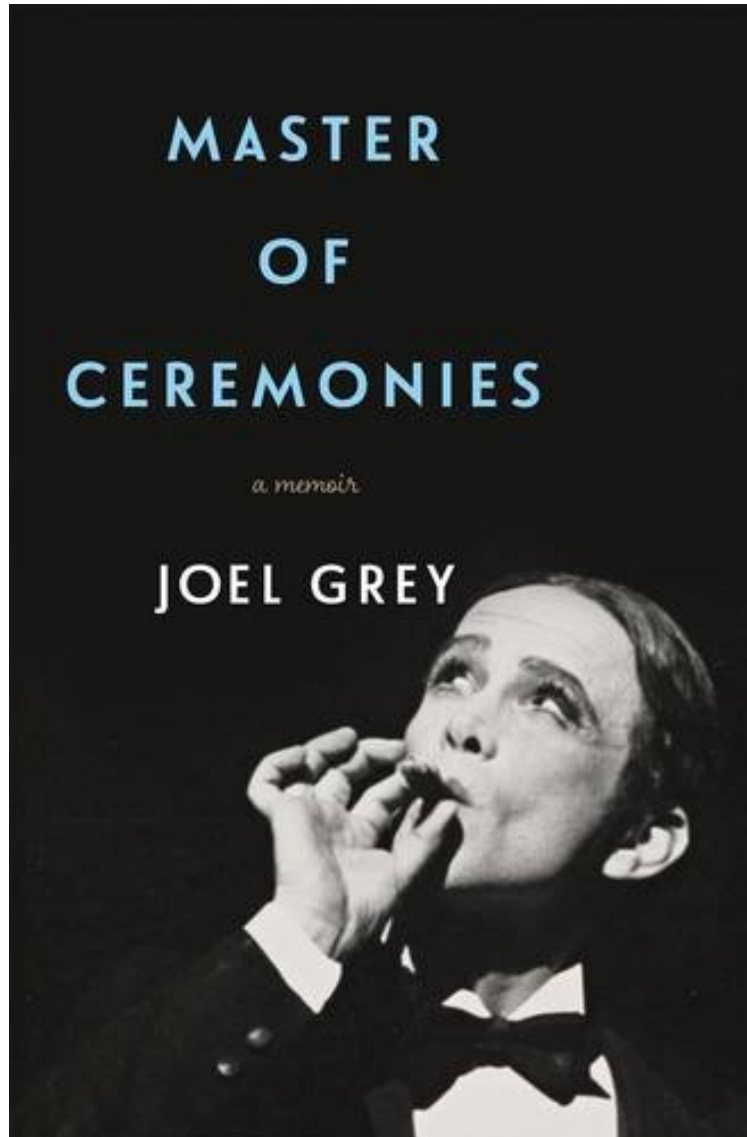


[Read now] Master of Ceremonies: A Memoir

## Master of Ceremonies: A Memoir

Joel Grey

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#204257 in Books Grey Joel 2016-02-16 2016-02-16 Format: Deckle Edge Original language: English PDF #1 244.35 x 24.64 x 6.60l, .0 #File Name: 125005723X256 pages Master of Ceremonies A Memoir | File size: 53.Mb

**Joel Grey : Master of Ceremonies: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Master of Ceremonies: A Memoir:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. It's tough to hide yourself...By Jill Meyer It's tough to hide yourself from yourself as actor Joel Grey seems to say in his new memoir, "Master of Ceremonies". Grey, now 83, has "outed" himself in print, after living as a gay man all his life. He tells his story in an engaging manner and there's a lot

for the reader to think about. Joel Grey - born Joel Katz in Cleveland - came from an entertainer father and mother who loved being related to talent. Their marriage was long and didn't seem particularly happy; his father was loving to his sons, while his mother was of a mercurial temperament. Both came from Jewish immigrant families and both sides of the family moved from Cleveland to Los Angeles when Mickey Katz struck it big in show business. Joel had been performing in local Cleveland productions and continued his career in fits and starts in Los Angeles. Eventually, he, too, was employed as a Broadway star and acclaimed film and TV actor. He was one of the few actors who won both a Tony (Broadway) and Oscar (film) for the same role - The EmCee in "Cabaret". But Joel Grey struggled with personal issues for most of his life. He was gay or bi-sexual. Long attracted to men, he knew early on he wanted to marry a woman and raise a family. Indeed, he married Jo Wilder and they had two children, before divorcing after 20 or so years of marriage. He had had relationships with men before marriage, but stopped during his marriage. Or so he told himself; in truth, his trysts with other men, mostly, like him, married, were not in his mind, "cheating". Having sex with men was not like having sex with women during a marriage, he rationalised. Since his divorce in the early 1980's, Grey has explored his sexuality and finally come out as a gay man. "Master of Ceremonies" is equally about Grey's personal and work life. They could not always have been easy to combine, but Joel Grey seems to have reached the age of 83 with a certain personal peace and acceptance. That's nice to read. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the very best and most fascinating memories that I have read in ages. By L. Phillips One of the very best and most fascinating memories that I have read in ages. It makes you want to analyze it fully. I read it from beginning to end in one day. I was totally unable to put it down. Everything that can be said has already been said by other reviewers, so I will just say that "I loved it". It was so engrossing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I very much like his talent. By James Fox Miller This memoir is very candid. It is certainly not a puff piece. I very much like his talent, so I was predisposed to liking him. After reading the book, I still do and have a much better understanding of him as a person. If I have a criticism, it would be that I did not learn much more about him professionally as I have seen most of his major performances some multiple times, and still listen regularly to a album of his extremely well constructed, well paced night club show.

