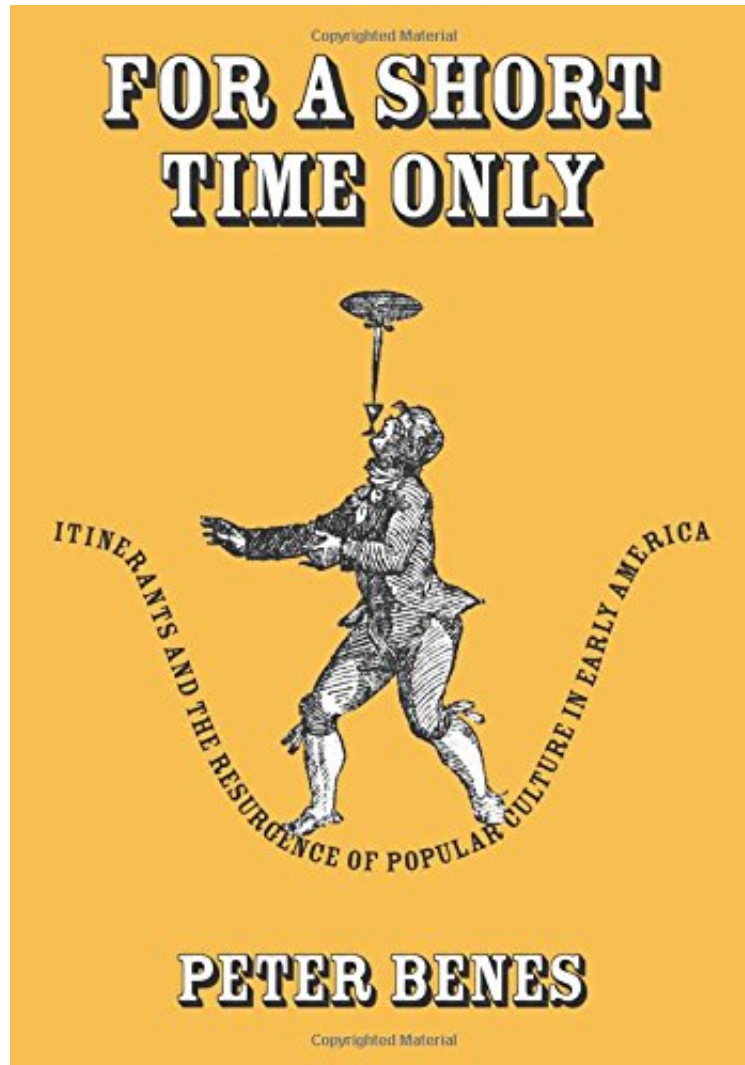


(Free) For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America

For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America

Peter Benes

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#147960 in Books 2016-07-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.30 x 1.60 x 7.20l, #File Name: 1625341997528 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Peter Benes : For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America:

By the 1740s, colonists living in North America began to encounter scores of itinerant performers from England and

Europe. These show peopleacrobats, wire dancers, tumblers, trick riders, painters, dancing-masters, waxworks proprietors, healers, and singing and language teachersbrought novelty and culture to remote areas. Advertising in newspapers, they attracted audiences with the hook of appearing "for a short time only."In this richly illustrated and deeply researched book, Peter Benes examines the rise of early American popular culture through the lives and work of itinerants who circulated in British North America and the United States from the late seventeenth through the early nineteenth century. Although they were frequently reviled as quacks and absconders by many provincials, these transients enjoyed a unique camaraderie and found audiences among high- and lowbrow alike. Drawing on contemporary diaries, letters, reminiscences, and hitherto inaccessible newspaper ads, broadsides, and images, Benes suggests why some elements of Europe's carnival and folklore traditions failed to gain acceptance in American society while others flourished brilliantly.

"This is an original and scholarly study, based on an impressively deep knowledge of a cultural world that we have lost, and so a book with wide potential appeal."Peter Burke, author of *A Social History of Knowledge II: From the Encyclopdie to Wikipedia*"For a Short Time Only is a masterful work of research."David Jaffe, author of *A New Nation of Goods: The Material Culture of Early America*About the AuthorPeter Benes is director of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife in affiliation with Historic Deerfield, Inc., in Deerfield, Massachusetts. His previous books include *Meetinghouses of Early New England* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012), winner of the 2014 Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize of the Vernacular Architecture Forum.