

Recent Performing Arts - December 2019

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Plum Blossom on the Far Side of the Stream : The Renaissance of Jiang Kui's
Lyric Oeuvre with Facsimiles and a New Critical Edition of The Songs of the
Whitestone Daoist / Yuanzheng Yang

Hong Kong University Press, Hongkong 2019

428p.

9789888390823

\$ 103.42 / HB

With this book, Yang Yuanzheng has produced what will long be regarded as a ground-breaking milestone in the voluminous scholarship on Jiang Kui (1155–1221). Based in part on his 2011 discovery of a major new source of Jiang's work, Yang employs close textual reading and editorial interpretation of this text, augmented by meticulous examination of other material, to tease out an important and innovative explanation of why lyric songs enjoyed such a remarkable renaissance in the eighteenth century, a popularity that has continued through the present. Yang attributes the original revival of Jiang's works to Qing dynasty oppression of the southern Chinese elite and points to an increasing sense of nostalgia as the reason for their enduring popularity.

Plum Blossom on the Far Side of the Stream's accomplishment is to draw on work from many sub-disciplines—early Chinese song forms and their notation, the literary and political movements of early modern China, codicology, and iconography—and to make fresh contributions to these areas as well. This book reflects a unique breadth of scholarship: in addition to lucid argument regarding the reception of Jiang's work, important facsimiles of three major manuscripts, five colour plates, and an audio CD are also included.

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Sino-Indonesian Performance and Public Display: Minority Stages / Josh Stenberg
(Series Ed)

University of Hawaii Press, USA 2019

xvi, 258p. ; 22 b&w illustrations, 3 maps.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical references

9780824876715

\$ 68.00 / HB

600 gm.

- 1.Ethnic theatre – Indonesia.
- 2.Chinese – Indonesia – Social life and customs.
- 3.Performing arts – Indonesia.

Minority Stages: Sino-Indonesian Performance and Public Display offers intriguing new perspectives on historical and contemporary Sino-Indonesian performance. For the first time in a major study, this community's diverse performance practices are brought together as a family of genres. Combining fieldwork with evidence from Indonesian, Chinese, and Dutch primary and secondary sources, Josh Stenberg takes a close look at Chinese Indonesian self-representation, covering genres from the Dutch colonial period to the present day.

From glove puppets of Chinese origin in East Java and Hakka religious processions in West Kalimantan, to wartime political theatre on Sumatra and contemporary Sino-Sundanese choirs and dance groups in Bandung, this book takes readers on a tour of hybrid and diverse expressions of identity, tracing the stories and strategies of minority self-representation over time. Each performance form is placed in its social and historical context, highlighting how Sino-Indonesian groups and individuals have represented themselves locally and nationally to the archipelago's majority population as well as to Indonesian state power.

In the last twenty years, the long political suppression of manifestations of Chinese culture in Indonesia has lifted, and a wealth of evidence now coming to light shows how Sino-Indonesians have long been an integral part of Indonesian culture, including the performing arts. Valorizing that contribution challenges essentialist readings of ethnicity or minority, complicates the profile of a group that is often considered solely in socioeconomic terms, and enriches the understanding of Indonesian culture, Southeast Asian Chinese identities, and transnational cultural exchanges.

Minority Stages helps counter the dangerous either/or thinking that is a mainstay of ethnic essentialism in general and of Chinese and Indonesian nationalisms in particular, by showing the fluidity and adaptability of Sino-Indonesian identity as expressed in performance and public display.

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Music and Dance in Eastern Africa: Current Research in Humanities and Social Sciences / Kahithe Kiiru & Maina wa Mutonya (Ed)

Twaweza Communications Ltd. Kenya 2018

144p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789966028754

\$ 40.00 / null

300 gm.

Through the study of music and dance, this volume deals with East African urban and popular cultures. It takes a multidisciplinary angle to address the control and contest of entertainment from the colonial to the postcolonial periods, also showing how much music and dance are deeply political, as they both reflect and shape the relations between citizens and with the state.

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