carnival pitchman then a magician private detective and investigative writer has pursued sideshow secrets for years and has worked the famous carnival midway at the Canadian National Exhibition For this book he interviewed showmen and performers collected carnival memorabilia researched published accounts of sideshows and their lore and even performed some classic sideshow feats such as eating fire and lying on a bed of nails as a cinderblock was broken on his chest The result of these varied efforts Secrets of the Sideshows tells the captivating story of the magic tricks real or illusory and performers of the world's midway shows BOOK JACKET of the Sideshows Joe Nickell, 2005-09-09 The carnival sideshows of the past have left behind a fascinating legacy of mystery and intrigue The secrets behind such daring feats as fire eating and sword swallowing and bizarre exhibitions of human oddities as Alligator Boys and Gorilla Girls still remain only grudgingly if ever given up by performers and carnival professionals Working alongside the performers Joe Nickell blows the lid off these mysteries of the midway The author reveals the structure of the shows specific methods behind the performances and the showmen s tactics for recruiting performers and attracting crowds He also traces the history of such spectacles from ancient Egyptian magic and street fairs to the golden age of P T Barnum's sideshows With revealing insight into the personal lives of the men and women billed as Psychic Empire Cate I. Reilly, 2024-06-11 In nineteenth freaks Nickell unfolds the captivating story of the midway show century imperial Germany and the Austro Hungarian Empire new scientific fields like psychophysics empirical psychology clinical psychiatry and neuroanatomy transformed the understanding of mental life in ways long seen as influencing modernism Turning to the history of psychiatric classification for mental illnesses Cate I Reilly argues that modernist texts can be understood as critically responding to objective scientific models of the psyche not simply illustrating their findings Modernist works written in industrializing Central and Eastern Europe historicize the representation of consciousness as a quantifiable phenomenon within techno scientific modernity Looking beyond modernism's well studied relationship to psychoanalysis this book tells the story of the non Freudian vocabulary for mental illnesses that forms the precursor to today s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Developed by the German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin in the 1890s this psychiatric taxonomy grew from the claim that invisible mental illnesses were analogous to physical phenomena in the natural world Reilly explores how figures such as Georg B chner Ernst Toller Daniel Paul Schreber Nikolai Evreinov Vsevolod Ivanov and Santiago Ram n y Cajal understood the legal and political consequences of representing mental life in physical terms Working across literary studies the history of science psychoanalytic criticism critical theory and political philosophy Psychic Empire is an original account of modernism that shows the link between nineteenth century scientific research on the mental health of national populations and twenty first century globalized neuroscientific accounts of psychopathology and sanity *Nobody's Fool* Bill Griffith, 2019-03-19 A graphic biography of the real life sideshow performer who inspired Zippy

the Pinhead An uplifting wonderfully humane book The New York Times From Coney Island and the Ringling Bros Circus to small town carnivals and big city sideshows Nobody s Fool follows the long legendary career of Schlitzie today best known for his appearance in the cult classic film Freaks the making of which is a centerpiece of the story In researching Schlitzie's life Griffith has tracked down primary sources and archives throughout the country conducting interviews with those who worked with him and had intimate knowledge of his personality his likes and dislikes how he responded to being a sideshow freak and much more This graphic biography provides never before revealed details of his life offering a unique look into his world and contributions to popular culture including the immortal phrase Are we having fun yet Virtuoso comic strip artist Bill Griffith gives voice to a true outcast the sideshow attraction born Simon Metz probably in the Bronx probably in 1901 The New York Times The underlying message of Nobody's Fool I get it underneath our grandiose opinions of ourselves we're all pinheads and freaks The best graphic novel of the year R Crumb A captivating labor of love that integrates American sideshow history and autobiographical segments an astonishing life beautifully told Or as Schlitzie would say it s boffo Booklist starred review A masterpiece of absurdity and humanity After all these years Schlitzie still triggers laughter and Freak Show Legacies Gary S. Cross, 2021-05-06 Society has long been fascinated with the tears Steve Heller Print freakish shocking and strange In this book Gary Cross shows how freakish elements have been embedded in modern popular culture over the course of the 20th century despite the evident disenchantment with this once widespread cultural outlet Exploring how the spectacle of freakishness conflicted with genteel culture he shows how the condemnation of the freak show by middle class America led to a transformation and merging of genteel and freak culture through the cute the camp and the creepy Though the carnival and circus freak was marginalised by the 1960s and had largely disappeared by the 1980s forms of freakish culture survived and today appear in reality TV horror movies dark comedies and the popularity of tattoos Freak Show Legacies will focus less on the individual freak as the other in society and more on the audience for the freakish and the transformation of wonder sensibility and sensitivity that this phenomenon entailed It will use the phenomenon of the freak to understand the transformation of American popular culture across the 20th century identify elements of the freak in popular culture both past and present and ask how it has prevailed despite its apparent unpopularity

