

The Living Human Curiosity Sideshow

Freakery Focus On: 100 Most Popular American Agnostics Bomb ABA Journal Carny Sideshows: Jumping Through Hoops Vibe Adventist Review Curious Persons Satellite Science Fiction Signs & Signals Asgard in America Outdoor Indiana Asgard in America The Return of El Negro Curious Bodies: the Body as Spectacle and the American Body Politic, 1840-1865 Hobbies The Friendly Dickens History of Political Ideas Eye Language Rosemarie Garland-Thomson Wikipedia contributors Tony Gangi Betsy Golden Kellem Sara Ellen Hosey Raoul Granqvist Gundula E. Rommel Gundula E. Rommel Caitlin Davies David D. Yuan Norrie Epstein Eric Voegelin Evan Marshall

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a groundbreaking anthology that probes the disposition towards the visually different giants midgets tribal non westerners the very fat the very thin hermaphrodites conjoined twins the disabled the very hirsute in american history all have shared the platform equally as freaks human oddities their only commonality their assigned role of anomalous other to the gathered throngs for the price of a ticket freak shows offered spectators an icon of bodily otherness whose difference from them secured their own membership in a common american identity by comparison ordinary tractable normal rosemarie thomson s groundbreaking anthology probes america s disposition toward the visually different the book s essays fall into four main categories historical explorations of american freak shows in the era of p t barnum the articulation of the freak in literary and textual discourses contemporary relocations of freak shows and theoretical analyses of freak culture essays address such diverse topics as american colonialism and public presentations of natives laughing gas demonstrations in the 1840 s shirley temple and tom thumb

todd browning s landmark movie freaks bodybuilders as postmodern freaks freaks in star trek michael jackson s identification with the elephant man and the modern talk show as a reconfiguration of the freak show in her introduction thomson traces the freak show from antiquity to the modern period and explores the constitutive political and textual properties of such exhibits freakery is a fresh insightful exploration of a heretofore neglected aspect of american mass culture

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step right up ladies and germs and feast your eyes on the incomparable wonders of a hidden world be astonished amazed disgusted by brazen acts of self destruction that no natural human body should be able to withstand tony gangi professional magician lifelong sideshow devotee and card carrying graduate of coney island s famed sideshow school guides you through the stupendous techniques and proud traditions of this shocking and fascinating realm of entertainment learn the secrets behind breathing fire sword swallowing the bed of nails pounding spikes into the head enter the mysterious worlds of the snake lady the human blockhead and more meet sideshow greats like melvin burkhart and ward hall discover today s dedicated entertainers like todd robbins harley newman tyler fyre thrill kill jill donny vomit the black scorpion and more see what it takes to enter this underground yet welcoming world as a performer features interviews with penn jillette and todd robbins and penn jillette s ode to the sideshow the 10 in 1 monologue as performed by penn teller editors s note not for the faint of heart weak of stomach or easily grossed out so go ahead how can you resist tony gangi a philadelphia native never actually intended to make his living by shoving nails up his nose he left the corporate world to become a professional magician and proprietor of one of the few flea circuses remaining in the world live fleas do in fact perform circus tricks he says they just need to be trained the right way and treated with kindness he s now mastered straightjacket escapes fire eating and napping on a bed of nails he is currently working on his presentation for walking barefoot on broken glass this is his first book he hopes it is not his last

jumping through hoops tells the hidden history of female circus performers who played with and shattered gender stereotypes during the rise of the american traveling circus the circus is full of colorful tales of larger than life personalities such as p t barnum general tom thumb and philip astley the so called father of the modern circus however history often overlooks the

astounding ways that women carved out space for themselves in the circus at a time when women were expected to stay home and defer to men jumping through hoops sets the record straight telling the stories of boundary breaking circus women such as the queen of beauty lavinia warren millie christine mckoy the two headed nightingale and patty astley who should rightfully be remembered as the mother of modern circus the spectacular skills unusual bodies and bold backstories of these female and gender non conforming circus performers who walked on tightropes across waterfalls rode horseback in drag wrestled snakes and performed feats of electrical magic challenged public ideas of what femininity could look like jumping through hoops gives these performers their rightful place in circus history in this deeply researched book emmy award winning circus historian betsy golden kellem deftly explores how the beginning of modern mass media culture changes in technology and transportation and cultural shifts in the united states impacted the circus and how these extraordinary individual circus artists shaped our modern understanding of gender culture and performance in america

