

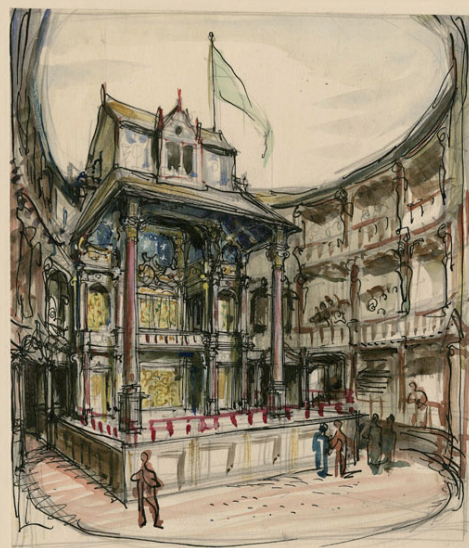
Shakespeare and the Materiality of Performance

Erika T. Lin

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SHAKESPEARE AND THE MATERIALITY OF PERFORMANCE



Erika T. Lin



This book reveals the unspoken assumptions that permeated the experience of performance in Shakespeare's theatre. Drawing on scientific treatises, murder pamphlets, travel narratives, dream manuals, religious sermons, festive sports, and other fascinating primary sources, it reconstructs playgoers' typical ways of thinking and feeling, and it demonstrates how these culturally-trained habits of mind shaped not only dramatic narratives but also the presentational dynamics of onstage action. Combining literary criticism, theatre history, and performance theory, this ground-breaking study explodes received ideas about mimesis, spectacle, and semiotics as it uncovers the ways in which early modern performance functioned as a material medium, revising and producing social attitudes and practices.

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