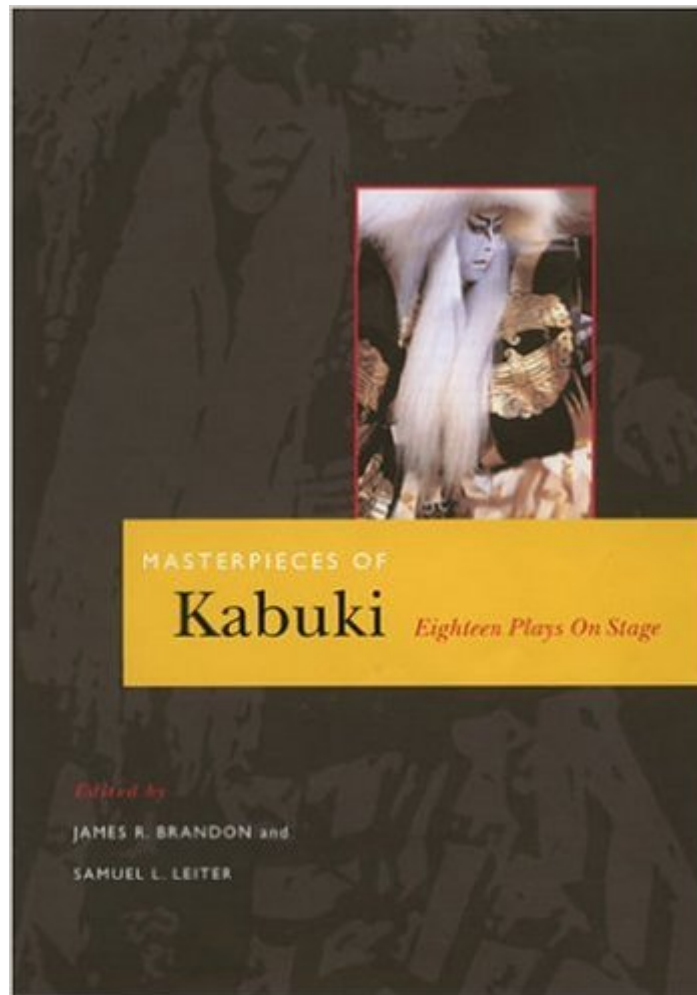


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Masterpieces Of Kabuki: Eighteen Plays On Stage (Kabuki Plays On Stage)



Synopsis

Masterpieces of Kabuki contains eighteen outstanding dramas taken from the landmark four-volume series Kabuki Plays On Stage. Together they cover the entire spectrum of kabuki drama from 1697 to 1905, the period during which kabuki's dramaturgy flourished prior to the onset of Western dramatic influence. Major playwrights, chronological periods of playwriting, and a variety of play types (history, domestic, and dance dramas) and performance styles are represented. All but one are in the current repertory and regularly staged. The volume includes introductions to each play and a new general introduction highlighting kabuki's historical development and relating the plays to their performance context. As the subtitle implies, the plays are translated as if on stage. Stage directions indicate major scenic effects, stage action, costuming, makeup, music, and sound effects. In some cases, complex stage actions such as stage fights are given in detail. The plays collected here are all marvelous examples of dramatic writing, intended to be acted on the stage before audiences. They reveal kabuki's eras of brilliance and bravado, villainy and vengeance, darkness and desire, and restoration

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is for the true Kabuki aficionado, with descriptions of the social context and history of the Kabuki theatre and each play as well as line by line translations of the plays themselves. For anyone familiar with the sounds and sights of a Kabuki performance, this book brings each play alive and adds background that adds to your appreciation. Only missing is a DVD with live

performances.

A compilation of all types of kabuki dramas with complete playscript (except for some of them...). Quite easy to read. Good as a first approach, but it lacks of some of the most famous kabuki "hits".

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