



# Accidentally On Purpose

*By John Strasberg*

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An exploration into the mysteries of creativity in life and art. Powerfully written of life, families, fathers, mothers, sons, of the price of talent and the burden of fame.

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## Accidentally On Purpose By John Strasberg Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

The author is the son of Lee Strasberg (a major force in the history of the Actors Studio), brother of Susan (the actress) and a would-be theater guru in his own right. His book is a combination autobiography ("My parents were too busy with their own dreams of success... for me") and a how-to guide to creative acting, his answer to his father's famous "Method," which, he says, only taught actors to think like actors. Lee Strasberg is presented as a selfish martinet who came alive only at the Studio. The author's mother is seen as a neurotic who sacrificed her independence for, first, her husband, then, for Marilyn Monroe. Monroe appears briefly (she gave the author a car when he was 18) as do?even more briefly?Franchot Tone (whom the author would have preferred as a father), John Garfield, Al Pacino, Geraldine Page and various Actors Studio hangers-on. Strasberg also touches on his two marriages, his work at the Film Board of Canada, his acting schools in France and Spain, his experiments with LSD and his Reichian therapy. In much greater detail, he reprises scenes he performed in class at the Studio and?with less enthusiasm?plays presented by the Studio theater company in the early 1960s and by his own company, The Real Stage, in the late '70s. This highly egocentric performance ends with a discussion of the "natural laws of creativity," which owe a lot to Wilhelm Reich. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

This impressionistic collage includes memories of Lee Strasberg, John's father; an autobiography of the struggle to find a life and a career; an artistic/philosophical manifesto ("What I have learned from the theater"); and an acting text ("Here's how to do"). On every page, the book circles through all these elements without much transition or any apparent structure. It is in desperate need of an editor to sort it out. Lee Strasberg's shadow looms over it like a ghost who has not been sufficiently laid to rest. The result is too emotionally charged to work as an insider's view of the Actor's Studio. There may be a good book in this, and there is certainly an important book in John Strasberg. But this is not it. Of interest solely to theater scholars.?Thomas E. Luddy, Salem State Coll., Mass.

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From the Back Cover

Based on his own experience and the teachings of his celebrated but distant father, Lee, Strasberg defines the talent of becoming real in a role. He surveys the traditional partition between life and theatre and urges us to make it a dynamic living membrane through which vital elements may pass. John Strasberg has written his own intensely personal story about his father's work and the Strasberg dynasty. It is a painful odyssey during which he relives the often demanding role he played as son to a man who was the central father figure to a generation of American actors.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Betty Walsh:**

Here thing why this specific Accidentally On Purpose are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. Accidentally On Purpose giving you information deeper and in different ways, you

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