



## Krishna Theatre in India

By M. L. Varadpande

Abhinav Publications, New Delhi. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First Edition. 145pp. ?Narayanam Namaskritya? -I bow before thee with deep reverence O Lord Krishna ? says great Indian epic Mahabharata in its opening benedictory verse. The impact of Krishna cult on Indian art, literature and culture is stupendous. Krishna worship includes music, dance, drama, which delights him most. Bhasa describes him as Sutradhar, string-holder, of the drama of life that is being enacted in all the three worlds. Bhagavata Purana eulogise him as Natavar, supreme actor, and enjoins the devotees to offer him theatricals on festive occasions. Inscriptions speak of the tradition of enacting plays in the Krishna temples. The tradition still continues as river Yamuna, on whose bank Krishna performed Ras dance, continues to flow. All over India plays based on Krishna theme are enacted. Indian classical dance forms take delight in depicting Radha-Krishna love lore. The Ras Leela of Vraj, Ankiya Nat of Assam, Kala of Goa and Maharashtra, Krishna Attam of Kerala, Ras of Manipur, Odissi of Orissa Kathak of Uttar Pradesh are some of the traditional drama and dance forms that depict Krishna lore? Many Krishna plays are there in the repertory of Kathakali, Yakshagana, Kuchipudi, Tamasha and...



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