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Veils of illusion Belief and disbelief; The mechanisms of miracles and the logic of illusions; A double-edged skill; 4 Horses which Speak, Count, and Laugh; The cultured horse; An equine performance on record; A multimodal dialogic discourse; Themes and variations: A cowboy and his horse; Pragmatics of the "educated" horse act: A biosemiotic perspective; 5 Steeds and Symbols: Multimodal Metaphors; Circus horses: From the steppe to the ring; A semiotic perspective: Making sense of things; The social contract and the birth of the arts; Once upon a time: A play of nature and culture  
 The ascent of the horse Textualizing the horse; Equestrians as cultural heroes; 6 The Staging of Actions: Heroes, Antiheroes, and Animal Actors; A theory of action; The modalities of actions: From doing to making another do; Ironical discourse: A dog act in the semiotic square; 7 Circus Animals as Symbols, Actors, and Persons; In the company of animals; The representation of animals in cultures; Animal agencies: Legal and moral issues; A cultural paradigm shift : Animals as nonhuman persons; 8 Dancing with Tigers, Lying with Lions: Translating Biology into Art; Tigers in the wild  
 The fifth dimension of space From biology to art; The poetics and rhetoric of the cage act; The lion's anger; A master at work; A work of art; 9 Clowns at Work: A Sociocritical Discourse; Clowns unmasked; Clowns at work; Syntax and semantics of chaos: Herbert Marcuse at the circus; Power of the mask; What is a gag and how it works: A conversation; 10 The Imaginary Circus; Romancing the circus; The circus as a phantasm; The ascent of the clown; Circus mystics: The juggler and the funambulist; 11 Ideology and Politics in the Circus Ring; Poetics and politics of the body  
 Erotic circus: The tame and the wild Ideology, politics, and propaganda; The body politic in performance; 12 The Postanimal Circus; A cultural revolution: The animal liberation movement; The new circus: Human, humane, and humanitarian; Circus and subversion: From anticircus to counterculture and activism; The return of the animal?; Conclusion: Pleasures of the Circus: Attraction, Emotion, and Addiction; Truth and deception; The logic of attraction; Information, fear, and empathy; Games, rewards, and addiction; Performance, ritual, and meaning; Bibliography; Index

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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

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