



Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women

By Ricky Jay

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Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women By Ricky Jay

A cult classic and a work of remarkable scholarship restored to print.

Ricky Jay is one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists. He is also a most unusual and talented scholar, specializing in the bizarre, exotic, and fantastic side of the human species. The youngest magician to have appeared on television, Jay has become well known for his astonishing stage show as well as for his cameos in such movies as *Glengarry Glen Ross* and, most recently, *Boogie Nights*.

Jay's unparalleled collection of books, posters, photographs, programs, broadsides, and, most important, data about unjustifiably forgotten entertainers all over the world made this unique book possible. An investigation into the inspired world of sideshows, circuses, and singularly talented performers, *Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women* is history of the most unusual--and irresistible--sort.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A magician himself, the author offers a history of magicians and other performers, including animals trained to do arithmetic and limbless people able to play musical instruments. PW stated the dozens of illustrations alone "are worth the price of the book."

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From School Library Journal

YA A historical compendium of the world's most bizarre and outrageous entertainers by one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists. Reaching back into history as early as the 16th Century, Jay introduces readers to daredevils, mind readers, talented animals and their trainers, sword swallows, and other wonders of the past. Some have been geniuses, others charlatans, but all have captured the imagination of their public.

Although Jay handles the material unevenly, readers should leave the book with awe of the inventive genius of man, and of the incredible stamina of the human body. This is a delightful book for YAs who have a penchant for the extraordinary. It is full of colorful illustrations, posters, and billboards of yesteryear. Anne Johnson, formerly at St. John's School, Houston

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From Library Journal

Beginning with a somewhat confusing title, this account by magician Jay of unusual entertainers from the 17th century to the present attempts a monumental task. In these pages are an assortment of spiritualists, freaks, talking horses, mind readers, sword swallows, and people who walk through fire. The author has a keen sense of humor about his subjects and is ambivalent in his attempt to separate fact from fiction. Clearly he finds much to admire in some of the lovable charlatans who have entertained audiences throughout the world. There are numerous original playbills, advertisements, drawings, and photographs interspersed throughout the text of this unique and colorful book. For larger collections. Preferred Choice Book Club alternate. Samuel Simons, Memorial Hall Lib., Andover, Mass.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melvin Wilhelm:

The experience that you get from Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women will be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women instantly.

Tanya Nolan:

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Scott Reisinger:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women*, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Virgil Santamaria:

Is it you actually who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women* can be the respond to, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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