

# Acting on the Past

*Historical Performance Across the Disciplines*

Edited by Mark Franko and Annette Richards

*Leading scholars redefine the scope and concerns of scholarship on historical performance.*

Performance studies have been increasingly influential on recent developments in musicology, theater, art, and dance history, as these fields shift from primarily text-based disciplines to consider performativity, subjective experience, and particularized practice. At the same time, the editors argue, investigations into the pre- and early modern periods have been rare in performance studies. *Acting on the Past* assembles some of the foremost scholars to theorize particular historical performances in dance, opera, theater, and music as well as in festival, sculpture, rhetorics, arts of memory, moralized motions, musical notation, improvisations, and even photography, aerobic videos, and critical theory. Exploring relationships between archive and act, text and sounding, subject and practice, this collection expands and redefines our understanding of both past and performance.

**"An extremely unusual collection, *Acting on the Past* establishes a dialogue between conventional and theoretical approaches to historical performance studies, on the one hand, and foregrounds the importance of early performance for an understanding of what has become known as the discipline of 'performance studies.' It reflects on the substantial play not only between performance practices and their carriers-the body, sound, movement, rhythm, time, etc.-but also between the many disciplines so crucial to our understanding of Western representation: rhetoric, drama, sculpture, photography, video, literature, as well as dance and music. The book will become an influential source text in performance studies, both old and new.**

**-Timothy Murray  
Cornell University**

MARK FRANKO is Professor of Dance and Performance Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz, and author of *Dancing Modernism /Performing Politics* (1995) and *Dance as Text* (1993).

ANNETTE RICHARDS is Assistant Professor of Music at Cornell University.

Coming in January 2000

**Wesleyan University Press**

320 pp. 23 illus. 6 x 9"

Cloth, 0-8195-6394-3. \$50.00

Paper, 0-8195-6395-1. \$19.95

**University Press of New England**

23 South Main Street

Hanover, NH 03755

Fax: 603-643-1540

Orders: 1-800-421-1561

Orders from individuals must be prepaid.

**Postage:** US:/Canada: \$5.00 first book, \$1.25 each additional book. *Other Countries:* \$5.50 first book, \$2.00 each additional book.

(Canadian customers must add 7% GST.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Acting on the Past**  
Franko/Richards \$50.00 cloth

\_\_\_\_\_ **Acting on the Past**  
Franko/Richards \$19.95 paper

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed  
(includes postage).  
or bill:

\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ AmEx  
\_\_\_\_ Discover

# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Exam copy policy.** College and university professors may request exam copies of eligible books for consideration in their courses. Requests should be on institutional letterhead and be accompanied by \$5.00 per book to cover shipping and handling.