

# [PDF] Gesundheit!: Bringing Good Health To You, The Medical System, And Society Through Physician Service, Complementary Therapies, Humor, And Joy

Patch Adams, Maureen Mylander - pdf download free book



## Books Details:

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Author: Patch Adams, Maureen Mylande  
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## Description:

**From Library Journal** Patch Adams, the movie starring Robin Williams, was a warm, humorous introduction to a very unusual man. Unfortunately, this audiobook does not provide any of the humor or warmth of the movie. Instead, Adams presents his manifesto for curing the ills of the medical profession and society at large. The abridgment is certainly long enough to get the main points across; the unabridged version gets tedious, and Arte Johnson's narration becomes grating and monotonous. We all know the medical profession in this country has problems. Adams's ideas for resolving them are as wide-ranging and, at times, as eccentric as he is. Ideas about bringing humor and joy to everyday life seem reasonable. However, it is hard to imagine doctors treating patients for free and not carrying malpractice insurance. For libraries with large alternative health sections. ATheresa Connors, Arkansas Tech. Univ., Russellville  
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**Review** The Universal movie soon to be released as "**Patch Adams**" starring **Robin Williams** was born as a book called "*Gesundheit!*" published by a small Vermont house and written by a doctor who dresses as a clown, doesn't charge his patients and told the architect designing his new health center in West Virginia to "make it silly," with trap doors, eyeball-shaped exam rooms and chandeliers to swing on. How did such a project find its way to print? And how did it get to Universal?

According to publisher **Ehud Sperling**, who started Inner Traditions 23 years ago and is just now enjoying his first Hollywood sale, "*Gesundheit!*" was written at the suggestion of one Josh Mailman of the philanthropic Mailman family from New York, who met Patch Adams at an ersatz-hippie celebration called the Rainbow Gathering. Mailman thought people would want to read about this 6-foot, 5-inch ponytailed man who called himself "a pie in the face of the American medical establishment"--his goal is free medical care for all--and how he came to hold his unorthodox views. Mailman introduced Adams to Sperling, who found him a coauthor, **Maureen Mylander**, and a book was born. That was in 1983.

The movie deal took place at least 10 years later, at a meeting of the hip entrepreneur invitation-only Social Ventures Network, where Sperling and Mailman met up by chance with "M\*A\*S\*H" co-star **Mike Farrell**, who had heard of Patch Adams at the time of "*Gesundheit!*'s" publication. Farrell wanted to produce the project. He optioned the book via **Al Zuckerman's** Writer's House for what Zuckerman characterizes now as a steal, made a pitch to Universal and secured the interest of comedy director **Mike Shadyac** ("*Liar, Liar*"). "Everyone wanted Williams," reports Sperling, "because it was an ideal vehicle for him, but no one wanted to get their hopes up."

But the clown in Adams appealed to Williams. What about the height discrepancy? "Williams is shorter, but he's very funny," Sperling says. There has been talk at Universal of donating a portion of the box office to Patch Adam's Gesundheit Institute, which is more than \$4 million short of the \$5 million needed to finish work on the grounds and building, but according to Sperling, nothing has happened yet on that front.

(LOS ANGELES TIMES Sunday November 1, 1998)

"Patch Adams's book ought to be required reading for patients, doctors, and ordinary mortals of all kinds. It will help us rediscover the true meaning of medical care, and it will help to heal the health care system itself. I have learned from Patch the courage it takes to be different and to reveal your wounds: behind his clownlike persona lies a great deal of wisdom, and it often falls to the court jester to speak the truth that those in power need to hear."

(Bernie Siegel, M.D., author of Love, Medicine and Miracles)

"At last Patch Adams, M.D. has put on paper his vision of patient-centered health care . . . a vision that has inspired so many over the years. Patch's 'crazy dream' is, in reality, the root of what good health care should be all about and too often isn't. Any health care professional who reads *Gesundheit!* will come away with a renewed sense of mission and joy about what they do."

(Rick Wade, Senior Vice President, The American Hospital Association)

"If a wacky West Virginia doctor's dream of building a freehospital comes true, he'll have a small Vermont publishing house to thank."

(Olivia F. Gentile, Rutland Herald)

"This book is an enjoyable, easy read that's ideal for those interested in a new view of health."

(New Times, Oct 2005)

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