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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1 Framing African Performance in Mexico -- 2 Masked Dance. Devils and Beasts of the Costa Chica -- 3 Archetypes of Race. Performance Responses to Afro-Mexican Presence -- 4 Becoming National. Chilena, Artesa, and Jarocho as Folkloric Dances -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	While Africans and their descendants have lived in Mexico for centuries, many Afro-Mexicans do not consider themselves to be either black or African. For almost a century, Mexico has promoted an ideal of its citizens as having a combination of indigenous and European ancestry. This obscures the presence of African, Asian, and other populations that have contributed to the growth of the nation. However, performance studies—of dance, music, and theatrical events—reveal the influence of African people and their cultural productions on Mexican society. In this work, Anita González articulates African ethnicity and artistry within the broader panorama of Mexican culture by featuring dance events that are performed either by Afro-Mexicans or by other ethnic Mexican groups about Afro-Mexicans. She illustrates how dance reflects upon social histories and relationships and

documents how residents of some sectors of Mexico construct their histories through performance. Festival dances and, sometimes, professional staged dances point to a continuing negotiation among Native American, Spanish, African, and other ethnic identities within the evolving nation of Mexico. These performances embody the mobile histories of ethnic encounters because each dance includes a spectrum of characters based upon local situations and historical memories.

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