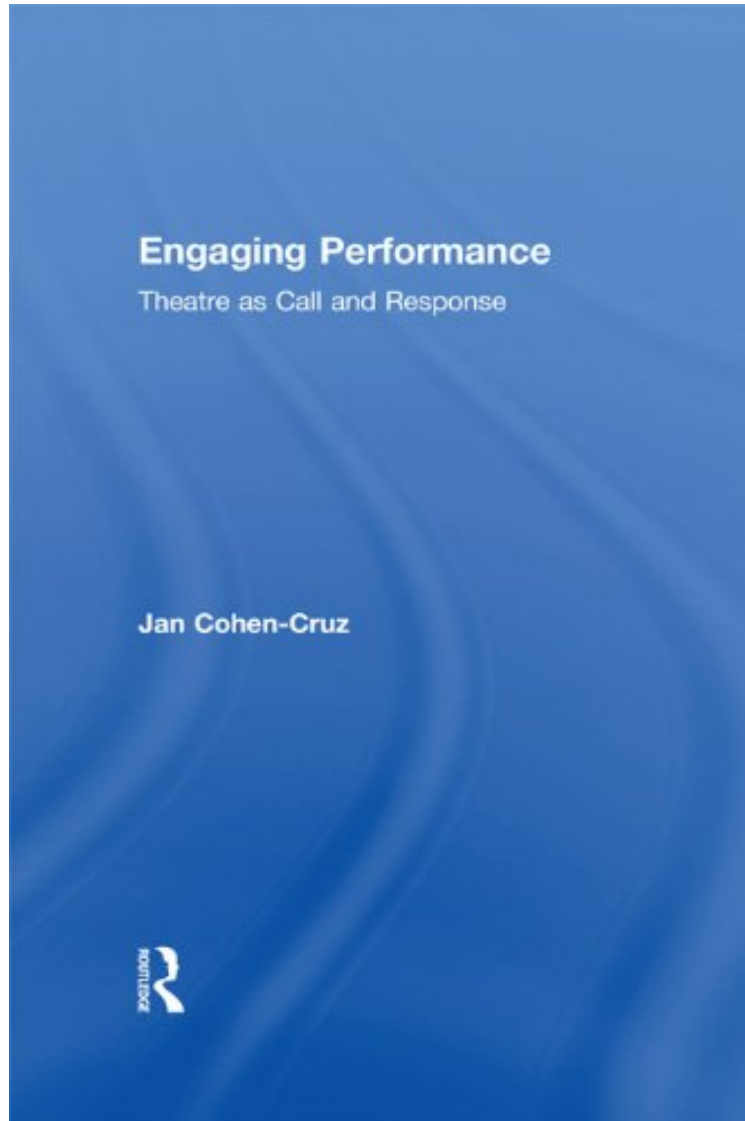


[PDF] Engaging Performance: Theatre as call and response

Engaging Performance: Theatre as call and response

Jan Cohen-Cruz

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Jan Cohen-Cruz : Engaging Performance: Theatre as call and response before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Engaging Performance: Theatre as call and response:

0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Darko LukicInteresting,

Engaging Performance: Theatre as Call and Response presents a combined analysis and workbook to examine "socially engaged performance." It offers a range of key practical approaches, exercises, and principles for using performance to engage in a variety of social and artistic projects. Author Jan Cohen-Cruz draws on a career of groundbreaking research and work within the fields of political, applied, and community theatre to explore the impact

of how differing genres of theatre respond to social "calls." Areas highlighted include: playwriting and the engaged artist; theatre of the oppressed; performance as testimonial; the place of engaged art in cultural organizing; the use of local resources in engaged art; revitalizing cities and neighborhoods through engaged performance; training of the engaged artist. Cohen-Cruz also draws on the work of major theoreticians, including Bertolt Brecht, Augusto Boal, and Doreen Massey, as well as analyzing in-depth case studies of the work of US practitioners today to illustrate engaged performance in action. Jan Cohen-Cruz is director of *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*. She is the author of *Local Acts: Community-based Performance in the US*; the editor of *Radical Street Performance*; co-editor, with Mady Schutzman, of *Playing Boal: Theatre, Therapy, Activism and A Boal Companion*; and a University Professor at Syracuse University.

'Cohen-Cruz has been a dominant force in the field and her diverse experience is threaded through as examples throughout this book... It is difficult to think of someone more embedded in all aspects of community performance scholarship and practice.' - Rebecca Caines, *Performance Paradigm* 'Jan Cohen-Cruz's latest book offers an approach to community art that is distinguished not by its technique or amateurism, but by the level of its engagement with the people most affected by the subject matter of the work. Cohen-Cruz argues that organizational skill and activist competence are a crucial, though undervalued, component of community art. The cases presented in the book, all from the US, interestingly tell the reader about the processes that led to the final production, and discuss problems that were encountered by the performance groups.' - Sruti Bala, *Theatre Research International*

About the Author: Jan Cohen-Cruz is director of *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*. She is the author of *Local Acts: Community Performance in the US*; the editor of *Radical Street Performance*; co-editor, with Mady Schutzman, of *Playing Boal: Theatre, Therapy, Activism and A Boal Companion*; and a University Professor at Syracuse University.