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# The Traditional Theatre of Japan: Kyogen, Noh, Kabuki And Puppetry

*John Wesley Harris*

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**John Wesley Harris : The Traditional Theatre of Japan: Kyogen, Noh, Kabuki And Puppetry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Traditional Theatre of Japan: Kyogen, Noh, Kabuki And Puppetry:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Don't waste your money By Samuel Leiter All a knowledgeable reader needs to do is look at the cover of this book to know something's amiss. The cover shows a well-known kabuki character whose stylized makeup is marked by strong blue lines. Unfortunately, the actual makeup used by this character is red. Compounding the problem is that the author, when he reprints the picture in the text in black and white, describes the makeup as being blue because he mistakenly considers the character the kind of villain whose makeup would be of that color. The book itself continues the comedy of errors, as it turns out that the author knows no Japanese and has based his research entirely on a handful of English-language sources. Almost every chapter has a note informing the reader of which one or two sources the author has just summarized. His bibliography of a mere 22 items lists only 11 that relate specifically to Japanese theatre, and he ignores all the many important books and articles that have been published since the 1990s, as well as many earlier ones. Of course, it's possible that a decent book on Japanese theatre could be written without knowledge of Japanese (Peter Arnott, not cited, of course, accomplished this in the 1970s), but Mr. Harris has not done that here. Instead he has produced a poorly organized tome filled with so many errors of fact that one wonders just what it was that led the Edwin Mellen Press not only to publish such a

horrendous excuse for scholarship, but to charge \$109 for the result.

Offers a survey of the main forms of traditional Japanese drama - Kyogen, Noh, Kabuki, and Puppetry.