thesis m a from the year 2004 in the subject american studies culture and applied geography grade 1 0 humboldt university of berlin institut für anglistik und amerikanistik language english abstract die vorliegende arbeit untersucht die konstruktion von identität in den diskursen der germanisch neuheidnischen bewegung in den vereinigten staaten von amerika erste organisationen des asatru wie die anhänger selbst ihre religion nennen entstanden in den siebziger jahren und sind seitdem stetig angewachsen asatru versteht sich als die indigene religion der europäer distanziert sich dementsprechend deutlich vor christlich geprägten leitkultur der amerikanischen gesellschaft und erscheint dabei doch im gegensatz zu den meisten anderen neuheidnischen strömungen erstaunlich wertekonservativ asatru so meine these reagiert auf die krise der moderne und die daraus resultierende krise westlicher identität indem es ebendiese identität auf grundlage einer diskursiven konstruktion europäischer ethnizität neu definiert die notwendigkeit einer neudefinierung euroamerikanischer identität ergibt sich aus dem anwachsenden druck den die nicht europäischen minoritäten in ihren bestrebungen zur durchsetzung der eigenen kulturellen und politischen interessen auf die vorherrschende europäisch geprägte kultur in den vereinigten staaten ausüben da diese vorherrschende kultur in der tradition der europäischen moderne steht ist die von ihr gestiftete westliche identität geprägt von normen und werten die als absolut und universell gültig definiert sind daher ist die erfahrung einer zunehmend pluralistischen gesellschaft problematisch für die westliche identität asatru scheint seinen anhängern eine lösung dieses problems zu bieten um die qualität dieser lösung aufzuzeigen werden nach einer allgemeinen einföhrung zur amerikanischen asatrubewegung zunächst der sich aus den pluralistischen tendenzen

in der amerikanischen gesellschaft ergebende kulturkonflikt sowie die ursachen und auswirkungen der krise der moderne aufgezeigt darauf folgt eine diskursanalyse zur konstruktion von identität im asatru der schwerpunkt liegt dabei auf der konstruktion von ethnizität welche jedoch vom religiösen diskurs und der konstruktion religiöser identität nicht abzulösen ist integraler bestandteil dieser ethnisch religiösen identität ist eine ethik die in groben zügen ebenfalls untersucht wird abschließend widmet sich diese arbeit der frage nach der einordnung der asatru religion und der von ihr neudefinierten kulturellen identität in die gegenwärtigen politisch kulturellen zusammenhänge der amerikanischen gesellschaft

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el negro was the name given to a southern african man whose body was stolen from his grave and taken to europe to entertain the public although his identity remains unknown he came to symbolize all those murdered excavated and stolen in the name of science and entertainment

you might have read him in class but the victorians read charles dickens like we watch melrose place and the friendly dickens will show you why it is the ultimate pop reference to the dickensian world of shrouded sex and ostentatious death a book that will have you running in delight to dust off your dickens norrie epstein whose the friendly shakespeare was called by the new york times spirited informative and provocative opens up dickens s life and times in all its squalor and glory including his rise to greatness and occasional lapses from grace she considers his works major and minor in decided lively fashion not just reading but reading between the lines was oliver twist s fagin a pederast what made a christmas carol s tiny tim so darn tiny how many of dickens s child characters met an untimely end hint plenty full of humor skepticism and expert opinions with eye catching illustrations plenty of quotes and sidebars on nearly every page you will quickly become a dickens authority even if you ve never read a word

annotation examining the emergence of modernity within the philosophical and political debates of the sixteenth century religion and the rise of modernity resumes the analysis of the great confusion introduced in volume iv of history of political ideas encompassing a vast range of events ignited by luther s ninety five theses this period is one of controversy revolution and partiality despite the era s fragmentation and complexity voegelin s insightful analysis clarifies its significance and suggests the lines of change converging at a point in the future the medieval christian understanding of a divinely created closed cosmos was being replaced by a distinctly modern form of human consciousness that posits man as the proper origin of meaning in the universe analyzing the most significant features of the great confusion voegelin examines a vast range of thought and issues of the age from the more obvious thinkers to those less frequently studied this volume features such figures as calvin althusius hooker bracciolini savonarola copernicus tycho de brahe and giordano bruno devoting a considerable amount of attention to jean bodin voegelin presents him as a prophet of a new true religion amid the civilizational disorder of the post christian era focusing on such traditional themes as monarchy just war theory and the philosophy of law this volume also investigates issues within astrology cosmology and mathematics religion and the rise of modernity is a valuable work of scholarship not only because of its treatment of individual thinkers and doctrines influential in the sixteenth century and beyond but also because of its close examination of those experiences that formed the modern outlook

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