



Theorising Theatre and Performance as Social Commentators in West African Comorian Identities

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Abstract

The Comoros archipelago in East Africa is a culturally diverse region with significant influences from African, Arab, and Indian cultures. Theatre and performance have long been integral to Comorian cultural expression and identity formation. The study employs a qualitative approach, analysing existing literature on theatrical productions and performances in Comoros alongside interviews with cultural practitioners. Data is triangulated for robust analysis. A key finding is that theatre often critiques economic disparities between urban and rural areas, highlighting themes of wealth inequality through narrative structures within plays and dance performances. The research underscores the dynamic role of theatre and performance in articulating social commentary that shapes Comorian cultural identity and resilience against socio-economic pressures. Policy makers should consider supporting arts education programmes to ensure preservation and promotion of Comorian theatrical traditions, which serve as vital mirrors of societal change. Comoros, Theatre, Performance, Cultural Identity, Social Commentary

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