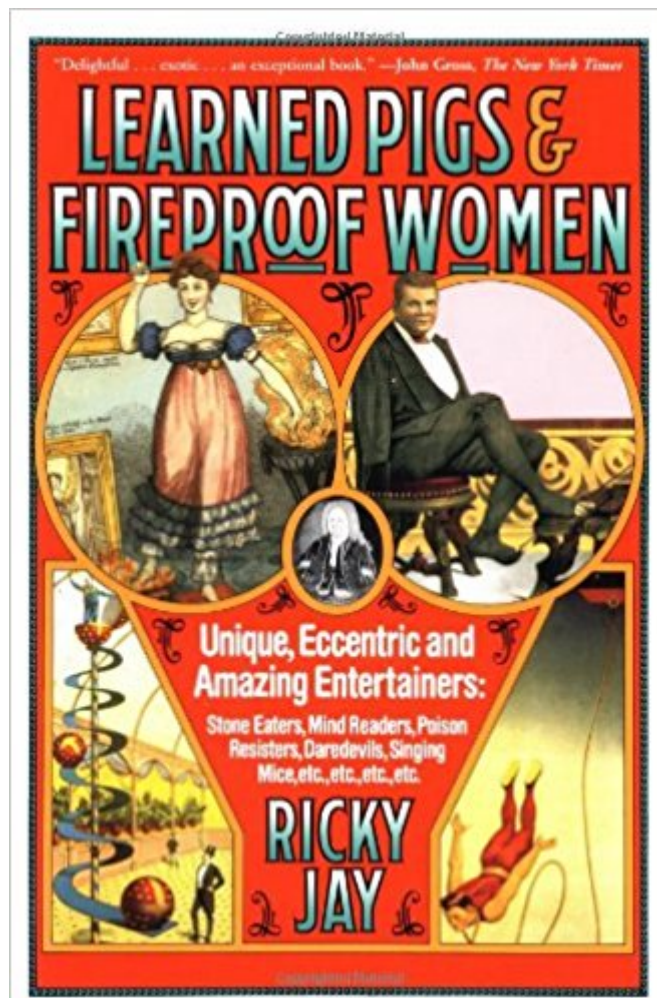




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# Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women: Unique, Eccentric And Amazing Entertainers



## Synopsis

A cult classic and a work of remarkable scholarship restored to print. Ricky Jay is one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists. He is also a most unusual and talented scholar, specializing in the bizarre, exotic, and fantastic side of the human species. The youngest magician to have appeared on television, Jay has become well known for his astonishing stage show as well as for his cameos in such movies as *Glengarry Glen Ross* and, most recently, *Boogie Nights*. Jay's unparalleled collection of books, posters, photographs, programs, broadsides, and, most important, data about unjustifiably forgotten entertainers all over the world made this unique book possible. An investigation into the inspired world of sideshows, circuses, and singularly talented performers, *Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women* is history of the most unusual--and irresistible--sort.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A magician himself, the author offers a history of magicians and other performers, including animals trained to do arithmetic and limbless people able to play musical instruments. PW stated the dozens of illustrations alone "are worth the price of the book." Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA A historical compendium of the world's most bizarre and outrageous entertainers by one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists. Reaching back into history as early as the 16th Century, Jay introduces readers to daredevils, mind readers, talented animals and their trainers, sword swallows, and other wonders of the past. Some have been geniuses, others charlatans, but all

have captured the imagination of their public. Although Jay handles the material unevenly, readers should leave the book with awe of the inventive genius of man, and of the incredible stamina of the human body. This is a delightful book for YAs who have a penchant for the extraordinary. It is full of colorful illustrations, posters, and billboards of yesteryear. Anne Johnson, formerly at St. John's School, HoustonCopyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm one of those gullible people who doesn't want to know HOW it works - I just want to watch it work. Bought this on the advice of several magician friends, and was not disappointed. A wonderful, fun book, well written, and even informative.

A scholar and a practitioner. This book transformed my intellectual life in a small way. I had already known that the blabber about using only two or ten per cent of our brains is an urban legend or worse. Jay takes us into the only world I know where multi-tasking is real. The practitioners all said they were not gifted or smarter. But you must read what it was all about.

I have always had an interest in human oddities and exceptionalism. I purchased this book after reading elsewhere about Matthew Buchinger, who was born without arms or legs yet could write, draw, bowl, play musical instruments and more; and usually better than a person with no limitations. This book details his fascinating story and those of many others with amazing and unusual skills. I found it fascinating. If you have any interest in the odd and unusual as well as exceptional human and animal abilities you will enjoy every page of this book

Wow, this proves humans are capable of the most amazing things.

I really enjoy Ricky Jay's acumen as a storyteller, as much as his brilliant magic skills. This book represents the level of detail and history that accompanies the unusual people and talents that are it's subjects.

This is a very fun book to read, and also informative if you are interested in quirky historical facts. I purchased this copy as a gift for my grandson, who can truly appreciate smart, dedicated pigs and other such traveling circus oddities. They were a product of the era, and it is entertaining and interesting to learn this little bit of history.

## Unique book

Very interesting book about very strange people. Great photos and stories.

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