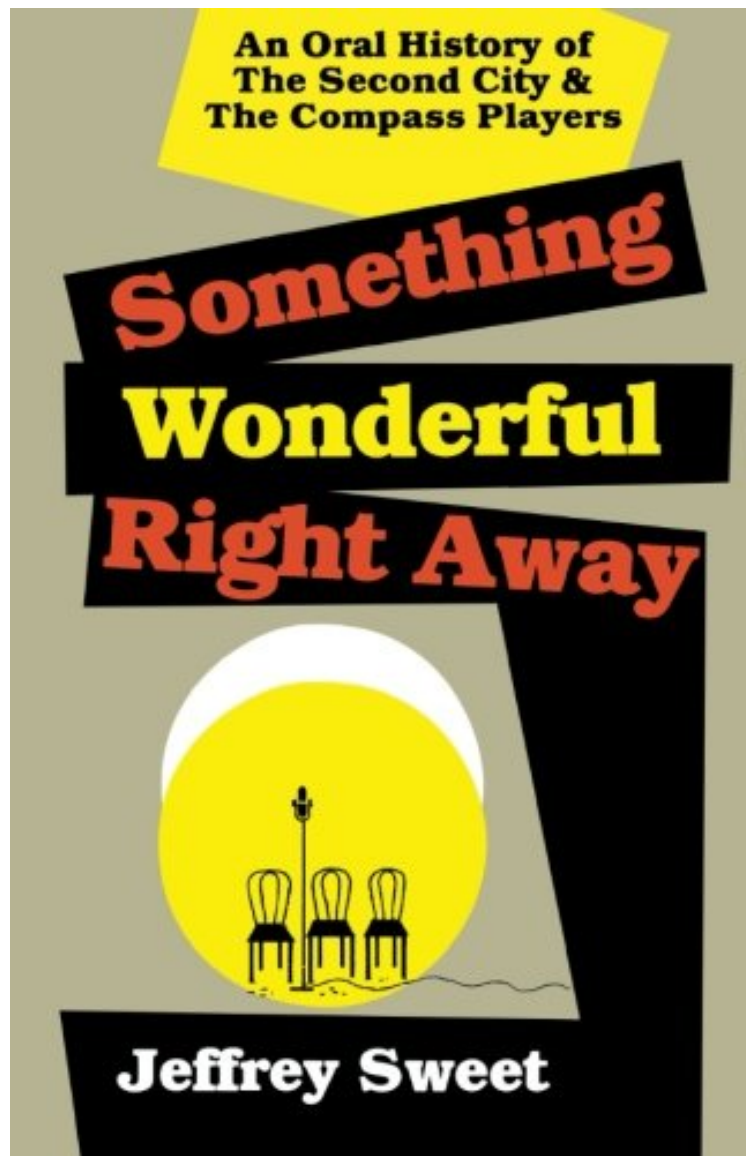


(Download) Something Wonderful Right Away: An Oral History of the Second City and the Compass Players

Something Wonderful Right Away: An Oral History of the Second City and the Compass Players

Jeffrey Sweet

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Jeffrey Sweet : Something Wonderful Right Away: An Oral History of the Second City and the Compass Players before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Something Wonderful Right Away: An Oral History of the Second City and the Compass Players:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for Improv history and perspective - but not an instructional guide
By Rum Junkie
I have watched many live Improv shows, and was able to learn the basics from "The Improv Trick" in Los Angeles, and then took classes and joined a short for troop at "Pan Theater" in Oakland. I was looking for some material about Improv, and chose this book to get a historical perspective on the formation and development of the Improv method. I would not call the book an easy read, but it is thorough. The groupings of the interviews seemed strange when I started reading, but by the end I realized it was sort of the "purists" (the founders, the art-form crowd, the "zen" of Improv), then the "splinters" (where can Improv take us?), then the "commercials" (how can we make a watchable profitable act out of this), and then the "look back" (What worked, what failed, what were the flaws of the "greats")
This is not an instruction guide, but it has the basic principles, and some really good pointers for how you can use those to "act" better, to "write" better, and to work with other performers - in any setting. If you want to "grasp" Improv, this is a great jumping off point and I think you will be better for it. If you ever want to teach or lead Improv, this book would also help.
If you just want basic, tips, structures - there are better books. But if you want some History, if you want so real stories of the people shaped by the movement, this book is worth the effort.
As far as my rating - I find the book tough to rate. Its probably a 3 due to its slow read and limited scope, but assuming you get this book looking for history and concepts, it delivers.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must have for improvisers.
By The Consumer
If you are taking part in improve this is one of the great books about the beginnings of the art form.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Mic Mic MicSCTV rules

Prominent alumni (Mike Nichols, Joan Rivers, Robert Klein, among others) bring theatrical improvisation to life, with all the vitality, the power and the exuberance - the satire and spontaneity - that they made famous and that launched their careers. "An important book about the most important American theatrical endeavor since the Group Theatre. Plus, it's fun to read". -David Mamet