

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910300022103321
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Titolo	Carnival and Power : Play and Politics in a Crown Colony // by Vicki Ann Cremona
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2018
ISBN	9783319706566 331970656X
Edizione	[1st ed. 2018.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIX, 304 p. 16 illus., 3 illus. in color.)
Collana	Transnational Theatre Histories, , 2946-5907
Disciplina	792.09
Soggetti	Theater - History Performing arts Theater Theatre History Theatre and Performance Arts Global and International Theatre and Performance
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Perceptions of Colony and Carnival -- 2. Power and its Historical Framework -- 3. Social Difference and Street Dynamics -- 4. Fancy Dress, Rank and Dignity: Power and Play in Carnival Balls -- 5. 'The sweet satires that prick where it is needed....': The Caricature of Power -- 6. Raising the Levels of Street Carnivals - Competitions and Prizes -- 7. Carnival or Carnivals? Political Wrangles Between State, Church and Party -- 8. Politics vs Religion and State - Beyond Carnival and the Carnavalesque -- 9. Carnival as a Transnational Cultural Phenomenon.
Sommario/riassunto	This book shows how Carnival under British colonial rule became a locus of resistance as well as an exercise and affirmation of power. Carnival is both a space of theatricality and a site of politics, where the playful, participatory aspects are appropriated by countervailing forces seeking to influence, control, channel or redirect power. Focusing specifically on the Maltese islands, a tiny European archipelago situated at the heart of the Mediterranean, this work links the contrast between play and power to other Carnival realities across the world. It examines

the question of power and identity in relation to different social classes and environments of Carnival play, from streets to ballrooms. It looks at satire and censorship, unbridled gaiety and controlled celebration. It describes the ways Carnival was appropriated as a power channel both by the British and their Maltese subjects, and ultimately how it was manipulated in the struggle for Malta's independence.
