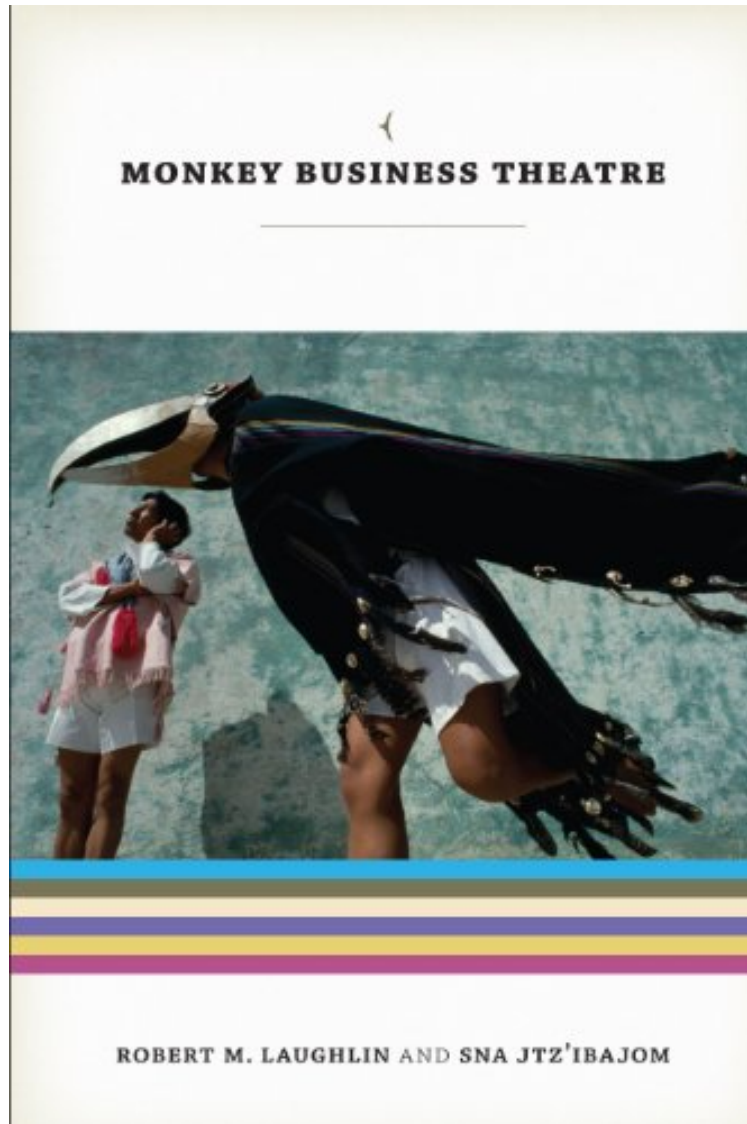


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## Monkey Business Theatre (Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies)

*Robert M. Laughlin, Sna Jtz'ibajom*  
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**Robert M. Laughlin, Sna Jtz'ibajom : Monkey Business Theatre (Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monkey Business Theatre (Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies):

In 1983, a group of citizens in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, formed Sna Jtz'ibajom, the Tzotzil-Tzeltal

Maya writers' cooperative. In the two decades since, this group has evolved from writing and publishing bilingual booklets to writing and performing plays that have earned them national and international renown. Anthropologist Robert M. Laughlin has been a part of the group since its beginnings, and he offers a unique perspective on its development as a Mayan cultural force. The Monkey Business Theatre, or Teatro Lo'il Maxil, as this branch of Sna Jtz'ibajom calls itself, has presented plays in virtually every corner of the state of Chiapas, as well as in Mexico City, Guatemala, Honduras, Canada, and in many museums and universities in the United States. It has presented to the world, for the first time in drama, a view of the culture of the Mayas of Chiapas. In this work, Laughlin presents a translation of twelve of the plays created by Sna Jtz'ibajom, along with an introduction for each. Half of the plays are based on myths and half on the social, political, and economic problems that have confronted and continue to confront the Mayas of Chiapas.

"Sna Jtz'ibajom is perhaps the best known producer of Mayan-language theatre in Mexico, in continuous operation for more than twenty years. . . . Smithsonian anthropologist Robert Laughlin, who has been involved with the group from the outset, is in a unique position not only to provide the translations, but also to provide a deeply informed personal perspective of their development over more than two decades." (Tamara L. Underiner, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, School of Theatre and Film, Arizona State University) Sna Jtz'ibajom is perhaps the best known producer of Mayan-language theatre in Mexico, in continuous operation for more than twenty years. . . . Smithsonian anthropologist Robert Laughlin, who has been involved with the group from the outset, is in a unique position not only to provide the translations, but also to provide a deeply informed personal perspective of their development over more than two decades. (Tamara L. Underiner, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, School of Theatre and Film, Arizona State University) About the Author ROBERT M. LAUGHLIN is Curator Emeritus of Meso-american ethnology in the Department of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia. SNA JTZ'IBAJOM is a Mayan writers' cooperative based in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.