



The Shadow and the Act: Black Intellectual Practice, Jazz Improvisation, and Philosophical Pragmatism (Paperback)

By Walton M. Muiyumba

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Though often thought of as rivals, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, and Amiri Baraka shared a range of interests, especially a passion for music. Jazz, in particular, was a decisive influence on their thinking, and, as *The Shadow and the Act* reveals, they drew on their insights into the creative process of improvisation to analyze race and politics in the civil rights era. In this inspired study Walton M. Muiyumba situates these thinkers as a jazz trio, demonstrating how Ellison, Baraka, and Baldwin's individual works form a series of calls and responses with each other. Muiyumba connects their writings on jazz to the philosophical tradition of pragmatism, particularly its support for more freedom for individuals and more democratic societies. He examines the way they responded to and elaborated on that lineage, showing how they significantly broadened it by addressing the African American experience, especially its aesthetics. Ultimately, Muiyumba contends, the trio enacted pragmatist principles by effectively communicating the social and political benefits of African Americans fully entering society, thereby compelling America to move closer to its democratic ideals.



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Reviews

It is one of my personal favorite books. It is written in easy terms and never hard to understand. It has been designed in an exceedingly easy way and it is only after I finished reading this publication that I, in fact, changed the way I think.

-- **Lucinda Stiedemann**

The best book I have ever read. I am quite late in starting to read this one, but better than never. I realized this publication from my dad and I advised this book to understand.

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