



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West Africa: A Theoretical Framework

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Published: 27 May 2010 | **Received:** 09 March 2010 | **Accepted:** 08 May 2010

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18913124](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18913124)

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Abstract

Theatre and performance have long been integral to social commentary in West Africa, particularly in South Africa. This tradition extends across various forms such as traditional storytelling, dance dramas, and contemporary theatre productions. No empirical data is utilised; instead, the study employs a critical analysis of existing literature and ethnographic studies on theatre and performance in South African contexts. This theoretical framework underscores the significant role of theatre and performance in South African society as mechanisms for fostering dialogue on societal challenges and promoting cultural understanding. Theoretical insights from this study can inform future research by providing a structured approach to studying the intersection of art forms and social commentary. Additionally, it offers guidelines for scholars working within the field of arts and humanities.

Keywords: *African Geography, Theatre Studies, Performance Theory, Social Theory, Ethnography, Cultural Anthropology, Postcolonial Criticism*

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