



Nkyin-Kyin: Essays on the Ghanaian Theatre. (Cross/Cultures)

James Gibbs

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This collection brings together essays written over a thirty-five year period. They reflect James Gibbs's position vis-à-vis the Ghanaian theatre as sometimes a remote onlooker, sometimes an enthusiastic participant observer, deeply involved in issues of perception and influence in a society moving through colonialism to nationalism, independence and beyond. The main body of the book is divided into four sections. The first, "Outsiders and Activists," looks at theatre for community development during the late 1940s, some connections between drama and film, and the astonishing involvement in Ghanaian performance culture of the Haitian poet and playwright Felix Morisseau-Leroy. The second section, "Intercultural Encounters," examines ways in which classic Greek drama has been used by producers and writers in West Africa, with special reference to Victor Yankah, Kobina Sekyi (Ghana's first published playwright), and the Nigerian Femi Osofisan. Section Three, "Plays and Playwrights," concentrates on Efua Sutherland, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Joe de Graft. This section uncovers issues of documentation and achievement that draw attention to the need for investment in organising resources for writing Ghana's theatre history. The volume draws to a close with personal accounts of touring student productions in the 1960s (with due attention to the influence of Bertolt Brecht) and of involvement in a British film production on location. The book closes with an updated complete bibliography of Ghana's chief dramatist, Efua Sutherland.

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