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Babylon Girls. is a groundbreaking cultural history of the African American women who performed in variety shows—chorus lines, burlesque revues, cabaret acts, and the like—between 1890 and 1945. Through a consideration of the gestures, costuming, vocal techniques, and stagecraft developed by African American singers and dancers, Jayna Brown explains how these women shaped the movement and style of an emerging urban popular culture.

### **Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the Shaping of ...**

Their antics gave us the convention of the "mischievous girl at the end of the line," of particular importance for this study of black women variety performers, as this is a convention later given signature by the (teenaged) performers Ethel Williams and then Josephine Baker.

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### **Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the Shaping of ...**

Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the Shaping of the Modern by Jayna Brown (2008-09-19) [Jayna Brown] on Amazon.com. \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.

### **Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the Shaping of ...**

Although the focus of Jayna Brown's Babylon Girls is on the shaping of the modern by Black women performers, as it is so titled, Brown leaves it impossible to not think critically about the many psychosocial aspects that she uses as foundation for her work.

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This is a fascinating subject. Jayna Brown's study of well-known, little-known, and unknown African American female performers—from minstrels to “coon cantatric

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Chapters six and seven, which open with a discussion of Shuffle Along, the musical review that ushered in "a new era of black female cultural presence", Brown notes, analyse the cultural significance of the transatlantic artists Florence Mills, Josephine Baker and Valaida Snow.

### **Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the Shaping of ...**

Focusing on well-known performers (Florence Mills, Josephine Baker) and lesser-known artists (Aida Overton Walker, Ida Forsythe, Dora Dean), Jayna Brown analyzes the success of black women attempting to forge theatrical careers amid considerable obstacles during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### **Jayna Brown. Babylon Girls: Black Women Performers and the ...**

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“Babylon Girls tracks the black female artist-as-flâneur across an astonishing panorama. . . . Babylon Girls is diasporic performance history from below. It decenters the better-known



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artists such as Josephine Baker in order to make room for Valaida Snow, Stella Wiley, Belle Davis, and Adelaide Hall.

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