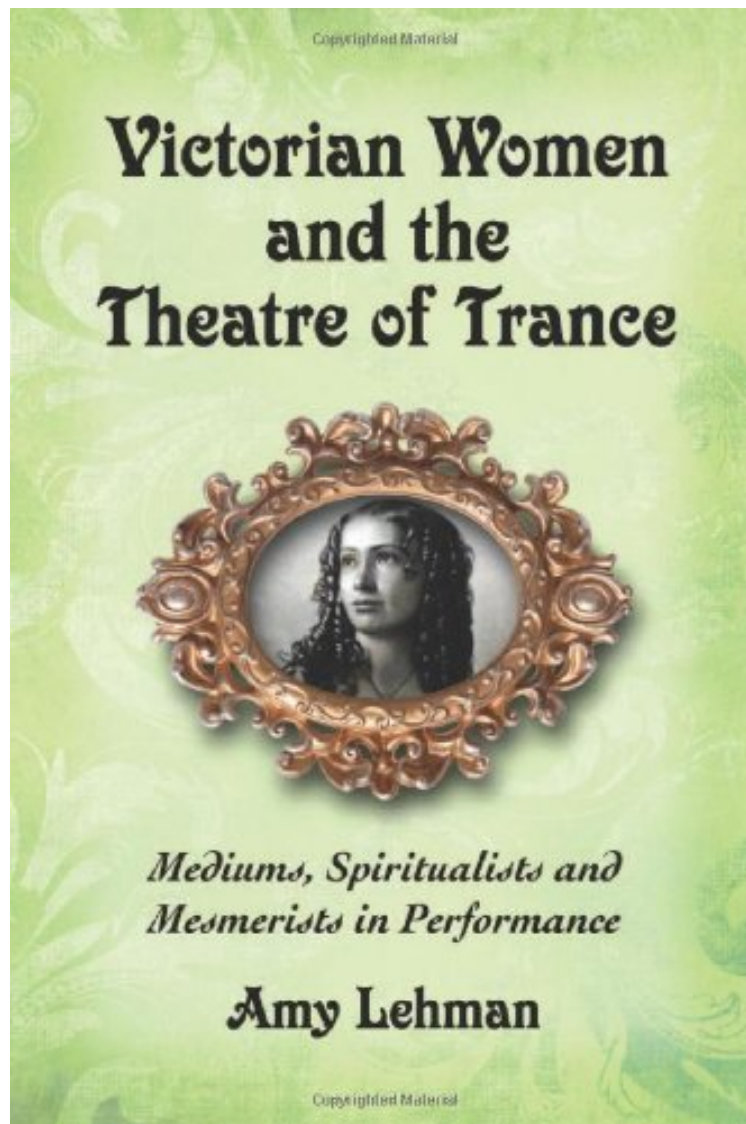


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Victorian Women and the Theatre of Trance: Mediums, Spiritualists and Mesmerists in Performance

Amy Lehman

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Amy Lehman : Victorian Women and the Theatre of Trance: Mediums, Spiritualists and Mesmerists in Performance before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Victorian Women and the Theatre of Trance: Mediums, Spiritualists and Mesmerists in Performance:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Nice SurpriseBy Rosevithal do not remember how I stumbled upon this book, but it was indeed a lucky day. As a student of theater, this book has opened up an interest in further

investigation of Victorian performance. I must admit that theater history often jumps from Restoration performance to 20th century theory, with little mention of the female presence. This book is a welcome addition to little researched areas of women and public performance. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very good historical account of a time when women had little ...By Freiuml; von Frauml;ausen zu LorenzburgA very good historical account of a time when women had little means of independent income. Mediumship and the "theatre of trance" was a possible way to fame and riches.

Spiritualists in the nineteenth century spoke of the "Borderland," a shadowy threshold where the living communed with the dead, and where those in the material realm could receive comfort or advice from another world. The skilled performances of mostly female actors and performers made the "Borderland" a theatre, of sorts, in which dramas of revelation and recognition were produced in the forms of seances, trances, and spiritualist lectures. This book examines some of the most fascinating American and British actresses of the Victorian era, whose performances fairly mesmerized their audiences of amused skeptics and ardent believers. It also focuses on the transformative possibilities of the spiritualist theatre, revealing how the performances allowed Victorian women to speak, act, and create outside the boundaries of their restricted social and psychological roles.

About the AuthorAmy Lehman has presented research on the theatrical aspects of 19th-century spiritualism at theatre and Victorian studies conferences in the United States and abroad. She is currently on the faculty of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of South Carolina.