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Sacred Players: The Politics of Response in the Middle English Religious Drama (Hardback)

By Heather Hill-Vasquez

The Catholic University of America Press, United States, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 218 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Offering a unique historical perspective to the study of medieval English drama, Heather Hill-Vasquez, in *Sacred Players* , argues that different treatments of audience and performance in the early drama indicate that the performance life of the drama continued well beyond its traditional placement in medieval history into the Reformation and Renaissance eras. This notion has several significant implications for the study of other religious drama also previously relegated to the English medieval period. Rather than documents preserving a fixed sacred meaning, extant manuscripts present texts wed closely to the inherent fluidity of performance and to the flexibility of differing religious sensibilities. A consistently popular and powerful form of lay worship, the English religious drama in fact defined and reflected the varying nature of religious discourse and dramatic performance well into and beyond the Reformation. *Sacred Players* also argues that such a second life was driven by a focus on the role of audience response. Specifically, a politicizing of audience reception styles and devotional practices characterized much of the early English religious drama. Through its historically recursive...



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