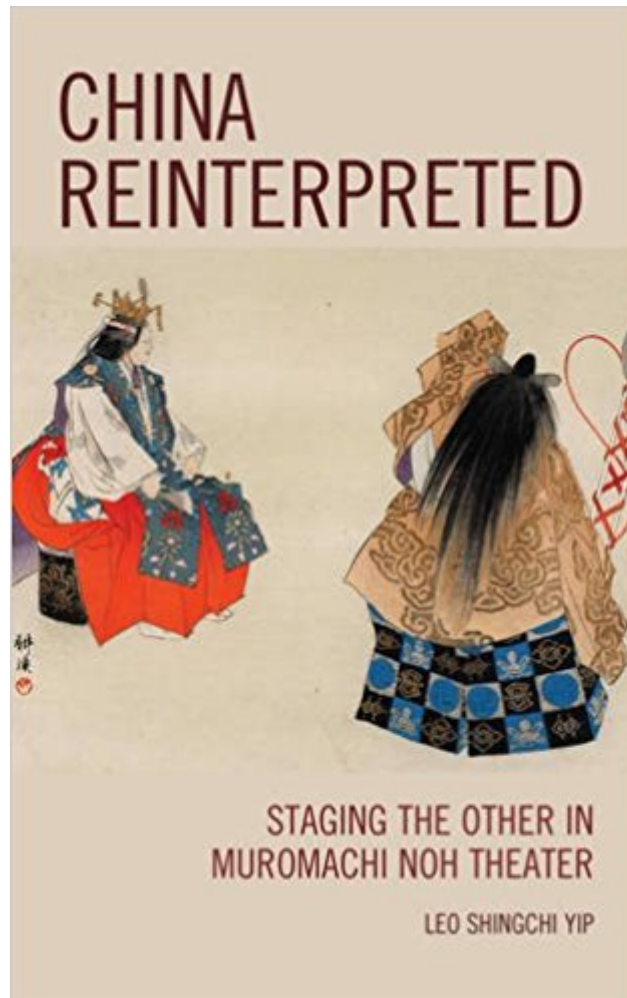




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China Reinterpreted: Staging The Other In Muromachi Noh Theater



Synopsis

China Reinterpreted is the first comprehensive study on the representation of Chinese figures and motifs in Muromachi Japanese noh theater. Given that China had a strong influence on Japanese culture from the sixth to the early seventeenth centuries, research on Japanese reception of Chinese culture abounds. This book examines how noh theater integrated earlier reception of Chinese culture in various disciplines to produce its reinterpretation of China and Chinese culture on stage. Centering on a group of noh plays that features Chinese characters and motifs, China Reinterpreted explores not only the different means and methods of adaptation, but also the intricate (re)construction of diverse and complex images of China. This study situates the selected Chinese plays in the context of the dramaturgy and artistic conventions of noh, as well as the sociopolitical stances and artistic preferences of the audiences, and thus highlights the aesthetics, cultural, and sociopolitical agendas of noh theater of the time. By analyzing the various images of China (Japan's cultural Other) staged in Muromachi noh theater, China Reinterpreted offers a case study of the representation of the Other in an intra-Asia context.

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