

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785948403321
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Titolo	Circus as Multimodal Discourse [[electronic resource]] : Performance, Meaning, and Ritual
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012
ISBN	1-283-70614-8 1-4411-0261-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Disciplina	791.3 791.3014
Soggetti	Circus -- Social aspects Discourse analysis -- Social aspects Modality (Linguistics) Multimedia communications Performing arts -- Semiotics Semiotics Visual communication Circus - Social aspects Performing arts - Semiotics Discourse analysis - Social aspects Social Sciences Recreation & Sports
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; HalfTitle; Series; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Introduction: Playing with Fire; 1 Circus Performances as Rituals: Participative Ethnography; Circus online; Circus in the field; The spectator as ethnographer; Circus as ritual; 2 The "Textility" of Circus Acts: Disentangling Cognition and Pleasure; Writing circus: From performance to text; Events and their verbal accounts; Scripts, skills, and algorithms: The birth of a circus act; Description and explanation; Disentangling meanings, emotions, and pleasure: Textility and cognitive malleability; 3 Magic in the Ring

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Sommario/riassunto

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. Bouissac is one of the world's leading authorities on circus ethnography and semiotics and this work is grounded on research conducted over a 50 year span in Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. It concludes w
