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SHELF LIFE: Lee Strasberg, Delia Ephron, Gypsy Rose Lee, Children's Theatre and More

By Judy Samelson

In this month's column about current theatre-related books, we launch a recurring feature — a glimpse at what's on the nightstands of your favorite stars. Who's reading what? Check it out.

### **The Lee Strasberg Notes**

Edited by Lola Cohen

Published by: Routledge

Publication Date: March 15, 2010

List price: \$24.95 paperback (also available in hardcover);  
232 pages

The late Lee Strasberg, co-founder of The Group Theatre in the '30s, director of the Actors Studio and this country's leading proponent of "Method" acting, was — and remains — a major force in theatre in America. His teaching revolutionized the way in which actors could train, resulting in some of the profession's most remarkable practitioners, such as James Dean, Kim Hunter, Geraldine Page, Paul Newman, Al Pacino, Marilyn Monroe, Julie Harris, Dustin Hoffman, Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson. The list goes on and on. Strasberg's teaching legacy lives on at the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute, and now for the first time notes of his original teachings have been compiled and edited in a book by Lola Cohen, an acting teacher at both the Institute and at NYU's Tisch School of the Art's Acting Program. According to publisher notes, "the book is based on unpublished transcripts of Strasberg's own classes on acting, directing and Shakespeare. It recreates his theoretical approach, as well as the practical exercises used by his students." Featured in this volume are Strasberg's teachings on training and exercises, characters and scenes, directing and the Method, and Shakespeare and Stanislavski. The book, which also includes a Preface by Anna Strasberg and Foreword by Martin Sheen, is both a valuable resource for the serious student of acting and directing as well as a fascinating look at the art for the curious civilian.

