

CHOICE

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HUMANITIES

Language & Literature - Romance

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The following review appeared in the February 2009 issue of CHOICE:

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Stages of conflict: a critical anthology of Latin American theater and performance, ed. by Diana Taylor and Sarah J. Townsend; tr. Margaret Carson. Michigan, 2008. 325p bibl afp ISBN 9780472070275, \$90.00; ISBN 9780472050277 pbk, \$39.95

This fascinating anthology offers translations of Latin America drama from its earliest manifestations to the present, in so doing examining the intersection of theater and performance within various sociopolitical milieus. Comprising 22 plays from ten countries (including Cuba and Brazil) and limited to "plays written in areas colonized by the Spanish and Portuguese," the book opens with the *Rabinal Achi* (a Mayan drama from Guatemala) and concludes with Petrona de la Cruz Cruz and Isabel Juárez Espinosa's *The Demon's Nun* (Mexico). Authors range from the readily recognized (e.g., Griselda Gijbaro, Enrique Buenaventura, José Triana) to the less known, such as Cruz Cruz and Juárez Espinosa (who are identified as the "first indigenous playwrights in Mexico"). A superb introduction affords the reader the rationale for this study, encompassing five centuries of theater and performance. An informative, perceptive essay introduces each piece and its author, and ample notes and selected references direct the reader to additional relevant readings. Competent translations awaken the readers' interest, prompting them to seek more germane works. This is an absorbing, scholarly volume. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty. -- *F. Colecchia, Duquesne University*