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Madison

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Madison : Acts of Activism (Theatre and Performance Theory) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Acts of Activism (Theatre and Performance Theory)*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. brilliantBy Raka ShomeThis is a brilliant book! Madison has brought together performance studies, human rights issues, grassroots activism, and much more into a powerful synthesis in this book. Beautifully written, this is a must read!

Madison presents the neglected yet compelling and necessary story of local activists in South Saharan Africa who employ modes of performance as tactics of resistance and intervention in their day-to-day struggles for human rights. The dynamic relationship between performance and activism are illustrated in three case studies: Act One presents a battle between tradition and modernity as the bodies of African women are caught in the cross-fire. Act Two focuses on 'water democracy' as activists fight for safe, accessible public water as a human right. Act Three examines the efficacy of street performance and theatre for development in the oral histories of Ghanaian gender activists. Unique to this book is the continuing juxtaposition between the everyday performances of local activism and their staged enactments before theatre audiences in Ghana and the USA. Madison beautifully demonstrates how these disparate sites of performance cohere in the service of rights, justice, and activism.

"If this world is badly broken, *Acts of Activism* provides some powerfully subtle ways in which everyday humans might hope to mend it. This book transports you to small spectacles of dumbfounding damage then sifts their routine horrors to release whisperings that heal. It wisely just nods toward fiscal forces which obscenely shrug-off self-interest, triggering tipping points that dislodge despair so truth can speak disarmingly to power. The global statistics are familiar: the wealthiest 793 people are worth slightly more than the annual income of the 3.25 billion (48% of total) who live below the poverty line, the population-bomb is expanding at 1.1% (77 million) a year, military expenditures constitute 2% of rising gross world product. This is the skewed topography that Soyini Madison patiently, provocatively and oh so productively traverses with notebook, Dictaphone, camcorder and endlessly sharp compassion. Conserving small stories voiced by the wretched of the Earth and their champions, she fashions a delicately robust congregation of anthropology, oral history, ethics, theatre, politics and performance that sings out terrifically for justice. Unassumingly rigorous, accessibly written, profoundly practical, these *Acts of Activism* are seductively set to inspire a radical intelligence of feeling that could well bring about change, perhaps to what matters most: that murmuring in our hearts." Baz Kershaw, Bristol "Soyini Madison engages in a rich discussion of the complexities of gender and human rights in Ghana ... powerful exploration of the role of performance in shaping a certain type of social dialog that is bottom-up, an instrument for the community to understand and come to terms with injustices within ... An important contribution to the scholarship about gender wrongs and rights, *Acts of Activism* crosses disciplines and links performance art to sociology and cultural anthropology, expands the scope of discussion about how to right wrongs, and the imperative of debate within communities rather than imposition of Western values and norms." Human Rights About the Author D. Soyini Madison is Professor of Performance Studies and Anthropology at Northwestern University.