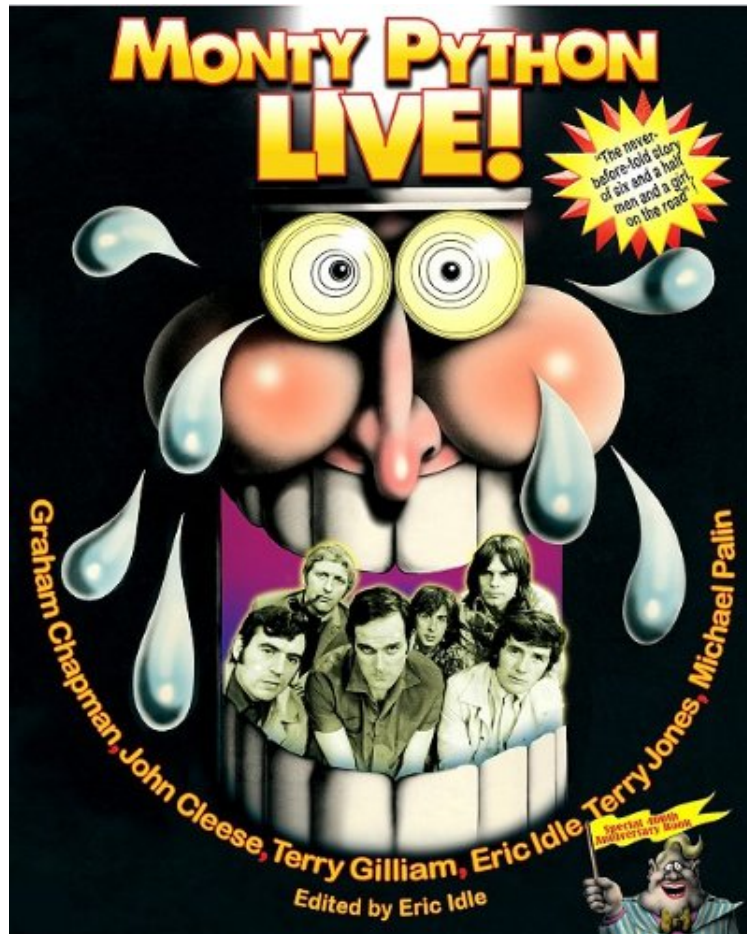


(Free pdf) Monty Python Live!

Monty Python Live!

Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin
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Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin : Monty Python Live!
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monty Python Live!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very nice and worthy book. By Say No More 67 With 1969 considered as the birth year of Monty Python, this 2009 publication celebrates their 40th anniversary. The book was edited and has a nice and funny foreword (sorry, foreplay...) by Eric Idle, which seems to be the life and soul in fueling the burning flame of Monty Python nowadays with new contemporary productions from all sorts. Idle's decision to concentrate in this album on the live performances of the group was IMHO wise, because it differentiates this book from other available ones, and also lets all the other contributors (MP members with Neil Innes Carol Cleveland) focus on one aspect of the group's history. As for the book's content: The first 40 pages, titled Pythons on the Road, cover their tours beginning with Coventry (1971), Canada UK (1973), London - Drury Lane (1974), New York (1976) and Hollywood Bowl (1980). It's arranged in short paragraphs containing recollections from the above mentioned contributors. The next part contains a full 40 page transcript of 'Live at the Hollywood Bowl', presented

