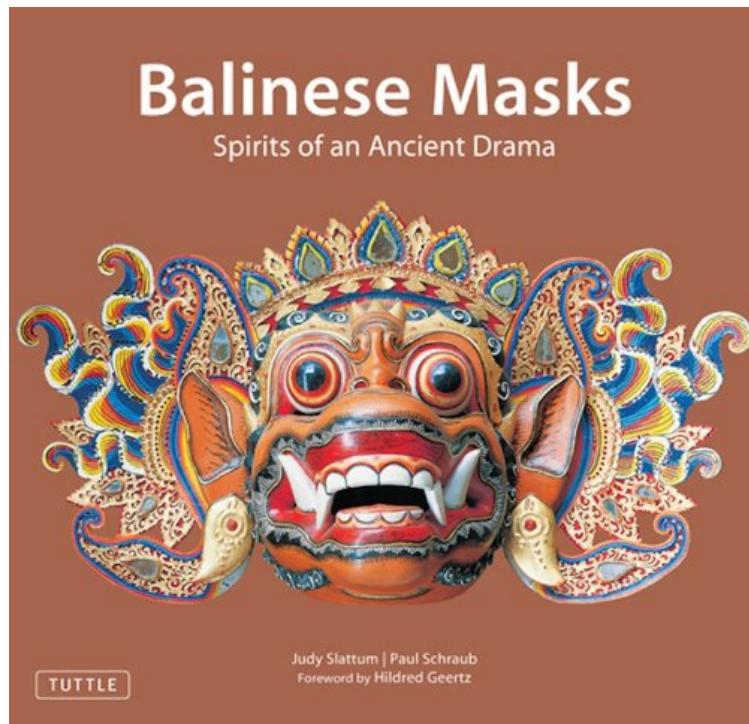


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Balinese Masks: Spirits of an Ancient Drama

Judy Slattum
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Judy Slattum : Balinese Masks: Spirits of an Ancient Drama before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Balinese Masks: Spirits of an Ancient Drama:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Peter J. BuotteI use this book to inspire mask-making in art therapy3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. balinese masksBy Ira H. MarksNot a great resource , the Balinese have a bottomless amount of masks and characters, this book skims the surface, but does not have much information on characters who they are what part they play, type of dance they would be involved in, coffee table quick flip.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unique photos of Balinese masksBy J. SchirleAs a theatre practitioner interested in learning about Balinese masks, I found this book to be invaluable. It is one of the only books of photographs of Balinese masks I have found, and many of the mask makers work shown in this book are the traditional carvers whose work is on display in the Museum of Masks and Puppets in Mas, Bali. Slattum provides explanations of the dances and uses of the masks, and these are indeed brief, as though the publisher was more interested in this as a photo book, but there is also information here I've not been able to dig up in other internet or book searches. I found the book even more useful after I had visited Bali myself---since many of the internet images of masks are cheap tourist versions, not always representative of the high level of carving in Bali.

The unique and stunning masks used in Balinese rituals are explored in great detail in *Balinese Masks*. Masked performances are an ancient and integral part of Balinese rituals and are much more than mere spectacles for audiences. The masks serve both as visual aids in the portrayal of Bali's courtly legends and as harnessers of invisible forces. As "members of their own village communities," the masks are given a chance to "speak" and "move around"

and be entertained by their human servants in parades and temple ceremonies. The great variety of Bali's masks, many of them sacred and rarely displayed, and the dance performances within which they appear, are well represented in this book. The spectacular detail and craftsmanship of the masks, revealed in Paul Schraub's stunning photographs, together with an informed text by Judy Slattum on their artistry, symbolism, religious significance, and manufacture, will take readers on a fascinating visual, spiritual, and dramatic journey into the sacred rituals of Bali. A foreword by Hildred Geertz further explains the significance of the masks and their role in Balinese village life.

"The mask in Bali is the most evocative reflection of the human, the mythical, and the natural in a culture that is itself anciently and profoundly artistic. This important book brings the art of the Balinese mask to us in a sharp and agreeable focus." — Rand Castile, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

About the Author

Judy Slattum is an educator who writes frequently on Bali and conducts cultural tours of the island with her husband, I Made Surya, a Balinese mask dancer. She was curator of the "Balinese Traditional Masks" exhibition at the 1991 Festival of Indonesia in the US and of the touring national exhibition. Paul Schraub is a photographer specializing in art glass and tabletop photography, in addition to fashion and portraits. He lives in Santa Cruz, California.