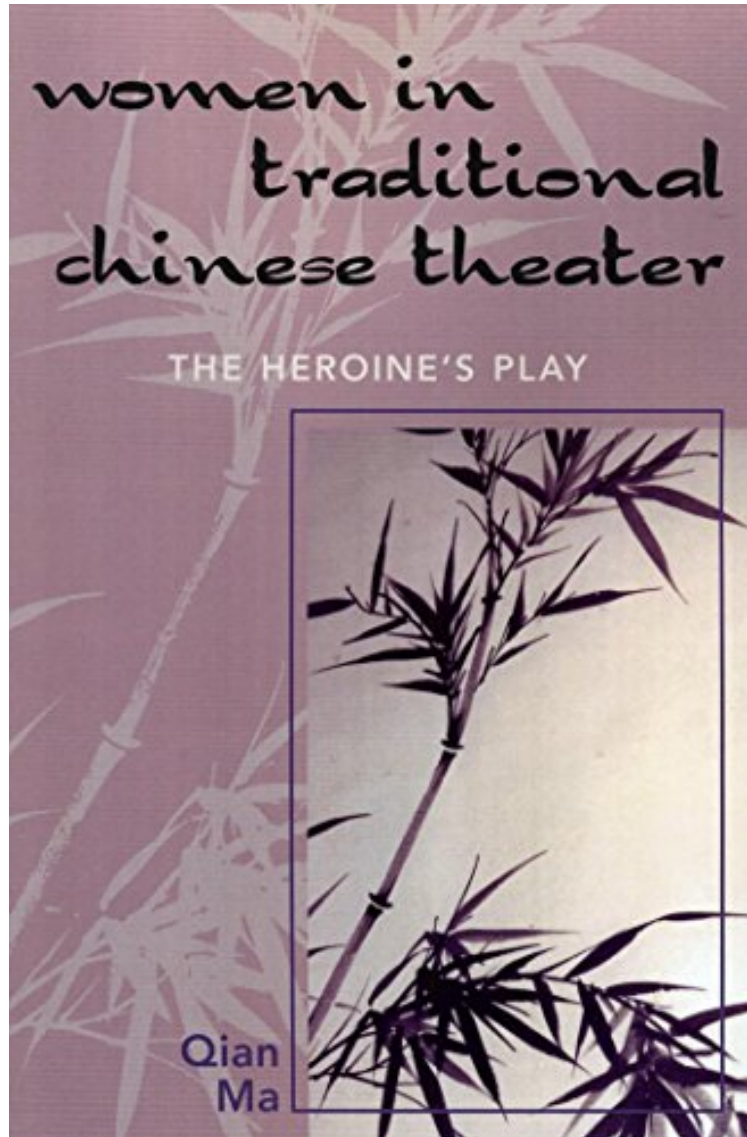


(Ebook free) Women in Traditional Chinese Theater: The Heroine's Play

Women in Traditional Chinese Theater: The Heroine's Play

Qian Ma

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Qian Ma : Women in Traditional Chinese Theater: The Heroine's Play before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women in Traditional Chinese Theater: The Heroine's Play:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Introduction to a new world
By JoyI was hunting for a multicultural play for my students and happened to start looking at classics of sanskrit and chinese traditional opera. It was very difficult to find copies of the CTO stuff in full script and in english- this is a nicely put together edition of several plays. Some of it is over simplified but in general it is a lovely introduction to the world of the Heroine Plays of Chinese Traditional Opera. It feels literally translated and I am a big fan of artistic translations that capture the

essence of the art and not literal, sometimes awkward, word for word translations (Stephen Mitchell's interpretive translations of the Tao Te Ching and Gilgamesh - wonderful! - are good examples of artistic translations) My favorite play in this edition is the Spring Pavillion - though DouE is a very famous play as well and I believe is done justice here. I would recommend this as a great addition to a library of classical world theatre forms. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the one you want. By Ann O'Nymous It's really difficult for Anglophones to study Chinese theatre, as translations are few and far between, and are frequently either old-fashioned or clunky in their style. This book is a breath of fresh air: clear, modern translations that are very readable and geared toward non-experts without sacrificing scholarly reliability. Prose, poetry and songs are clearly distinguished and there are lots of footnotes to explain the more alien moments. The introductions are detailed and authoritative. There are a few annoying typos that should have been spotted by a copyeditor, but otherwise this is an excellent book.

Women in Traditional Chinese Theatre seeks to introduce Western readers to Chinese classical drama as well as investigate how women have traditionally been portrayed on stage by presenting original translations of six plays from the fourteenth to twentieth centuries. Framed with a comprehensive introduction to the Chinese theatre and its representation of women, each play is preceded by an interpretative summary of the plot, and an analysis of each play's theme and significance. The selections in this volume feature women representing the most popular female archetypes in Chinese literature: the paragon of virtue, the stoic sufferer, the faithful wife, the femme fatal, and others. Appealing to both scholars and general enthusiasts of theatre, literature, and women's studies, this book reveals how the cultural constructs of Chinese women are represented in dramatic literature, and how the theatre, in turn, shapes this representation into the cultural perception of women.

Ma clearly describes the preeminent importance of female chastity in the ethical codes of Imperial China, showing how several of the play's heroines, though violating other societal expectations, do so in order to protect their chastity and so ultimately serve the gendered political order. The collection seems most appropriate to women's studies courses since, as a whole, it provides a fascinating overview of representations of women on the xiqu stage. (Megan Evans, Victoria University of Wellington Asian Theatre Journal) Ma's new anthology of English translations of xiqu (Chinese Opera) plays is a welcome addition to existing resources. ...[the] translations are engagingly readable and provide a fascinating overview of female characters in traditional xiqu. (Megan Evans, University of Hawai'i Manoa China International) About the Author Qian Mais Associate Professor of English at Roanoke College. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Emory University.