

Temporary Cover



**MARKING TIME**  
**Between the sacred and the profane,**  
**the quest for new rituals**  
 Stéphane Crête

**Properly celebrating life's passages, big and small.**

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What is a ritual? How do you become an officiant? When can we mark a life passage? What elements are necessary for this kind of initiative? What are the pitfalls to be avoided? With over 10 years of experience in this rapidly growing field, Stéphane Crête answers these questions with intelligence, humour, and sensitivity. He also discusses the elements to consider when the time comes to incorporate rituals into our lives, a rewarding and creative approach, but with many pitfalls (watch out for magical thinking, indoctrination, confusion between rituals and therapy!). He intersperses his comments with a number of charming anecdotes and profound reflections on the mystery of life, the reenchantment of the world, and the role of a “sacred profane” in our great search for collective meaning.

Symbolic acts, community bonds, creators of order and poetry rituals are markers of time. Recognizing the big and small passages of life, honouring them and celebrating them makes us feel closer to our humanity, reminds us that we are not alone in living through these stages – which are sometimes ordeals. And what if rituals could make us better human beings?

**STRONG POINTS**

- An easy-to-understand, inspiring and secular approach, likely to interest a large readership.
- Reflections and information from an experienced practitioner, who has been teaching ritual work for over a decade.
- Theoretical content punctuated with stories and outlines of rituals to adapt.
- A clear, intelligent and kindly look at spiritual ideas, sometimes presented elsewhere in an esoteric or disembodied way.
- A unique and artistic perspective on these practices, from a man of the theatre.

*A transdisciplinary artist, author, man of the theatre, ritualist and performer, Stéphane Crête has been as much at ease performing for the general public as in experimental theatre for more than 30 years. In conjunction with his acting career, he has been teaching ritual work for a decade.*