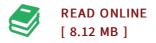


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Cuban Zarzuela: Performing Race and Gender on Havana s Lyric Stage (Hardback)

By Susan Thomas

University of Illinois Press, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 231 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. On September 29, 1927, Cuban soprano Rita Montaner walked onto the stage of Havana s Teatro Regina, her features obscured under a mask of blackened glycerin and her body clad in the tight pants, boots, and riding jacket of a coachman. Standing alongside a gilded carriage and a live horse, the blackfaced, cross-dressed actress sang the premiere of Eliseo Grenet s tango-congo, u0022Ay Mam u00e1 In u00e9s. u0022 The crowd went wild. Montaner s performance cemented u0022Ay Mam u00e1 In u00e9s u0022 as one of the classics in the Cuban repertoire, but more importantly, the premiere heralded the birth of the Cuban zarzuela, a new genre of music theater that over the next fifteen years transformed popular entertainment on the island. Cuban Zarzuela: Performing Race and Gender on Havana s Lyric Stage marks the first comprehensive study of the Cuban zarzuela, a Spanish-language light opera with spoken dialogue that originated in Spain but flourished in Havana during the early twentieth century. Created by musicians and managers to fill a growing demand for family entertainment, the zarzuela evidenced the ...



Reviews

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