The Wonders John Woolf,2019 The untold story of the Victorian freak show and circus and the remarkable cast of characters who performed in them
Coney Island William J. Phalen,2016-07-19 Before the Civil War Coney Island boasted a beach a dozen small hotels with ramshackle bathhouses some chowder stands and a few saloons After the war it was taken over by powerful individuals who made its 0 7 square miles a domain of the wealthy By 1905 with the population of New York City at four million the city s amusement park builders designed an entertainment wonderland on the island that even the poor could enjoy creating a nickel empire where visitors paid five cents for the subway five cents for a Nathan s hot dog and five cents for a ride In 1910 Coney Island saw 20 million visitors more than Disneyland and Disney World combined

could claim 70 years later adjusted for population growth Through the decades the island has seen changes of fortune floods and fires cycles of decay and rehabilitation Yet the ultimate power on the island was and is the government of the city of New York which for good or ill has made Coney Island what it is today Hey Presto! Hugh Ormsby-Lennon, 2011 In Hey Presto Swift and the Quacks Hugh Ormsby Lennon reveals how medicine shows both ancient and modern galvanized Jonathan Swift s imagination and inspired his wittiest satiric voices Swift dubbed these multifaceted traveling entertainments his Stage itinerant or Mountebank's Stage In the course of arguing that the stage itinerant formed an irresistible model for A Tale of a Tub Ormsby Lennon also surmises that the mountebank's stage will disclose that missing link long sought that connects the dual objects of Swift's ire gross corruptions in both Religion and Learning Circus World Andrea Ringer, 2024-07-09 From the 1870s to the 1960s circuses crisscrossed the nation providing entertainment A unique workforce of human and animal laborers from around the world put on the show They also formed the backbone of a tented entertainment industry that raised new questions about what constituted work and who counted as a worker Andrea Ringer examines the industry wide circus world the collection of shows that traveled by rail wagon steamboat and car and the traditional and nontraditional laborers who created it Performers and their onstage labor played an integral part in the popularity of the circus But behind the scenes other laborers performed the endless menial tasks that kept the show on the road Circus operators regulated employee behavior both inside and outside the tent even as the employees themselves blurred the line between leisure and labor until in all parts of the show the workers could not escape their work Illuminating and vivid Circus World delves into the gender class and even species concerns within an extinct way of life Beyond Bizarre Varla Ventura, 2020-04-17 The author of The Book of the Bizarre returns with a new compendium of freaky facts terrifying trivia and true stories that are stranger than fiction In Beyond Bizarre Varla Ventura presents an all new batch of nightmarish tales that teem queasy diseases and paranormal encounters not to mention the outrageous outlandish and the simply strange Arranged into thirteen chilling chapters like Haunted Hollywood Tales from the Cryptids Bride of the Bizarre and It's Enough to Make You Hurl Beyond Bizarre tackles everything from female pirates and creepy candy stripers to psychic predictions virgin shark births and much much more A word of warning this book is not for the faint of heart

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