

Theatre of Nepal and the People Who Make It

Theatre of Nepal and the People Who Make It is the first work to offer a comprehensive exploration of Nepali theatre to readers outside Nepal. On a journey of discovery from the geographical expanse of the metropolis of Kathmandu to numerous and diverse far-flung regions of this Himalayan country, and from ancient times to the present, this book charts the history of Nepal's formal theatre and sheds light on its connection to the shifting political and social conditions of Nepal.

Drawing on extensive fieldwork, the scholarship in this work is based on interviews and performance observations, on primary sources and rare ancient texts, on the work of Nepali historians and critics, and on the artistry of those who struggled and sacrificed to present theatre in Nepal. The author profiles individual theatre makers and narrates personal stories of kings and commoners, of people who, often in spite of adversities, continued to dramatize their hopes, fears, principles, and priorities through theatrical means. Unearthing the lineage, legacy, vitality, and essential role of theatre within the supple manifestations of Nepali culture, it invites readers into the ephemeral world of the plays, people, and politics that have given shape to theatre in Nepal. A living portrait emerges of this enigmatic country and her dedicated artists.

Making an important contribution to the study of Nepal and Asian theatre, it will appeal to scholars and students of cultural studies, South Asian theatre and performance, as well as to general readers, as it illuminates a hitherto unknown quality of engagement.

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To the theatre artists of Nepal
 who act and write
 direct and dance
 sing and sign
who light the imagination with the fire of their passion
 and strive
 in spite of everything
 to illuminate the darkness
 and show the way—the better way
I dedicate this book,
 with deep gratitude and respect,
 to those who,
 in response to the question
 ke garne?
 make theatre



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