

CONTENTS

Prologue	xi
Acknowledgments	xvii
Personae	xix

1 Looking for Serci 1

Part One: Organization of the Possession Troupe

2 Zimas from Tillaberi	23
3 Gusabu's Mediums	45
4 Praise-Singers from the River	83
5 Cries of the Violin, Rhythms of the Drum	107

Part Two: Theaters of Songhay Experience

6 Rain Dance: Rites of the Ancestors	127
7 Horrific Comedy: The Hauka	147

Part Three: Possession in a Changing World

8 Sexual Comedy: The Sasale	167
9 Two Mouths, Two Hearts	181

Epilogue: Fusion of the Worlds	205
Notes	217
Glossary	231
References	235
Index	241