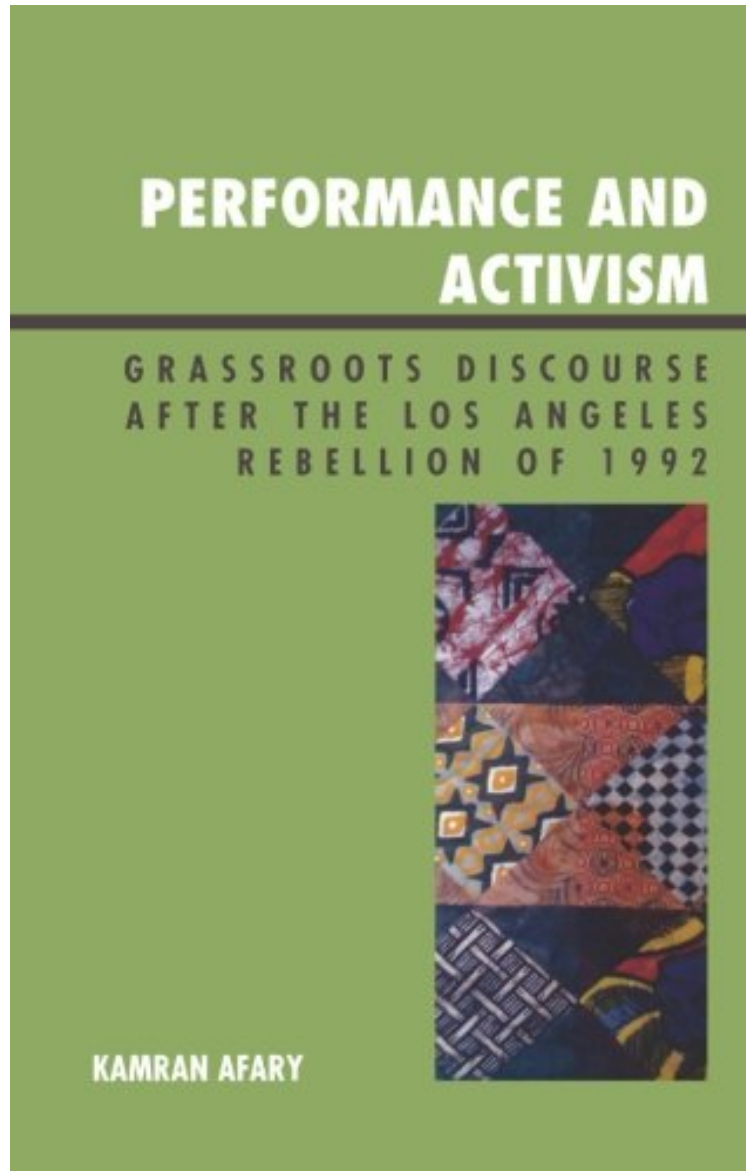


Performance and Activism: Grassroots Discourse after the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992

Kamran Afary

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Kamran Afary : Performance and Activism: Grassroots Discourse after the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Performance and Activism: Grassroots Discourse after the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well-researched and INTERESTING
By Lisa I was here in Los Angeles during the Rodney King trial and subsequent upheaval. I read the newspaper, I saw the news. Kamran Afary shows us another layer and takes us into the backstory of the civilians, the key players, and the artistic and civic response of the local and national community which was not so readily and easily distributed in the media at the time. Unique and interesting viewpoints are compiled here in this scholarly work which helps shed light on the youth and the women who were affected by and who responded to this historical event. From key gang members to Tom Hayden, from activists to performers like Anna Deavere Smith, Afary puts a human face on the burgeoning grassroots movement taking place at that particular time of California's political and economic climate.

Much has been written about the Los Angeles riots of 1992, which brought out deep racial tensions throughout the city, exposed by media images of police brutality. This book sheds light on another facet of the events, the birth of a dynamic grassroots activist and community organizing movement that has been little noticed by academics or even by the press. It also focuses on the theatrical production of *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*, a performance created by Anna Deavere Smith. *Performance and Activism* analyzes a rich, eclectic, and ongoing ensemble of local activist struggles in the context of the history and political economy of Los Angeles. Building on the important critical urban studies work of Mike Davis and Edward Soja, it also draws on Dwight Conquergood's writings on performance ethnography to theorize the political work of grassroots formations such as alternative/underground media collectives, gang truce parties/picnics, and women-organized prisoner support and court watch groups, such as Mothers Reclaiming Our Children. The book focuses on these events through the inter-disciplinary approach of performance studies, highlighting 'performance-conscious activism' that help bridge the enormous class, race, and gender divides of our society.

"Afary provides a fascinating model for theatre scholars working at the nexus of urban studies and performance, particularly for those interested in the broader relationship between the city and spaces of performance. Interrupting the media narratives that fed a cycle of fear after the Los Angeles rebellion, Afary focuses on grassroots organizations working for social change ... In doing so, Afary demonstrates the applicability of performance studies to understanding the spaces and rituals of grassroots activism in the twentieth-century urban landscape."--Theatre Journal
About the Author
Kamran Afary teaches communication studies at California State University Los Angeles.