

The Art of the Entertainer Enhancement Materials

The Art of the Entertainer is a very personal piece. Although the first draft was written twelve years ago, it has been a lifetime in the making. Certain scenes and props have their origins in my childhood. In fact, the whole play takes place within the realm of imagination. I guess in many ways that is what it means to be a clown: to view the world through the eyes of a child.

It's funny to think that vaudeville and the music hall permeated my upbringing whether I realized it or not. Old cartoons I watched were heavily inspired by vaudevillian comedy and then there were classic films filled with veteran performers. It is a style that feels like home.

I have a list of performers who have inspired me a mile long, but I'll try to shorten the list to five: Buster Keaton, Stan Laurel, Harpo Marx, Bill Irwin, and Avner the Eccentric. I think a common theme within these five performers is a sense of impish innocence. As stated above, it all goes back to the beginning: the innocence of childhood.

Finally, in the stage version I wanted the audience to participate, to feel safe and play along! The piece was originally meant to introduce audiences to the world of the stage. If you find yourself humming or dancing at home, don't stop! Just sing louder! That way you can join in on the journey! I do hope you enjoy this silly trip onto the stage.

Peace and love to you all!

—Brandt Roberts

Here are some links for your amusement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWEjxkkB8Xs&t=47s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnnyAHiqxWw>