

Muse Sick

a music manifesto in fifty-nine notes

Ian Brennan • Foreword by John Waters

Grammy-winning music producer, Ian Brennan's seventh book, *Muse-Sick: a music manifesto in fifty-nine notes*, acts as a primer on how mass production and commercialization have corrupted the arts. Broken down into a series of core points and actions plans, *Muse-Sick* is a concise and affordable pocket primer follow-up to Brennan's two previous music missives, *How Music Dies (or Lives): Field Recording and the Battle for Democracy in the Arts* and *Silenced by Sound: The Music Meritocracy Myth*.

Popular culture has woven itself into the social fabric of our lives, penetrating people's homes and haunting their psyche through images and earworm hooks. Justice, at most levels, is something that the average citizen might have little influence upon leaving us feeling helpless and complacent. But pop music is a neglected arena where some change can concretely occur—by exercising active and thoughtful choices to reject the low-hanging, omnipresent commercialized and pre-packaged fruit, we begin to re-balance the world, one engaged listener at a time.

In fifty-nine concise and clear points, Brennan reveals how corporate media has constricted local culture and individual creativity, leading to a lack of diversity within "diversity." *Muse-Sick's* narrative portions are driven and made corporeal via the author's ongoing field-recording chronicles with widely disparate groups, such as the Sheltered Workshop Singers. Marilena Umhoza Delli's striking photographs accompany and bring to life each tale.

As John Waters says: "I didn't think it was possible to write a shocking book about music anymore. But Brennan has."

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Ian Brennan is a Grammy-winning music producer who has produced three other Grammy-nominated albums. He is also the author of six books and has worked with the likes of filmmaker John Waters, Merle Haggard, and Green Day, amongst others. His work with international artists such as the Zomba Prison Project, Tanzania Albinism Collective, and Khmer Rouge Survivors, has been featured on the front-page of the *New York Times* and on an Emmy-winning *60 Minutes* segment with Anderson Cooper reporting. Since 1993 he has taught violence prevention and conflict resolution around the world for such prestigious organizations as the Smithsonian, New York's New School, Berklee College of Music, the University of London, UC Berkeley, and the National Accademia of Science (Rome).

John Waters is the writer and director of twelve films.

ACCOLADES

"Ian Brennan's *Muse-Sick* is a passionate, thought-provoking chronicle of traveling beyond the mainstream to listen to unheard music created by the unsung."

—Professor Maureen Mahon (NYU), author of *Right to Rock: The Black Rock Coalition and the Cultural Politics of Race and Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll*

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