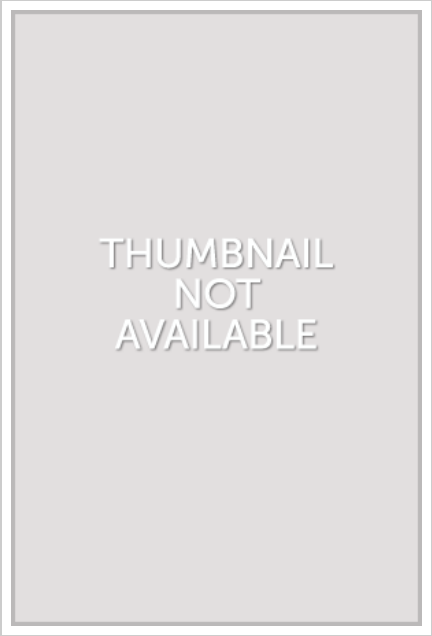


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Striking Performances/Performing Strikes (Paperback)

By Kirk W. Fuoss

University Press of Mississippi, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the 1930s two protest groups gained the public eye by role playing. They brought their social grievances to attention in their communities by staging mock performances. In this fascinating study of two strikes, Kirk W. Fuoss reports how the novel incidents of these protests unite the seemingly opposing forces of community and contestation.The two extended case studies-the Workers Alliance of America s 1936 takeover of the New Jersey State Assembly and the General Motors sitdown strike of 1936-37-illustrate group interdependence rather than opposition and demonstrate the irony of fostering a sense of community while fomenting conflict.The New Jersey case rose out of the state s depletion of relief appropriations and the cutting off of payments to the unemployed. As a result, the state branch of the union seized the State Assembly and for ten days staged a pauper s parliament in which members alternately performed roles of ideal legislators and parodied the actual legislators.A similar cultural performance was staged in Flint, Michigan, during the General Motors sitdown strike. Because the local media maintained an...

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