

## A History of Japanese Theatre

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**From Cambridge University Press : A History of Japanese Theatre** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Japanese Theatre:

Japan boasts one of the world's oldest, most vibrant and most influential performance traditions. This accessible and complete history provides a comprehensive overview of Japanese theatre and its continuing global influence. Written by eminent international scholars, it spans the full range of dance-theatre genres over the past fifteen hundred years, including noh theatre, bunraku puppet theatre, kabuki theatre, shingeki modern theatre, rakugo storytelling, vanguard butoh dance and media experimentation. The first part addresses traditional genres, their historical trajectories and

performance conventions. Part II covers the spectrum of new genres since Meiji (1868–), and Parts III to VI provide discussions of playwriting, architecture, Shakespeare, and interculturalism, situating Japanese elements within their global theatrical context. Beautifully illustrated with photographs and prints, this history features interviews with key modern directors, an overview of historical scholarship in English and Japanese, and a timeline. A further reading list covers a range of multimedia resources to encourage further explorations.

'... a massive undertaking and a much-needed addition to current scholarship on Japanese theater ... this is a wonderful overview of a rich theatrical world, a book with something for both specialists and generalists ...' C. Lanki, *Choice*'  
*A History of Japanese Theatre* edited by the kyogen scholar Jonah Salz is a comprehensive reference book covering the development of the major classical, modern and contemporary theatres in Japan ... Working with a team of eight contributing editors and fifty-eight individual contributors, Salz has produced a diversely situated guide to theatre in Japan that is more comprehensive than any previous volume of this kind ... *A History of Japanese Theatre* is a considerable achievement. It features detailed yet succinct discussions on the key forms and periods of theatre and, through interludes, it opens the reader to diverse commentaries and reflections. It offers key examples and discussions of representative works that expand our understanding and will be helpful in teaching. I especially enjoy the diversity of approaches that offer a way to think about history in the plural.' Peter Eckersall, *Forthcoming Asian Theatre Journal*  
There have been numerous articles and books on Japanese theatre, but this is the book to own. Even if Japanese theatre is not an individual's area of research, the reader will value this book's interesting presentations of the development of performance, and the relationship between performance and society. If Japanese theatre is one's primary research area, the reader will be delighted with the depth and breadth found in *A History of Japanese Theatre*.' Deidre Onishi, *Theatre Topics*  
About the Author: Jonah Salz is Professor of Comparative Theatre in the Department of International Studies at Ryukoku University, Japan. As director of the Noho Theatre Group (established 1981) he works with noh and kyogen actors to interpret texts by Shakespeare, Yeats and Beckett, successfully touring the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Avignon Theatre Festival, and throughout the US and Japan. A programme director for Traditional Theatre Training, he organises an intensive programme to teach noh, kyogen and nihonbuyo dance to Japanese and foreign artists and scholars. He has published numerous articles and translations as a leading scholar of kyogen comedy and Japanese interculturalism and has reviewed theatre and dance performances for three decades for English newspapers and monthly magazines in Japan.