



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentators in West Africa: A Comparative Study in Comoros

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Abstract

Theatre and performance in West Africa have long been recognised as powerful tools for social commentary, reflecting and influencing societal values and norms. A comparative study approach will be employed, analysing both traditional and contemporary theatre productions from Comoros. Data collection will involve archival research on historical performances and interviews with local artists to understand current practices and insights into the cultural significance of theatrical interventions. The analysis reveals a recurring theme in social critique through theatre across various genres, particularly addressing issues related to gender roles and political power dynamics. This study contributes to the understanding of how theatre and performance function as significant social commentators within Comoros by elucidating their role in societal discourse. Further research could explore the impact of global trends on local theatrical practices, enhancing our comprehension of contemporary cultural shifts in West African societies.

Keywords: *African geography, Theatre anthropology, Performance studies, Social critique, Cultural performance, Ethnographic methods, Performative theory*

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