

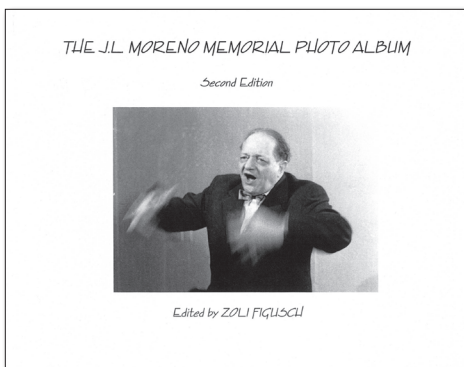
Psychodrama Third Volume is available in print and e-book versions.

Print: <<http://www.lulu.com/shop/jacob-l-moreno-and-zerka-t-moreno/psychodrama-third-volume/paperback/product-20677170.html>>

E-book: <<http://www.lulu.com/shop/jacob-l-moreno/psychodrama-third-volume/ebook/product-20836354.html>>



Elizabeth Synnot, Trainer Educator Practitioner (TEP) and Sociodramatist, is the executive director of Psychodrama Australia (PA), Director of Training at the PA Brisbane Campus and the immediate past president of the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Psychodrama Association (AANZPA). She runs a practice as a family therapist and leadership team role trainer. Elizabeth can be contacted at <diz@eis.net.au>.



The J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album (2014)

Edited by Zoli Figusch

Published by the North West Psychodrama Association, UK

Reviewed by Penny Beran

The front cover image of *The J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album* is dynamic. There is JL, hands in a

blur, eye gaze steady, mouth open as if using the voice of command as an assured producer. Published in 2014 in the 125th year since J.L. Moreno's birth, this book complements other biographical publications of JL and psychodrama. The author, Zoli Figusch, provides a succinct summary of his *raison d'être* on the back cover, noting that the album is the result of his passion for psychodrama and his more recently found interest in book and photo editing. He aims to capture some of the key moments of Moreno's life, work and legacy through a pictorial narrative interspersed with reminiscences and testimonies. What he has produced is a 50-page landscape format photo narrative with captions, in a loosely chronological sequence beginning with JL's parents. The photos are interspersed with written contributions, ranging in length from 300 to 1,500 words, drawn from JL's

own writings and those of his offspring, spouses, lovers, and companions in psychodrama and the group therapy networks.

As I look at the photos in the book and search the faces of JL, his parents and his offspring, I am drawn to similarities in their eyes. I see them being together doing everyday activities: leisurely sharing a meal, travelling, enjoying a visit to a park, cuddling their children, playing with kids in the garden. Yes, there are studio shots of JL as well, static and posed, yet his vibrant energy, though contained, is still evident. These shots contrast vividly with images of JL mounting the stage and directing with ease from a semi-recumbent position, images that are almost sculptural in their solidity.

I am particularly pleased to see included in this volume an image of Regina Moreno and read her own words, as well as those of her mother, Florence Moreno (nee Bridge, later Guncher). JL and Florence were married from 1938 to 1949, with their daughter Regina born in 1939. Florence was a collaborator with JL in the development of the spontaneity theory of child development, participating in discussions with him and incorporating her observations of Regina's development. I was therefore somewhat surprised by her 1994 testimonial, which is included in this book. It clearly shows the esteem in which Florence held JL and her regard for him as a genius: "I would not ever measure up to his greatness and was in no position to influence or change any of his theories".

Jonathan Moreno's 2014 contribution to the book reveals his experience of embarrassment and delight when in public with his father during their European travels. His other written entries range from the always appreciative, to the conflicted, to the down-to-earth reality of JL as a difficult man in his later years. In understanding JL, Dalmiro Bustos considers narcissism and geniality, concluding that "Narcissus drowned in a lake. Moreno expanded the lake and created a sea where all of us could fish". I am deeply moved by this way of relating to JL.

The memorial photo album also contains Anne Ancelin Schützenberger's testimony to the International Psychodrama Congress in London in 2014, when she was 95 years old. In it, she expresses her respect and affection for JL with a smorgasbord of anecdotes and reflections, both personal and professional. Anne died in 2018 a few days short of her 99th birthday, having maintained a fine continuity with JL since their 1951 meeting.

One of the book's strengths is that it follows the practice of psychodrama and role theory by presenting the person emerging from many roles¹, sharing experiences, being in encounter with others. We could possibly view these images and written contributions as mirrors of JL's social and

1 p.II in Moreno, J.L. (1994). *Psychodrama First Volume: Psychodrama & Group Psychotherapy* (Fourth Edition with New Introduction). American Society of Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama, McLean, VA.

cultural atom, from family, to psychodrama congress, and beyond. Unfortunately, page numbers are not included, which makes it difficult to reference a photo or quote as a resource or when communicating with a friend or colleague about the album's content.

The J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album might at first glance present as something to flip through voyeuristically. Allow it to sink in with longer gazing and reflection on the selection of images and writings by the various contributors. Here is JL in all his complexity: man, human being, father, husband, colleague, teacher, learner, producer, theatre-maker, therapeutic intervener...

The J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album is available in a print version.

<<http://www.lulu.com/shop/zoli-figusch/the-jl-moreno-memorial-photo-album/paperback/product-22848367.html>>



Penny Beran is an Affiliate Associate member of the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Psychodrama Association (AANZPA), joining the psychodrama community in 2002 via the Sydney AANZPA Conference and subsequent training programme. She stays connected through attendance at open nights, conferences, practice sessions, occasional journal contributions and has been active in the New South Wales region. She aims to bring psychodramatic awareness to her involvements with local community groups, and sustaining and growing relationships with family, friends and psychodrama buddies. Penny can be contacted at <penny.beran@unswalumni.com>.