CONTENTS

List of Illustrations xi
Acknowledgments xiii
Note on Romanization xvii

Introduction 1

PART I: FORMATION OF CANTONESE OPERA IN SOUTH CHINA
Chapter One: Itinerant Actors and Red Boats in the Pearl River Delta 11
Chapter Two: Urbanization of Cantonese Opera 31
Chapter Three: Urban Theater and Its Modern Crisis 56

PART II: POPULAR THEATER AND THE STATE
Chapter Four: The Cultural Politics of Theater Reform 81
Chapter Five: The State, Public Order, and Local Theater in South China 107

PART III: LOCAL THEATER, TRANSNATIONAL ARENA
Chapter Six: Popular Theater in the Diaspora 131
Chapter Seven: Theater as Transnational Business 152
Chapter Eight: Theater and the Immigrant Public 170
Conclusion 189

List of Characters 197
Notes 205
Bibliography 241
Index 257