



# Performing Otherness: Java and Bali on International Stages, 1905-1952 (Studies in International Performance)

*Matthew Isaac Cohen*

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Today one finds many non-Indonesians studying gamelan. Dancers, musicians and puppeteers from Java and Bali are employed internationally, and Indonesian instruments are sampled in commercials. *Performing Otherness* explores an earlier period when Indonesian arts were internationally scarce, and the performance of a whole troupe from Java or Bali could spark an artistic revolution. Focusing on the late colonial period and the transition to independence, *Performing Otherness* encompasses the work and lives of dozens of performing artists (including Mata Hari, Artaud and Ruth St Denis) to delve into the international and wide-ranging influence of Javanese and Balinese performance. This book presents a fascinating critical history of representations of Java and Bali in Europe, the US, India and elsewhere around the world: Javanese 'temple dance' and wayang golek puppetry in fin-de-siècle Vienna; music and dance programmes mixing Gershwin and Java in jazz-age New York; a summer school for dancers in southern France run by a Javanese aristocrat; an arena spectacle at the foothills of the Himalayas inspired by Javanese shadow puppets; a gamelan performing nightly in a Chicago nightclub.

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