



# Theatrical Dialogues in West Africa: Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in South Africa

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## Abstract

Theatrical dialogues play a significant role in social commentary across Africa. An ethnographic study employing participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis to understand the dynamics of theatrical practice within communities and institutions. Theatrical performances often mirrored socio-political issues such as inequality and xenophobia, with themes recurring in over half of the plays studied. The findings suggest that theatre provides a platform for marginalized voices to be heard and for broader societal conversations about social justice. Further research should examine how global influences impact local theatrical practices and their effectiveness in fostering community engagement.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Ethnography, Performance studies, Theatre anthropology, Cultural studies, Social theory, Participant observation*

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