



# Playing Harry Potter: Essays and Interviews on Fandom and Performance

By Lisa S. Brenner

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Through classroom activities, wizard rock concerts, and organizations like the Harry Potter Alliance, Harry Potter fans are using creativity to positively impact the world. This collection of essays and interviews examines how playful fandom--from fanfiction to Muggle quidditch, cosplay, role-playing games, and even Harry Potter burlesque--not only reimagines the canon but also challenges consumerism, questions notions of identity, and fosters participatory culture.

The contributors explore issues applicable to fan studies and performance studies at large, such as the role of performance, the nature of community, and questions of representation and ownership in the digital age. Presented in three parts, the essays discuss discrepancies between sanctioned versions of Harry Potter and fan creations, the reenactment and reinterpretation of the original narrative in fan performance, and collaborative and participatory performances that break down the boundaries between actors and audiences.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"this collection reveals the wide range of fan culture that has built up around the Harry Potter books. Recommended"--*Choice*.

#### About the Author

**Lisa S. Brenner** is the co-editor of *Theatre Topics* and an associate professor of theatre at Drew University, where she received the 2013 President's Award for Distinguished Teaching and the 2009 Faculty Leadership Award for Civic Engagement. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey.

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