

Cultural Crises / Cultural Solutions: Performing Asia

Image of Crazy-A
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Lecture 8: May 12, 2004

Review:

Asia / Performance / Cultures

- What is "Asia"?
- What is "culture"?
- How does "performance" give us a certain perspective on both?
- Who decides what is "authentically Asian"?

Image of Bunraku
puppet
theater of Japan
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Gender as Performance

- **Judith Butler:**

- Gender is a "stylized repetition of acts...which are internally discontinuous [so that] the appearance of substance is precisely that, a constructed identity, a performative accomplishment which the mundane social audience, including the actors themselves, come to believe to perform in the mode of belief." Quoted in Diamond (1996), p. 4

who defines what is "Asian"

Image of Geisha (lit. "art person")
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interpreting ganguro ukiyo-e

NY Times image April 4,
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- Does it matter that the artist is not Japanese?
- Does it matter if the artist is African American?

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stereotypes vs. "real"

Image from Secret Asian Man comic strip
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Boundaries of Asian-ness?

Image from Secret Asian Man comic strip
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