

BASIC  
TECHNIQUES  
IN  
PLAYWRITING



Ahmed Yerima

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This is a book on playwriting. Beyond that, however, it is a familiarization tour — for the reader, the budding or intending playwright — of the theatre as a whole: its origins and development; its various types and their uses; its functionaries and their functions; its place in society and society's place in it. It explores, from a playwright's perspective, the concepts, philosophies, techniques and network of relationships which furnish and give wholeness to a theatrical production.

It covers areas such as kinds of plays, dramatic dialogue, character manipulation, adaptation, writing for children, writing for radio and television and the problems/challenges of publishing plays. In simple and concise language, the author enriches the work with references and examples garnered over years of successful theatre practice. Students of theatre, creative arts, criticism and the humanities in general will no doubt find the book an invaluable companion.

The author, Ahmed Yerima, is the Artistic Director of the National Troupe of Nigeria and has to his credit over a dozen plays amongst which are: *Otaelo*; *The Lottery Ticket*; *Yemoja*; *Dry Leaves on Ukan Trees*; *The Sisters*; *The Sick People*; *Attahiru*; *The Trials of Oba Ovonramwen*; *Kaffir's Last Game*; *The Bishop and the Soul* and *The Silent Gods*.

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