very nicely with lots of pictures (presumably all taken from the video, but still in good quality.)I could finally enjoy the full text of Mr. SMOKETOOMUCH's blitz monologue, since on the live sketch, Eric Idle's short gasps for air were hardly long enough for me to process the salvo of words. No subtitles track or attentive listening could cope with Idle's speed. What a great performance.Next, come nearly 30 pages of "In Their Own Words" where, specially for this book (bar GC), each member (again with Neil Innes and Carol Cleveland) contributes a few pages of "What I remember". The Graham Chapman story is the nearly complete chapter 13 from his 1980 A Liar's Autobiography and this part of the book ends with a few pages from Michael Palin's Diaries 1969-1979: The Python Years titled "Python on Broadway" (1976).A short chapter that I'll name in a moment follows...The last part of the book "Occasionally Performed Pieces" contains the text of the following sketches:Anagrams (Now I can safely spell the preceding chapter: "How to be a Great gnikcuF Actor")Bee Keeper; Children's story; Butcher's Shop; Hungarian Phrase Book; The Dirty Fork; The Death of Mary Queen of Scots, Hearing Aid, Ken Shabby; Michael Miles Game Show; Minister Falling to Pieces; Secret Service; Cocktail Bar; Undertaker; Blackmail; Courtroom ; RAF Banter and Silly Election.The book has no table of contents or index, but given it's format it didn't bother me.Roughly about 25% of the book contains memories and recollections from MP members while the other 75% consists of old sketches, so anyone interested mainly in new stuff might feel disappointed.Lots of color pictures and artwork presented on high quality paper and good binding (hardcover version).Overall a worthy purchase, especially at the currently very low price of both new and used copies.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. And now for something complacently reminiscent...By J.D. GuinnessWhile it's great to finally have the script of Monty Python's complete stage show in a glossy, gorgeously illustrated full-colour format (up till now the only way to sample it was via the highlights album "Live at Drury Lane" or the similarly bits-and-pieces movie "Live at the Hollywood Bowl") the book is still a disappointment when you remember the promise, on the back cover, of its being an "active collaboration" between all the surviving Pythons. It's easy to interpret the words "active collaboration" as meaning "We have reunited to do new material" but once again this is not quite the case.I believe this is the fifth time the same old TV sketches have appeared in print and the fourth time Python have gotten together to tell the same old stories. To be fair, it's supposed to be a sort of history book, and, admittedly, they've added a few pages of fairly amusing new material (as well as adding Graham Chapman in the form of extracts from his autobiography, which is a nice touch) but, these days, "more" from Python always ends up feeling like less.John Cleese, Eric Idle, and Michael Palin's reminiscences do succeed so far as warmth and thoughtfulness are concerned but are deliberately unfunny, in what seems like a wasted opportunity. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones, by contrast, try too hard to be funny and end up seeming distracted and remote, like this is all a terrible nuisance and they'd really rather be, and in fact are, doing something else right now, thank you very much, so push off.Python's comedy, in this, their post-mortem, let's-celebrate-every-five-years-with-new-nostalgic-merchandise-phase, has become irritatingly self-referential rather than, well, creative. Even Idle's editing, so scrupulous in the 1970s, is relatively sloppy here, with typos and uninspired transitions. I even detected some very-slightly revised material from the Pythons' records and even the records' funny liner notes, for heaven's sake.The kick of the original Monty Python's Flying Circus TV show was its comedic transitions; e.g.: the live-action concept of flapping, flying sheep leading to animations of aeronautic sheep. In the 1970s the Monty Python books and records were gorgeously and imaginatively produced and designed, continuing that surreal steam-of-consciousness that distinguished the TV shows, and as a result were rich in content, truly hilarious, delightful, creative, provocative, and immensely rewarding to fans, and were read and re-read and played and re-played (in those pre-home video days!!) with enormous amusement, enthusiasm, and affection. That was then.Now that Python or their handlers have decided that every single little item they produced is a distinct, individual gem, the material has been re-packaged and re-packaged ad nauseum with nary a thought to that old bizarre cohesiveness (for lack of a better or smoother phrase) that really distinguished Python (Count me as a fan who didn't like Spamalot).Like a lot of you baby boomers, Monty Python were a deep, much-loved influence on my life (To this day, as I go about my business, at least two Python quotes will spring up, quite unbidden, in my mind: Streuth!) But you have to wonder: if Python can't be bothered any more with half-hearted efforts like "Monty Python Live!", should we?I like my copy and intend to keep it but that's only because I sold all my previous Python collection at the same time I sold my previous house. This book is all very glossy but slightly too-familiar. Caveat emptor.To paraphrase Graham Chapman's Colonel, it may finally be time to stop Monty Python...for being too silly.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A big old five stars.By The Wizard of OzI am a massive Python fan, and it would take a whole heap to get me to give anything to do with Python less than five stars. This book had more than enough for me to love it enough to give it a big old five. Beautifully published and presented, it covers, as the title suggests, Python's live shows that took place mostly in the 1970s. This book really is a treasure and ensures, along with other books of its kind regarding Python, that the comedy team's brilliance will never be forgotten, even after the last of the remaining five members are long gone.

A Private Word to the Reader You are currently holding in your hand well, actually, God knows what you are holding in your hand, you are after all adults, and what you hold in your own right hand is entirely up to you you may, after all, have this in your left hand and something else in your right hand and you will probably have held

far worse things in both your hands than this . . . and hey! . . . No! . . . Stop that! Miss Johansson, I said, "Please hold my calls . . ." Honestly. Hollywood! Anyway, what you are about to read--or have read to you--is a new book that is the first active collaboration of the Monty Python chaps for many, many years. In fact, the first book written and produced by the Pythons, themselves, since 1979. No, they are not all dead. Okay, some of them have been a bit quiet recently, and one or two have DNR notes by their bedsides, but the point is five of them are still technically alive and that, if not exactly cause for rejoicing, may well be cause for a new book. And this is it! So hold whatever you like in your right hand while you read this book. Because laughter is jolly good for you. Even if it can make you blind. --The Pythons