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Dennis Zacek, Mary Filice
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#2549676 in Books 2016-12-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .42 x 8.50l, #File Name: 1945772077184 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Dennis Zacek, Mary Filice : The Zacek Tapes: Reflections About Theater, Community And Leadership before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Zacek Tapes: Reflections About Theater, Community And Leadership:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A GREAT BOOK ABOUT CREATING GREAT THEATER By Charles Grippio Victory Gardens Theater Artistic Director Emeritus Dennis Zacek is an extraordinary talent who helped Chicago become one of the great theater capitals of the world. With his wife Marcelle McVay and Associate Artistic Director Sandy Shinner, Dennis built Victory Gardens Theater up from a small company with a tiny budget to a multi-million dollar operation that received the 2001 Tony Award for Best Regional Theater. An innovator, Dennis created the Playwrights Ensemble - a collective of fourteen writers, many of whose works, which he first produced, have become staples of the theater repertoire. Long before other artistic directors even thought of diversity, he made the Victory Gardens stage a place of inclusion for lesbians, artists of color, Latinos, Jews, and Christians. Also he brought access to theater to the physically challenged. As if all of that wasn't enough, Dennis has directed more than 250 plays (and still counting), mentored talents including (among the many) William Peterson and Oscar winning screenwriter John Logan, taught classes, and raised a family. Now this gifted gentleman is sharing his insights and advice to theater professionals and audiences alike in this must own book THE ZACEK TAPES. It's a series of interviews with him

conducted by Mary Filice, Associate Professor of the Business and Entrepreneurship Department of Columbia College. Instead of chapters, Ms. Filice shrewdly has organized his thoughts into topics, a convenience for the reader who wants to skip around and glean knowledge about specific material. And what a wide range of fascinating topics: "Shavian Fathers," "Victory Gardens Theater," "The 12 Lures of the Actor," "The Actor's Job," "Courage," "The Audition," "Comedy," "Directing," "Tennessee Williams," "Harold Pinter," "Diversity and Inclusion," and "Leadership." Space limitations prevent me from delving deeply into all of these, but here are just a few of the highlights: "Auditions" --- Yes, there are numerous books on auditions for actors, but, out of his experiences as both an actor and director, Dennis presents a totally fresh approach to this necessary part of making theater. Mandatory reading. "The 12 Lures of the Actor" --- Many people want to be actors because they dream of fame and fortune. But in THE ZACEK TAPES we learn there are 11 other reasons to act, many of which actors themselves do not realize. "Comedy" --- As someone who writes comedy myself, I found Dennis's thoughts on its creation to be among the most succinct I've ever read. "Tennessee Williams" -- Okay, we don't usually associate Williams with comedy, but this first hand account of a day spent in the company of the author of "The Glass Menagerie" is downright hilarious. "Directing" --- Again, mandatory reading for anyone who wants to direct or who wants to be directed. "Courage" ---- Beneficial to all artists. Come to think of it, the advice contained in this topic works for just about any aspect of life. If you are in the theater or if you just want to know how brilliant theater is created, you must read THE ZACEK TAPES. (Full Disclosure: This past summer I had the honor and privilege of working with Dennis Zacek on two world premieres --- THE BEN HECHT SHOW, written and performed by James Sherman, and CONFESSIONS OF A P.I.M.P., written and performed by four time Tony nominee Andre DeShields. Dennis, James Sherman, and I are now in pre-production of a revival of Sherman's comedy classic THE GOD OF ISAAC for summer, 2017. So I've been lucky enough to learn from him first hand. This book gives everyone else access to his knowledge.) 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful, joyful and indispensable By Robbo Z. I've been teaching theatre to young people for many years now. In my classes, I'm going to make this book part of the curriculum. Hearing how Dr. Zacek became a part of the theatrical firmament in Chicago is a fascinating and illuminating journey of self-belief and talent. And hearing how Chicago theatre grew, from a man who was there at the beginning and who was such an integral part of that growth, was eye opening and so very informative. I loved what was examined in the pages ... his wise words when actors don't get the same laugh on night two that they got on night one, what he saw as the differences between Chicago and New York actors, at least back when he was starting, and maybe even now. Though not a simplistic book, the format of it's chapters, from auditioning, to how directors see the actor, to why actors act, to wonderful personal stories, makes the entire enterprise easy to absorb and effortless to enjoy. In the interests of full disclosure, Dr. Zacek was my teacher at Loyola in the eighties. He was the most brilliant, human, supportive man with whom I have ever worked and he influenced my own work with young people in ways that he might not ever imagine. Suffice it say, he's a Shavian grandpa to many. (You don't know what I mean yet, but if you read it you will understand the beauty of what he gave to so many). And reading the stories, even though they were told three decades after my working with Dennis, was thrilling, because, not shockingly, he sounds exactly the same on the page, thirty years later, as he did in person, when he taught his students. He's still as deeply thoughtful, analytical, philosophical, funny, and ACCESSIBLE as he ever was. A wonderful read for anyone who loves theatre and even for those who aren't in the game.

A series of interviews with Tony Award-winner Dennis Zacek, a seminal figure in the Chicago Theater Movement, based on his experiences as artistic director, producer, director, actor, designer, teacher and student. Dennis Zacek is Yoda. He's done everything in the theater, he knows everything about theater, and he has mentored generations of theater artists. If you can't have the honor and pleasure of being with him, reading this book is the next best thing. - James Sherman, playwright

About the Author Dennis Zacek, Ph.D., is Artistic Director Emeritus of Victory Gardens Theater and Full Professor Emeritus of Theatre at Loyola University. Currently Mr. Zacek is Resident Director of the Fringe Theater in Key West. He has directed more than 250 productions in his career and has received numerous awards including the 2011 Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Ellen Stewart Award for Career Achievement in Professional Theatre, the 2001 Regional Theatre Tony Award presented to Victory Gardens Theater, the 2014 League of Chicago Theatres Artistic Leadership Award, the 2005 Jeff Award for Distinguished Achievement, and inclusion in Utne Readers Movers and Shakers: The 40 Most Exciting Soulful Artists of 2003.