Joel Grey, the Tony and Academy Award-winning Master of Ceremonies in Cabaret finally tells his remarkable life story. Born Joel David Katz to a wild and wooly Jewish American family in Cleveland, Ohio in 1932, Joel began his life in the theater at the age of 9, starting in childrens theater and then moving to the main stage. He was hooked, and his seven decades long career charts the evolution of American entertainment - from Vaudeville performances with his father, Mickey Katz to the seedy gangster filled nightclubs of the forties, the bright lights of Broadway and dizzying glamour of Hollywood, to juggernaut musicals like Cabaret, Chicago, and Wicked. Master of Ceremonies is a memoir of a life lived in and out of the limelight, but it is also the story of the man behind the stage makeup. Coming of age in a time when being yourself tended to be not only difficult but also dangerous, Joel has to act both on and off the stage. He spends his high school years sleeping with the girls-next-door while carrying on a scandalous affair with an older man. Romances with to-die-for Vegas Showgirls are balanced with late night liaisons with like-minded guys, until finally Joel falls in love and marries a talented and beautiful woman, starts a family, and has a pretty much picture perfect life. But 24 years later when the marriage dissolves, Joel has to once again find his place in a world that has radically changed. Drawing back the curtain on a career filled with show-stopping numbers, larger-than-life stars and even singing in the shower with Bjork, Master of Ceremonies is also a portrait of an artist coming to terms with his evolving identity. When an actor plays a character, he has to find out what makes them who they are; their needs, dreams, and fears. Its a difficult thing to do, but sometimes the hardest role in an actors life is that of himself. Deftly capturing the joy of performing as well as the pain and secrets of an era we have only just started to leave behind, Joels story is one of love, loss, hard-won honesty, redemption, and success.

"Simply smashing," - The New York Times Book Joel's story comes straight from his heart right into yours. Carol Burnett A very honest and moving telling of a very complicated and talented life. By the end, it's inspirational. Larry Kramer We all know that Joel Grey has lived an extraordinary life--from nightclubs to Broadway to the silver screen--but who knew he could write about it with such artistry? At once a riveting, heartbreaking memoir, thrilling show business tell-all and a portrait of a changing time and nation, MASTER OF CEREMONIES is the remarkable story of a living legend. Gay Talese "As refreshingly honest look back at an actor's life, regrets and all." - People Magazine Joel Grey's memoir charts his voyage of discovery. Clearly, he needed to write this book and it is authentically compelling. He knew when we resurrected the little Emcee I had seen as a member of the occupation troops in Stuttgart in 1951 that he was a tragic figure and, because he invested him with compassion, along with the worst taste and hideous desperation, he became one of the most iconic figures in musical theatre history. No one has ever matched him. No one ever will. Read Master of Ceremonies! Hal Prince The memoir of a magical man should be a magical book, and Master of Ceremonies is fully the match of its author's many enchantments. Joel Grey has written a candid and courageous book about a life of rough but enviable richness. Happy is the man who has this story for his own. Leon Wieseltier In Master of Ceremonies, Joel Grey succeeds in portraying his own anecdote- and secret-rich life with the

same sensitivity, wit, and chutzpah as those of his most memorable characters; but where, on stage and screen, so often through the years he has dazzled us by the putting on of masks, here he dazzles us by the removal of them. The result is a literary performance not to be missed. John Burnham Schwartz, Author of *The Commoner and Reservation Road*"As readers of *Master of Ceremonies* will discover, Greys life story has its own dark undercurrent, namely his decades-long struggle to accept his sexuality." - *The New Yorker* The diminutive, unforgettable creator of the emcee in *Cabaret* both on stage and on screen writes frankly of his diverse career, exacting mother, and public embrace of his homosexuality...An honest, eloquent, memorable autobiography. - *Kirkus* "He was a successful nightclub entertainer who didnt want to be a nightclub entertainer. He was ready to give up show business when he got the role of a lifetime playing a sleazy nightclub entertainer. And he was (and is) a gay man who says unequivocally that the love of his life was a woman. Such are the complexities of the life of Joel Grey, recounted with candor and charm in his new memoir, *Master of Ceremonies*." - *The Advocate* About the Author JOEL GREY is a Tony, Golden Globe, and Oscar-winning actor, producer, and director. In his seven decades in entertainment, Joel has acted in over a dozen Broadway productions, over twenty films, and countless television appearances. Along with his work on the stage and screen, Joel is a renowned photographer. He lives in New York City.