



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West Africa: An Angola Study

Maria Guerreiro¹, Francisco Moco^{1,2}, Carlos Nkonde^{3,4}

¹ Technical University of Angola (UTANGA)

² Department of Research, Instituto Superior Politécnico Metropolitano de Angola (IMETRO)

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Agostinho Neto University, Luanda

⁴ Instituto Superior Politécnico Metropolitano de Angola (IMETRO)

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Correspondence: mguerreiro@outlook.com

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Author notes

Maria Guerreiro is affiliated with Technical University of Angola (UTANGA) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Francisco Moco is affiliated with Department of Research, Instituto Superior Politécnico Metropolitano de Angola (IMETRO) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Carlos Nkonde is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Agostinho Neto University, Luanda and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Theatre and performance in Angola have long served as platforms for social commentary on various aspects of society, including politics, culture, and economic conditions. The research employs a comparative approach, drawing from archival materials, ethnographic fieldwork, and interviews with contemporary theatre practitioners. A thematic analysis will be conducted to identify recurring themes and patterns across different periods of Angolan history. A notable theme emerging from the study is the portrayal of colonial legacy in contemporary performances, which often reflect on historical injustices and their ongoing effects on present-day society. This study reveals that theatre and performance in Angola play a crucial role in social commentary by addressing complex societal issues and fostering public discourse. Further research could explore the evolution of these themes over time and their potential for cross-cultural application in other postcolonial contexts.

Keywords: *African diaspora, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, performance studies, social critique, West African theatre, ethnomusicology*

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