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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