



The Role of Theatre and Performance in Social Commentary within West African Communities in Mauritius,

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Published: 12 November 2010 | **Received:** 28 July 2010 | **Accepted:** 08 October 2010

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18909896](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18909896)

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Abstract

West African communities in Mauritius have long used theatre and performance as a medium for social commentary, reflecting their cultural heritage and contemporary issues. The research employs qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews with community members and observations at local cultural events, to understand the role of theatre in social discourse. A key finding is that theatre performances often address issues such as gender inequality and cultural preservation, indicating their adaptability across different societal contexts. The study concludes that theatre and performance play a significant role in fostering dialogue about social issues within West African communities in Mauritius. Recommendations include further research into the long-term impacts of these performances on community development and cultural identity.

Keywords: *African diaspora, Ethnography, Performance studies, Theatre anthropology, West Africa*

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