



Between Theater and Anthropology

By Richard Schechner



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In performances by Euro-Americans, Afro-Americans, Native Americans, and Asians, Richard Schechner has examined carefully the details of performative behavior and has developed models of the performance process useful not only to persons in the arts but to anthropologists, play theorists, and others fascinated (but perhaps terrified) by the multichannel realities of the postmodern world.

Schechner argues that in failing to see the structure of the whole theatrical process, anthropologists in particular have neglected close analogies between performance behavior and ritual. The way performances are created—in training, workshops, and rehearsals—is the key paradigm for social process.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Fascinating for anyone seriously interested in human behavior, full of ideas that lead us to reexamine our thinking about all performances, from the most dramatic to the most seemingly trivial."—*New York Times*

About the Author

Richard Schechner is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. He is the founding director of The Performance Group and founding artistic director of East Coast Artists. He is also the author of *The End of Humanism*, *Performance Theory*, and *The Future of Ritual*.

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