

(Library ebook) Javanese Shadow Puppets (Images of Asia)

Javanese Shadow Puppets (Images of Asia)

Ward Keeler

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Ward Keeler : Javanese Shadow Puppets (Images of Asia) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Javanese Shadow Puppets (Images of Asia):

4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Show It With ShadowsBy A CustomerIn this imaginative and informative book, you can learn much of the art of shadow puppetry. With beautiful illustrations and simple to follow instructions, you can begin a fulfilling journey to mastering a craft of incredible expression. In these pages, you'll find templates for puppets, ideas for making them for yourself, and an elaborate history on one of Japan's most beautiful artforms. The book is heavy on puppets, but it's rather light on performance. I would prefer to know less about cutting techniques andmore about how to make a successful show.

Few art forms in the world appear as exotic as Javanese shadow plays, in which flat leather puppets cast shadows upon a screen. The figures are intricately cut and painted, and one puppeteer controls all their movements and enacts all their voices for the night-long performance. The puppeteer is believed to possess great amounts of mystical power, and the art form he transmits enjoys more prestige than many of Java's other performing arts. How can we make any sense of such a strange performing art? Textual evidence suggests that shadow plays have been performed for over 1,000 years in Java. The highly stylized figures, representing heroes, gods, princesses, demons, and servants, do indeed look like images from an altogether distant time and place. Yet, today, shadow plays are still enormously popular and Javanese flock in great numbers to see a famous puppeteer perform. To understand why shadow plays enjoy such great prestige and still provide so much pleasure, it is necessary to consider the stories they relate, their place in Javanese

social life, and how Javanese talk about them. In the end, they remain a strikingly unusual art form, but not an inaccessibly exotic one.