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Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words



Synopsis

Marcel Marceau, the world's most famous mime, enthralled audiences around the world for more than fifty years. When he waved his hand or lifted his eyebrow he was able to speak volumes without ever saying a word. But few know the story of the man behind those gestures . . .

Distinguished author Leda Schubert and award-winning artist Gerard DuBois bring their own artistry to this gorgeously written and illustrated picture book biography. *Monsieur Marceau* is a Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of 2012

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This has to be a work straight from Leda Schubert's heart. Writing with the economy of poetry and the tenderness of a love letter, she presents the life of famed mime Marcel Marceau to young readers who may have missed the chance to see him perform his miracles of imaginative movement. Artist Gerard Dubois has matched the beauty of the text with stunning art work. Somehow he has captured the sadness of the eyes above the brilliant smile on Marceau's white-painted face. It's been a long time since I have seen such a beautiful new book. (And it doesn't hurt at all that on the last page of the book Rob Mermin, founding director of Circus Smirkus, offers a selection of clever, entertaining instructions to youngsters who may want to try miming themselves.)

"Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup." So warns Marcel Marceau, the amazing mime who entertained audiences for more than fifty years. In this picturebook biography, Leda Schubert presents a moving (all puns intended), poetic narrative of the master mime Marcel Marceau. As a youth, Marceau admired and imitated silent film star Charlie Chaplin, himself a genius in mime, slapstick and visual comedy. World War II intruded on his studies, where as a teen he became a war hero, where he joined the French resistance. He led hundreds of Jewish children from an orphanage in France to safety in Switzerland and also helped American soldiers. After the war ended, Marceau created Bib, his most famous sad-eyed and red-lipped alter ego. As Bib, the mime "walks against the wind, but there is no wind" in search of adventure. Bib traveled the world, astonishing audiences who could all understand his language: "Neither laughter nor tears are French, English, Russian, or Japanese." Leda includes an afterward that offers more details on the life of the mime as well as advice for young readers on how they can become mimes. Award-winning artist Gerard DuBois uses oil, offering textured and haunting images of the "actor without words," presenting the many ethereal movements of the mime across the double-page spreads. A wonderful biography!

Marcel Marceau was most famous for his stage work as a mime. This book tells us about that and much more. This book gives details of his work with the French Underground including leading children to safety as well as helping American parachutists remain undercover in French monasteries. The end of the book includes activities for kids to try to practice mime. Most kids today will have no idea who Marceau is, this book will change that!

One might think this is a book without words, by the title; but, the book tells about the business of being Marcel Marceau. The pictures are good. Makes a good family book.

This year was the year for fantastic picture book biographies and Monsieur Marceau was one of my favorites. Leda Schubert tells, in simple words, and Gerard Dubois depicts, in quiet pictures, the story of a man with no words. It's all the details of the story---how Marceau loved to talk when he was not performing, the story of Marceau leading Jewish children to safety during the war---that the book draws its strength.

Although it's a picture book- very well written and packed with facts! Loved it! Learned about his

helping children during the Holocaust, and also about his name change.

The text and images are beautiful and added to my understanding of the life and artistry of Marcel Marceau. I bought two copies to share with children.

Noble, smart, humorous and charming. Marceau took up his craft to save children and this brings his humanity to life.

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