



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West African Contexts: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Ghana

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Abstract

Theatrical performances in West Africa often serve as platforms for social commentary, addressing issues such as cultural preservation, political dissent, and community development. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys to gather data from both practitioners and audience members. A thematic analysis revealed that over 70% of theatre pieces addressed issues related to cultural heritage preservation. Audience engagement was significantly higher among those who identified as part of the target communities for these performances. The findings suggest a strong correlation between the themes explored in theatrical productions and public sentiment, indicating an influential role of performance arts in social discourse. Policy makers should consider incorporating theatre initiatives into their strategies to enhance cultural understanding and community cohesion. Ghanaian Theatre, Social Commentary, Mixed-Methods Study

Keywords: West African, Performance Studies, Ethnography, Content Analysis, Social Theory, Cultural Studies, Quantitative Methods

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