

contents



List of illustrations ❧ix

Preface ❧xi

Acknowledgments ❧xv

1 An 'Ocean of Possibilities' ❧1

part i ❧

performance in the kerala context

2 A Social History of *Kathakali* Patronage, Connoisseurship, and Aesthetics ❧17

3 *Kathakali* Texts in Performance ❧39

4 What Does it Mean 'To Become the Character'? : *Kathakali* Actor Training and Characterization ❧65

part ii ❧

plays from the traditional repertory

5 *The Flower of Good Fortune (Kalyanasaugandhikam)* Kottayam Tampuran ❧101
Introduction ❧101
Commentary ❧113

6 *The Killing of Kirmira (Kirmiravadham)* Kottayam Tampuran ❧118
Introduction ❧118
Commentary ❧130

❧ viii Contents

- 7 *The Progeny of Krishna (Santanagopalam)* Mandavappalli Ittiraricha Menon ❧135
Introduction ❧135
Commentary ❧151
- 8 *King Rugmamgada's Law (Rugmamgada caritam)* Mandavappalli Ittiraricha Menon ❧159
Introduction ❧159
Commentary ❧169

part iii ❧

contested narratives: new plays, discourses, and contexts

- 9 For Whom is the King a King? Issues of Intercultural Production, Perception, and Reception in a *Kathakali King Lear* ❧177
- 10 When Marx met Imperialism on the *Kathakali* Stage ❧196
- Afterword: Whose Gods, and Whose Demons Dance?* ❧206
- Appendix: Kathakali Performances on Video* ❧209
- Notes* ❧212
- Bibliography and References Cited* ❧231
- Glossary and Table of Transliteration* ❧242
- Index* ❧253