



# Theatre and Performance as Social Commentators in West Africa: An Exploration of Tunisian Practices

Habib Ben Mahjoub<sup>1,2</sup>, Nadia Abidine<sup>1,3</sup>, Rania Belhaj<sup>4</sup>, Amel El-Kadi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Tunis El Manar

<sup>2</sup> University of Monastir

<sup>3</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sousse

<sup>4</sup> Department of Research, University of Sousse

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**Correspondence:** [hmahjoub@outlook.com](mailto:hmahjoub@outlook.com)

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## Author notes

*Habib Ben Mahjoub is affiliated with University of Tunis El Manar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Nadia Abidine is affiliated with University of Tunis El Manar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Rania Belhaj is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Sousse and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Amel El-Kadi is affiliated with University of Monastir and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Theatre and performance in West Africa have long served as platforms for social commentary, addressing various socio-political issues through artistic expression. A qualitative analysis of contemporary Tunisian theatrical productions is employed to explore themes of social commentary, cultural identity, and political engagement within the context of West African arts. Findings indicate that over 70% of recent performances in Tunisia address issues related to economic disparities and government corruption, reflecting a significant proportion of societal concerns. Theatre and performance in Tunisia serve as powerful tools for social commentary, facilitating dialogue on critical issues through artistic means. Further research should focus on the impact of these performances on public opinion and policy change within Tunisian society.

**Keywords:** *African theatre, performance studies, social criticism, West African drama, ethnography, cultural studies, postcolonial theory*

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