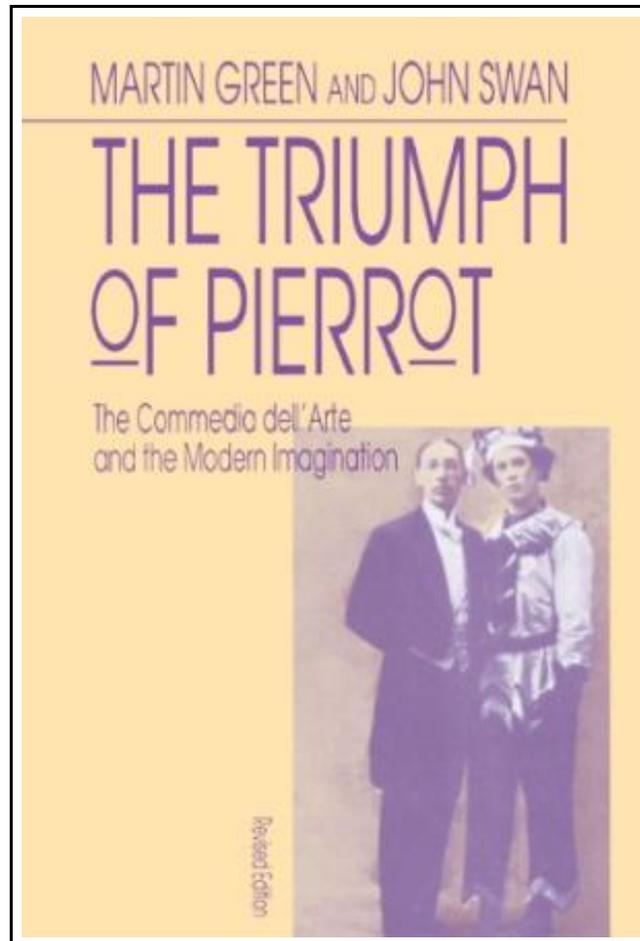


The Triumph of Pierrot: The Commedia Dellarte and the Modern Imagination



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Reviews

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(Forest Little)*

THE TRIUMPH OF PIERROT: THE COMMEDIA DELLARTE AND THE MODERN IMAGINATION



Penn State University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 336 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 1.0in. What do Stravinsky, Degas, Chaplin, Isak Dinesen, Meyerhold, Monty Python, and T. S. Eliot have in common? What do such disparate works as Picasso's *Family of Saltimbanques*, Bergman's *Sawdust and Tinsel*, Waugh's *Put Out More Flags*, and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* share? As Green and Swan persuasively argue in their new book, all have been influenced by the Italian *commedia dell'arte*. . . . Exaggeration, artifice, and a self-conscious theatricality are *commedia's* hallmarks; impertinence, mockery, and irony its weapons against the serious threats of the real world. No wonder, then, that *commedia* (along with the archetypes it supplies) exerted a fierce hold on the modernist imagination, and according to the authors left its imprint on virtually every area of Western culture from 1890 to 1930. -Michiko Kakutani in *The New York Times* *Green and Swan* have given us an extraordinary interdisciplinary work. Using Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes*, the *saltimbanque* paintings of Picasso and Schoenberg's musical experiments as the starting point, they examine the modernist consciousness, which evolved from the 16th-century concept of the *commedia dell'arte* character of Pierrot, the original free-spirited revolutionary of European improvisational theater. *Green and Swan* are sweeping and occasionally breathtaking as they link the masters of modern literary culture to the tragicomic, grotesque traditions of the Harlequin: in literature, Rilke, Kafka, Brecht, and Weill; in art, Chagall and Rouault; in music, Stravinsky and Ravel; in film, Keaton, Chaplin, and the German expressionist montage of Lang and Wiene. From *commedia* to *Caligari*, the theme of this enormously provocative book is revolt and the modern spirit. . . . an intellectual tour de force. -Choice This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from Roseburg, OR, La Vergne, TN. Paperback.



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