

Annotated Bibliography

Commedia Dell’arte - An Actor’s Handbook

John Rudlin

Routledge London and New York 1994

Rudlin’s book provides invaluable information about all of the stock characters.

Each character is detailed under the following headings:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Significance of Name | • Movement |
| • Status | • Speech |
| • Origin of Costume | • Characteristics |
| • Mask (with photograph) | • Relationships |
| • Props | • Relationship to Audience |
| • Stance | • Plot Function |
| • Walks (with easy to follow descriptions) | |

Activities are also arranged under the headings of

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| • Improvisation Exercises | • Canovaccio |
| • Repertorio | • Sample Dialogue |

The Comic Routines of Commedia del arte

Mel Gordon

This book provides extensive examples of Lazzi divided into categories like:

- Comic Violence / Behaviour
- Food
- Transformation
- Stupidity/ Inappropriate Behaviour
- Social Class Rebellion
- Stage Properties as Lazzi E.g.:

Lazzo of the shampoo

Arlecchino attempts to clean Pantalone’s hair with an overlarge rake

Lazzo of the Tooth Extractor

The Doctor [or Arlecchino disguised as a dentist] fools Pantalone into thinking that rotten teeth are causing his noxious breath. Using Oversized or ridiculous tools, the doctor extracts two or more good teeth from Pantalone’s mouth