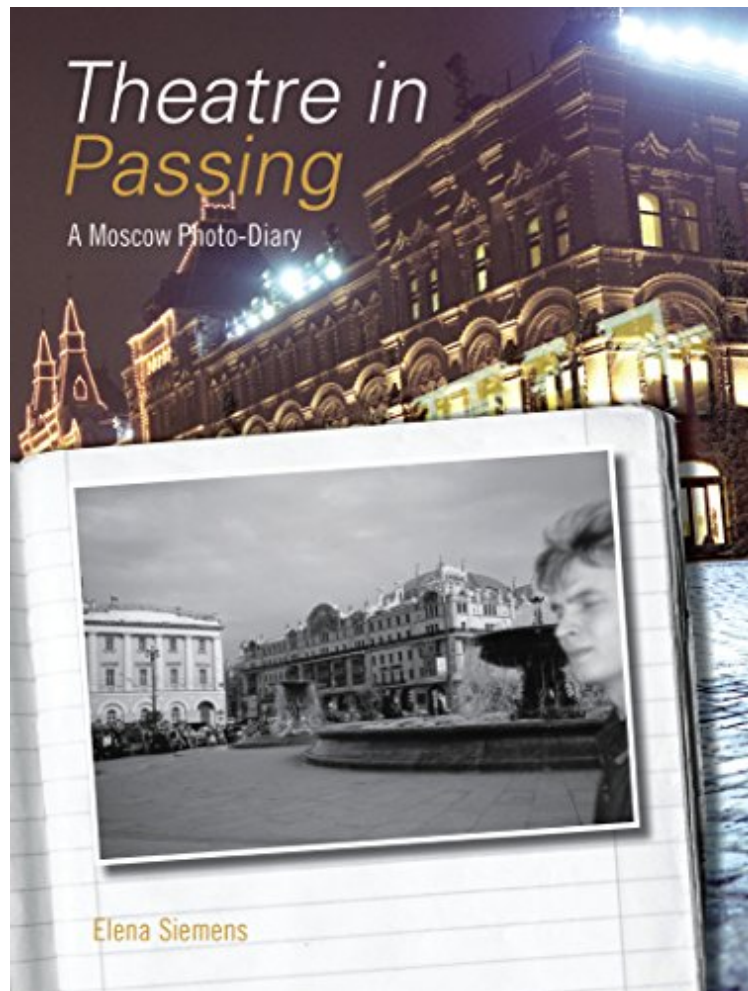


Theatre in Passing: A Moscow Photo-Diary

Elena Siemens

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Elena Siemens : Theatre in Passing: A Moscow Photo-Diary before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Theatre in Passing: A Moscow Photo-Diary:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Haunting and original
By Book Hawk
This book is a real original gem - the photographs are wry and profound. They are reminiscent of the great Russian film-maker Tarkovsky because of their rather inconsequential naturalness and their luminosity. The commentary is an interesting mix of dryness and soulfulness. The book captures the multiplicity, the odd mix of present and past, of grandeur, intimacy and quirkiness that is contemporary Russia.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Engaged and Engaging
By Dennis Joseph Kilfoy
A great book! Siemen's passage on the infamous statue of Marx on Theatre Square is a particular favourite. The author/photographer tries to capture the point of view enjoyed by the statue so that Theatre Square unfolds before both of them--photographer and statue-- as one giant theatrical spectacle. It's that engagement with its subject that makes the book in turn so engaging.

Theatre in Passing explores spaces of performance in contemporary Moscow. Inspired by French philosopher Michel de Certeau's model of a 'second, poetic geography' in which the walker - the everyday practitioner - invents the space observed by the voyeur, this book takes the reader on a tour of spaces of performance in contemporary Moscow. Through text and photography, the city's 'theatrical geography' is uncovered, from the Bolshoi Theater in Theater Square to hidden gems like the recently restored Kuskovo estate. With additional sections on street theater and other public gatherings, Theatre in Passing is a must-read book for anyone curious about the theatrical architecture and geography of Russia's capital.

Idquo;Siemens gathers incidents of a Moscow habitus, the layering ghosts of poetry and performances, coups and commemoration, stilled yet wide-eyed and camera-ready at pavement level. At once retracing and composing the montage of her own ever-renewed belonging to Russia's metropole, she invites her readers-cum-viewers to travel the cultural plot of one of the world's most indefatigable cities.rdquo;