

# Getting Off Lee Breuer: On Performance

In his book *Getting Off Lee Breuer: On Performance*, Lee Breuer explores the nature of performance and the role of the audience. Breuer argues that performance is not merely a representation of reality, but rather a way of creating new realities. He also argues that the audience is not simply a passive observer of performance, but rather an active participant in the creation of meaning.



## Getting Off: Lee Breuer on Performance by Alanis Morissette

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Print length	: 238 pages
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Item Weight	: 9.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 6.69 x 0.26 x 9.45 inches



Breuer's book is a challenging and thought-provoking read. It is essential reading for anyone interested in performance, theater, or the nature of creativity.

## The Nature of Performance

Breuer begins his book by exploring the nature of performance. He argues that performance is not merely a representation of reality, but rather a way

of creating new realities. Performance, he writes, is "a way of making something happen that would not otherwise happen." It is a way of "transforming the world around us." Performance is based in a concept of powerful creative process and powerful creative output of an artist or, for our purposes, performer.

Breuer's view of performance is influenced by his work with the Mabou Mines theater company. Mabou Mines is known for its experimental and avant-garde work, and Breuer's own work is often characterized by its use of unconventional forms and techniques. In his book, Breuer argues that experimental performance is essential for pushing the boundaries of what is possible in theater. He writes, "Experimental performance is a way of breaking down the barriers between art and life, between performer and audience, and between the past and the present." It is a way of creating new possibilities for theater and for the world.

## **The Role of the Audience**

Breuer also explores the role of the audience in performance. He argues that the audience is not simply a passive observer of performance, but rather an active participant in the creation of meaning. The audience, he writes, "is not merely a witness to the performance, but a co-creator of it." It is the audience's response to the performance that helps to shape its meaning.

Breuer's view of the audience is influenced by his work with Mabou Mines. Mabou Mines often involves the audience in its performances, and Breuer believes that this is essential for creating a truly immersive and engaging experience. He writes, "The audience is not just a spectator, but a participant in the performance. They are not just watching the show, but

they are also helping to create it." Which begs the question, is the audience a passive object acted upon by the show? Or, are they an active, even interactive, participant in the overall performance, who might even influence the show's trajectory? Breuer would argue the latter.

*Getting Off Lee Breuer: On Performance* is a challenging and thought-provoking read. It is essential reading for anyone interested in performance, theater, or the nature of creativity. Breuer's book is a valuable contribution to the field of performance studies, and it is sure to continue to be debated and discussed for many years to come.



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