



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West Africa: An Ethiopian Perspective

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Abstract

Theatre and performance have long been recognised as powerful tools for social commentary in West Africa, particularly in Ethiopia where they serve to reflect and critique societal issues. The analysis draws from existing literature and ethnographic studies conducted across various regions of Ethiopia. This commentary underscores the significant role that theatre and performance play in mediating and addressing socio-political issues within Ethiopian communities. Further research should focus on documenting specific instances of how different genres of theatre are used to comment on contemporary societal challenges, providing a richer understanding of their impact.

Keywords: *African theatre, diaspora studies, ethnomusicology, performative theory, postcolonialism, ritual performance, visual anthropology*

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