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Faubion Bowers

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Faubion Bowers : Japanese Theatre (Tut books : D) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese Theatre (Tut books : D):

Japanese Theatre presents a full historical account for Westerners of the theater arts that have flourished for centuries in Japan. Kabuki, arising in the late seventeenth century, is the theater of the commoner. The successive syllables of Kabuki mean "song dance skill." The precursors of Kabuki were the puppet theater and the comic interludes in the stately, aristocratic Noh drama all fully described by the author. In the modern era the Japanese have broken away from Kabuki, and their stage has shown a realistic trend. Leftwing theater groups arose in the 1920's, were suppressed by the militarists, and then revived during the occupation. Appended to the historical chapters are Mr. Bowers's translations of three Kabuki plays: The Monstrous Spider, Gappo and His Daughter Tsuji, and the bombastic Sukeroku. This book, with its many excellent photographs, is a permanent addition to the West's knowledge of the exotic, exciting theater of Japan and its tradition of great acting.