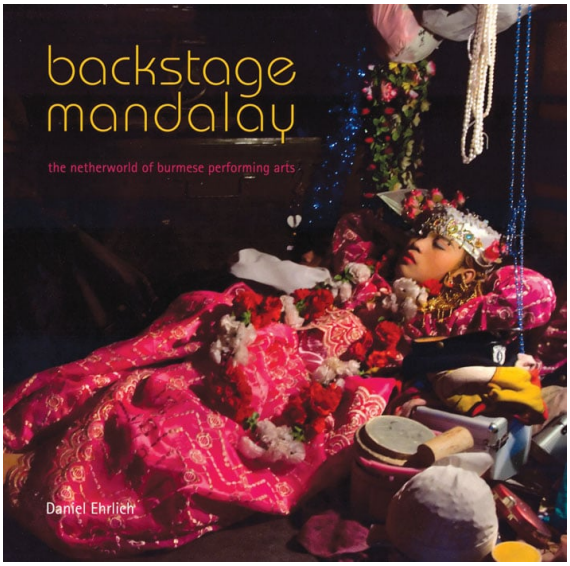
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Backstage Mandalay

The Netherworld of Burmese Performing Arts

Daniel Ehrlich

ISBN	9786167339221
Publisher	River Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
Size	298 mm x 294 mm
Pages	122 Pages
Illustrations	290 colour
Price	£26.00

- A rare glimpse into the private mesmerising world of Burmese theatre performers
- Lavish photographs
- Includes scenes never before glimpsed by westerners

Myanmar (Burma) exists in a timewarp and since recent political changes is becoming one of the most visited countries in the world. The country is eighty-seven per cent buddhist, studded with monastries, pagodas, dirt-track roads, oxcarts and elegant villages much as they were when the West intruded little more than 100 years ago. The country is still farmed by water buffalo, and its rituals remain true to their old-Asia form. Although tourism has increased significantly in the past 12 months there are many regions still off-limits. This book, in the form of a photo essay, captures an insider's view of a fragile and mystical aspect of Burmese culture. The curtain is drawn to reveal the backstage of the Burmese theatre; a world populated by animist spirit media (nakadaws), monsters from the Ramayana Buddhist texts, princesses (minthami) and princes (mintha). We go behind the scenes to see the preparations of these performers as they travel around the towns and countryside between temporary bamboo stages constructed for all-night festivals. With contributing essays from Professor Ward Keeler and U Ohn Maung, this book is both a visual and informative testament to Burmese performing arts.

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