

FROM THE ORIGINAL TO THE STAGE TRANSCREATING INDIGENOUS EXPRESSIONS FOR SHOW

Steven Patrick C. Fernandez

When performing artists dance and play the music of other cultural communities, they "appropriate" or "borrow."

Appropriation is using other people's properties- in this case, creative expressions like dance and music- without the permission of the owners. In a strict sense, appropriation is not "borrowing" other people's properties because the users have no intention of returning that which they have taken.

The act of borrowing can only be operative among the exchange of tangible items, but how do artists ask permission to use another's expressions if what the artists collect are intangibles like dance and music? The best exchange that appropriators can offer to their sources is to depict faithfully the culture they appropriate. The act of borrowing therefore, operates: what has been borrowed is "returned" through their correct reenactments that allow audiences the insights about the essential features of the culture depicted.