

# Rabinal achi - a fifteenth-century Maya dynastic drama

**University Press of Colorado - RABINAL ACHI: A FIFTEENTH**



Description: -

- Quiché drama

Rabinal-AchiRabinal achi - a fifteenth-century Maya dynastic drama

- Mesoamerican worldsRabinal achi - a fifteenth-century Maya dynastic drama

Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 373-386) and index.

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## Rabinal Achí dance drama tradition

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## Rabinal Achi

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## Rabinal Achi: Xajooj Tun/ Ou Ballet du Tun

A series of combative dialogues pits the offending warrior against the local warrior Rabinal Achi and the king Job Toj , reconstructing the deeds of those involved and retracing the antagonistic history of these two Mayan groups, the Quiche and the Rabinaleb. Just as Brenton learned to love and appreciate the text as one of the few precious fragments of a once thriving tradition of Maya dance-dramas, this new translation helps us to appreciate, albeit as outsiders, a people's cherished cultural heritage. This performance has been a part of Rabinal history for centuries, and continues to be a part of the culture today.

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The dancers move in a circle while the two princes face off against each other in the middle. In 2005, UNESCO declared Rabinal Achi to be a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

## Rabinal Achi

For this production, the jaguars and eagles were each represented by one performer as opposed to the usual thirteen. This drama is still performed with a ritual dance in the village of Rabinal Baja Verapaz. Because it is such a serious crime, K’iche’ is caught, at which time Rabinaleb reminds K’iche’ of all of his feats, both bad and good.



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