



# Theatre and Performance as Social Commentators in West African Contexts: Insights from South Africa,

Sithembinkazi Khumalo<sup>1,2</sup>, Mbuya Nganga Wakatsha<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Graduate School of Business, UCT

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, Rhodes University

<sup>3</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Rhodes University

<sup>4</sup> Graduate School of Business, UCT

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**Correspondence:** [skhumalo@hotmail.com](mailto:skhumalo@hotmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Sithembinkazi Khumalo is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Graduate School of Business, UCT and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Mbuya Nganga Wakatsha is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Rhodes University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Theatre and performance have long been recognised as powerful social commentaries in West African contexts, with South Africa serving as a notable example. No empirical data were collected for this commentary; instead, theoretical analysis and case studies are employed to explore themes relevant to the field of Arts & Humanities. The analysis underscores the significant role of theatre and performance in articulating social concerns and fostering dialogue within West African communities, particularly in South Africa's post-apartheid environment. Future research could benefit from a more comprehensive empirical approach to validate these insights and further explore the mechanisms through which theatre impacts societal discourse.

**Keywords:** *African theatre, performance studies, social commentary, West African culture, postcolonial theory, cultural criticism, performative politics*

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