

21G.067J Cultural Performances of Asia
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Foreign Languages and Literatures
Fall 2005

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

- 1) In what ways is identity “performed”? In what ways do we act, dress, or speak that indicate “I am this”?
- 2) The film “King of Masks” explores performances within performances, highlighting differences between opera performers and street performers. What are some of the key differences between performing on-stage and on-the-street? How does the film-maker portray these differences?
- 3) Do performers on stage always have more power than street performers? Why or why not?
- 4) Doggie’s “performance” was strong enough to free a man from jail. What does this tell us about what makes a performance effective? Or is it even accurate to call what she did a “performance”?

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