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In a post-colonial age of globalizing economies, the political quest for national 'identity' is increasingly urgent. Kapferer consequently produces a wealth of ethnographic detail that will be particularly interesting to readers unfamiliar with Australian cultural practice but concerned with the characteristics of activities such as public festivals. A significant strength of Kapferer's monograph is her attention to aspects of everyday leisure and work, such as the Show, as the grounds and material for identity formation.

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As such, she moves considerably beyond a predominant body of literature that investigates Australian national culture and identity solely through published media such as literature and film. A significant strength of Kapferer's monograph is her attention to aspects of everyday leisure and work, such as the Show, as the grounds and material for identity formation. By dissecting the motivations that animate the superficially bland inclusiveness of liberal nationalism, Judith Kapferer has made of Australian cultural politics a globally apposite object-lesson for political and social theory.

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