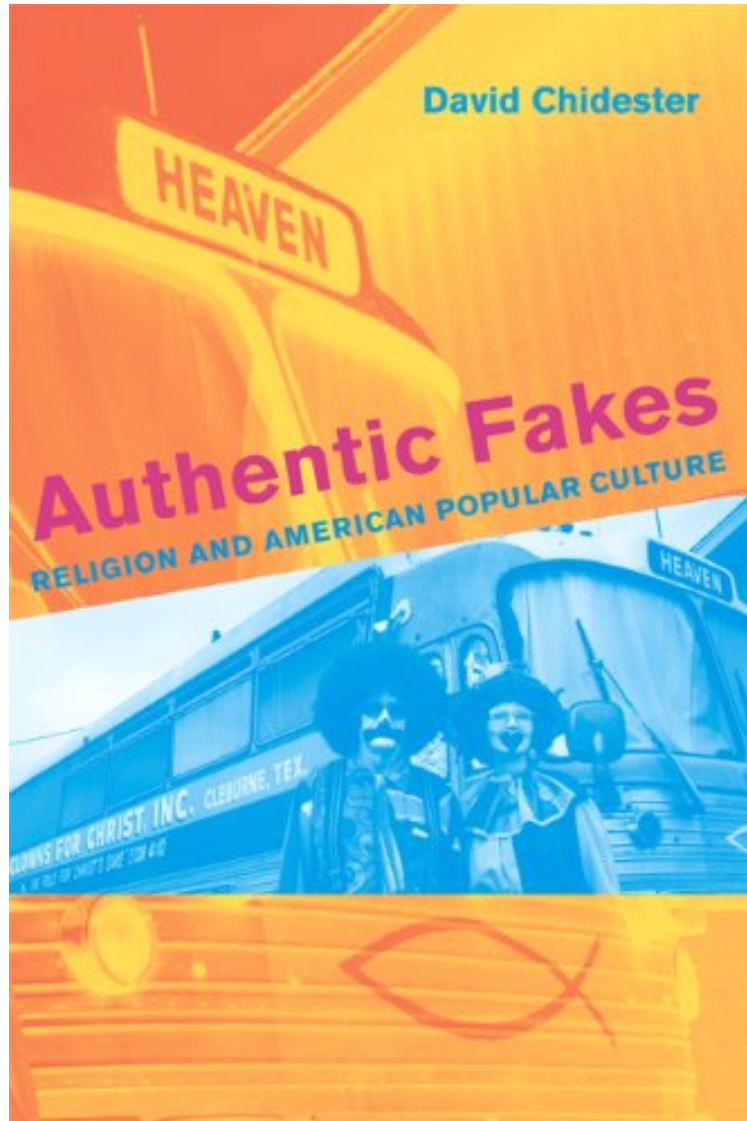


[Free] Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture

Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture

David Chidester

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David Chidester : Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture:

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Cool and interestingBy T. BachmanThis book deals with something I've wondered about for a long time: the seemingly religious aspects of (pop) cultural ideas, images, totems, rituals, etc., and in particular, the role of human imagination, and in many cases, deliberate fraud, in creating a backdrop of meaning for life.While the book is a pleasurable read, it does maintain a certain level of erudition,

stylistically. It also manages to remain focused and serious while allowing in just the right amount of good humour and whimsy. I especially liked the discussions on baseball and Jim Jones; after reading this, I'll be ordering Chidester's book on the Jonestown suicide. Thumbs up. 13 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Too much breadth, too little depth. By mediareader This is a book that tries to do too much. Its goal of exploring religion and popular culture is a good one, but that's territory that has been covered in many texts before, and with much greater insight than you'll find here. Check out Chidester's earlier books on colonialism and the Jim Jones suicide for better scholarship. Look elsewhere for better books on religion and American popular culture. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Beatrice F. Mason Thank You.

Authentic Fakes explores the religious dimensions of American popular culture in unexpected places: baseball, the Human Genome Project, Coca-Cola, rock 'n' roll, the rhetoric of Ronald Reagan, the charisma of Jim Jones, Tupperware, and the free market, to name a few. Chidester travels through the cultural landscape and discovers the role that fakery in the guise of frauds, charlatans, inventions, and simulations plays in creating religious experience. His book is at once an incisive analysis of the relationship between religion and popular culture and a celebration of the myriad ways in which invention can stimulate the religious imagination. Moving beyond American borders, Chidester considers the religion of McDonalds and Disney, the discourse of W.E.B. Du Bois and the American movement in Southern Africa, the messianic promise of Nelson Mandelas 1990 tour to America, and more. He also looks at the creative possibilities of the Internet in such phenomena as Discordianism, the Holy Order of the Cheeseburger, and a range of similar inventions. Arguing throughout that religious fakes can do authentic religious work, and that American popular culture is the space of that creative labor, Chidester looks toward a future pregnant with the possibilities of new kinds of authenticity.

Chidester's book will simultaneously entertain and educate.