



The Insanity Hoax

Judith Schlesinger, PhD

“This book should be required reading for creative and performing artists, their teachers, their therapists, and anyone who loves them. Not to be missed!” — Eric Maisel, PhD, author of *The Van Gogh Blues: The Creative Person's Path through Depression*

Written in lively prose with a minimum of psychobabble, *The Insanity Hoax* provides an intriguing journey for general readers as well as scholars. The book is also a provocative supplemental text for numerous classes, from 12th grade through graduate school, including:

Psychology ♦ Counseling ♦ Creativity ♦ Jazz Studies ♦ Music Therapy
Visual & Performing Arts ♦ Sociology ♦ Social Work ♦ Literature ♦ History of Culture & Ideas
Anthropology ♦ Media ♦ Communications

The Insanity Hoax has four parts, each with two chapters that explore a different aspect of the myth. Everything is backed up by 25 pages of references, extensive notes, and an index:

Part One. Grabbing at Clouds

1. Creativity: Blind Men and Elephant Parts
2. Elastic Madness: One Size Fits All

Part Two. Greeks to Freaks

3. Melancholy Becomes Romantic
4. The Rise of Righteous Rumor

Part Three. Building on Sand

5. Premature Victories
6. Blunt Tools and Slippery Slopes

Part Four. Eternal Flames

7. Awesome Powers
8. They Must Be Crazy

The Insanity Hoax is the perfect spark for igniting lively discussions about

- The nature and interaction of creativity and genius
- Using critical thinking to evaluate social myths and expert pronouncements
- How stereotypes are born and maintained over time
- The ongoing controversy around psychiatric diagnosis and the DSM
- The social and practical realities of a creative life

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