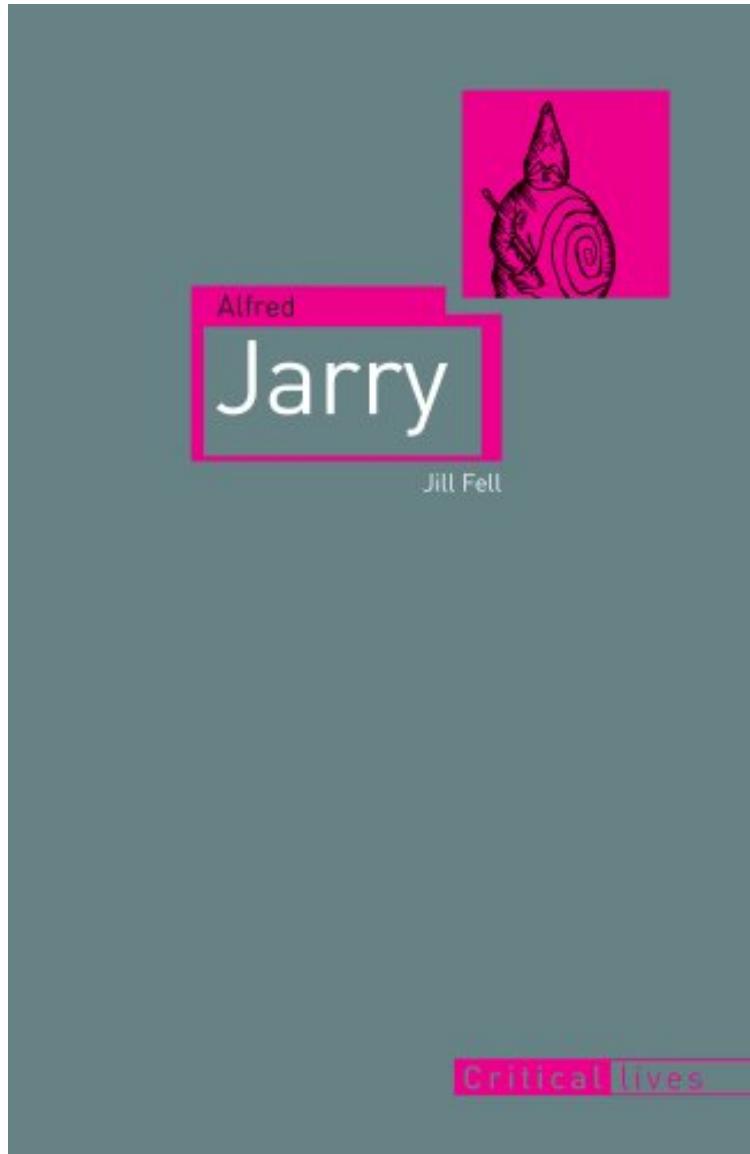


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## Alfred Jarry (Critical Lives)

*Jill Fell*  
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**Jill Fell : Alfred Jarry (Critical Lives)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alfred Jarry (Critical Lives):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Alfred Jarry ( Reaction Books )- Critical LivesBy Vootee1When it comes to Alfred Jarry, Jill Fell is my favorite historian. Her work is scholarly, and a pleasure to read. I was familiar with Roger Shattuck's writing on Jarry, and enjoyed that a lot, too. But, Jill Fell reveals tremendous data regarding Jarry's life and influences. I have not found anyone who writes as well on Jarry. Any artist, or student of art history, will benefit from this book. I've also read some of Fell's other book on Jarry, " Alfred Jarry An Imagination In Revolt.

Terrific.

Alfred Jarry's creation of the monster-tyrant Ubu was a watershed in theatre history: his play *Ubu Roi* (whose origins lie in his mercilessly ridiculed former schoolmaster) on the Paris stage in December 1896 brought him instant notoriety. This legendary event is set at the heart of Alfred Jarry, balanced with other achievements that this multi-talented and influential writer crammed into his short life, among them his self-invented science of pataphysics. The reader is steered through a minefield of Jarry anecdotes, tracing his childhood years in northwest France to Paris, where he rapidly made his reputation as a poet, playwright and social commentator. Jarry - surely the most memorable writer-bicyclist of the fin de siècle; also played a significant role in 1890s book design and was acquainted with an extraordinary cast of avant-garde characters, among them Gauguin, Rachilde, Wilde, Beardsley and Apollinaire. The quarrels that punctuated Jarry's life, the impulsive extravagances, and the chronic addiction to alcohol that drained his meagre resources, together form the backcloth to this portrait of an obsessive writer committed to his craft, undeterred by his worsening circumstances. Jarry's Spirited life and inventions clearly emerged as both model and caution to many of his successors in twentieth-century theatre, art and literature, and this new biography will inform and delight readers wishing to learn more about a fascinating and wholly unconventional individual.

"Jill Fell economically indicates the salient qualities of Jarry's multifarious writings, suggests various possible intertextual connections and highlights his gift for literary transposition of visual art. She fires our interest in his semi-autobiographical novels, notably *Le Surmacirc;le*, a high-velocity tale of sexual marathons and mecanomorphic sporting prowess."