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AS MULTIMODAL DISCOURSE

Performance, Meaning, and Ritual

PAUL BOUISSAC

<u>Circus As Multimodal Discourse Performance Meaning</u> <u>And Ritual By Bouissac Paul 2014 Paperback</u>

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Circus as Multimodal Discourse Paul Bouissac, 2012-12-06 Normal 0 false false x000D Circus as Multimodel Discourse. Performance, Meaning and Ritual Paul Bouissac, 2012 This volume presents a theory of the circus as a secular ritual and introduces a method to analyze its performances as multimodal discourse The book s fifteen chapters cover the range of circus specialties magic domestic and wild animal training acrobatics and clowning and provide examples to show how cultural meaning is produced extended and amplified by circus performances It concludes with a reflection on the potentially subversive power of this discourse and its contemporary use by activists Throughout it endeavours to develop an analytical approach that is mindful of the epistemological traps of both positivism and postmodernist license It brings semiotics and 0ethnography to bear on the realm of the circus The Semiotics of Clowns and Clowning Paul Bouissac, 2015-05-28 During the last 300 years circus clowns have emerged as powerful cultural icons This is the first semiotic analysis of the range of make up and costumes through which the clowns performing identities have been established and go on developing It also examines what Bouissac terms micronarratives narrative meanings that clowns generate through their acts dialogues and gestures Putting a repertory of clown performances under the semiotic microscope leads to the conclusion that the performances are all interconnected and come from what might be termed a mythical matrix These micronarratives replicate in context sensitive forms a master narrative whose general theme refers to the emergence of cultures and constraints that they place upon instinctual behaviour From this vantage point each performance can be considered as a ritual which re enacts the primitive violence inherent in all cultures and the temporary resolutions which must be negotiated as the outcome Why do these acts of transgression and re integration then trigger laughter and wonder What kind of mirror does this put up to society In a masterful semiotic analysis Bouissac delves into decades of research to answer these questions The Meaning of the Circus Paul Bouissac, 2018-08-23 A Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2019 This book documents and discusses the meaning s of the creative process at play in the crafting and staging of circus acts It highlights the experience of circus artists as their skills develop and mature into public performances that create aesthetic and emotional values in the modern economy of live spectacles It scrutinizes the meaning that circus acts produce for the spectators and for the artists themselves who live this process from the inside This is a book for those studying semiotics and wanting to see it applied to a real life milieu in accessible and passionate prose The Meaning of the Circus is grounded on the personal experience of Professor Paul Bouissac as both a circus entrepreneur and a researcher with decades of primary material on the significance of past and contemporary circus acts It is based on substantial accounts provided by many men and women who have agreed to share the challenges joys and anxieties of their life as artists Personal and rigorous it contributes to the hermeneutics of the circus arts by adding existential depth to the production and reception of their performances Circus and Culture Paul Bouissac, 1976 Approaching the circus from the unique perspective of on who

not only knows about language and sign systems but has actually been the owner and manager of an experimental circus Paul Bouissac has written a pioneering book that will fascinate students of communication popular culture symbolic anthropology and poetics as well as semioticians an readers in a variety of fields who are concerned with performance as an aspect of culture Seen from the semiotic viewpoint the circus is a complex medium of mass communication with a dazzling variety of expressive means at its disposal costumes music lightning kinesis props and accessories etc Bouissac has extended the analysis of his celebrated essay Poetics in the Lions s Den which performs a chapter in the present book to cover a wide panorama of traditional circus acts acrobatics equestrian acts jugglers and magicians routines and of course clown performances discussed here as metacultural texts He shows that all these acts are governed by an internal logic and that when taken in sequence they exhibit both complementarity and a network of cross references that bind them into a single circus text rich in cultural meaning Each act can be seen to progress in terms of a dialectic of control and disturbance which culminates in a triumphant reassertion of the performer's mastery over his environment and thus this consolidation of his position as hero The cultural potency of this symbolic cycle is attested by its being a perennial source of satisfaction to circus goers of all ages and all social classes The circus is the living depository of certain of the most ancient arts of civilization Through it man continues to communicate with animals and with some of the higher powers lying within the normal aptitudes of the species which for this reason is endowed in our exes with supernatural prestige We can congratulate ourselves that Professor Bouissac who has been himself a man of the circus has had the same time the intellectual capacity and the literary talent required to elaborate a theory which has always been lacking and which this book presents in a particularly brilliant manner Claude L vi Strauss Blurb Klappentext Semiotics at the Circus Paul Bouissac, 2010-06-17 What do circus performances communicate They are rich in extreme skills and clever staging They trigger strong emotions They make beautiful sense This book which is grounded in the personal circus experience of the author uses semiotics pragmatics and cultural studies to explain why we are irresistibly drawn to the circus It shows how semiotics can be applied to understand and enhance our enjoyment Circus and Culture Paul Bouissac.1985 The End of the Circus Paul Bouissac, 2021-08-12 This book analyses two features of the traditional circus that have come under increasing attack since the mid 20th century the use of wild animals in performance and the act of clowning Positioning this socio cultural change within the broader perspective of evolutionary semiotics renowned circus expert Paul Bouissac examines the decline of the traditional circus and its transformation into a purely acrobatic spectacle The End of the Circus draws on Bouissac s extensive ethnographic research including previously unpublished material on the training of wild animals and clown make up to chart the origins of the circus in Gypsy culture and the drastic change in contemporary Western attitudes on ethical grounds It scrutinizes the emergence of the new form of circus with its focus on acrobatics and the meaning of the body showing how acrobatic techniques have been appropriated from traditional Gypsy heritage and brought into the fold of

mainstream popular entertainment Questioning the survival of the new circus and the likely resurgence of its traditional forms this book showcases Bouissac s innovative approach to semiotics and marks the culmination of his ground breaking work on the circus **Circus Performances as Texts** Paul Bouissac,1974 *The Timeless Tools of Time* Paul Bouissac,1978*

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