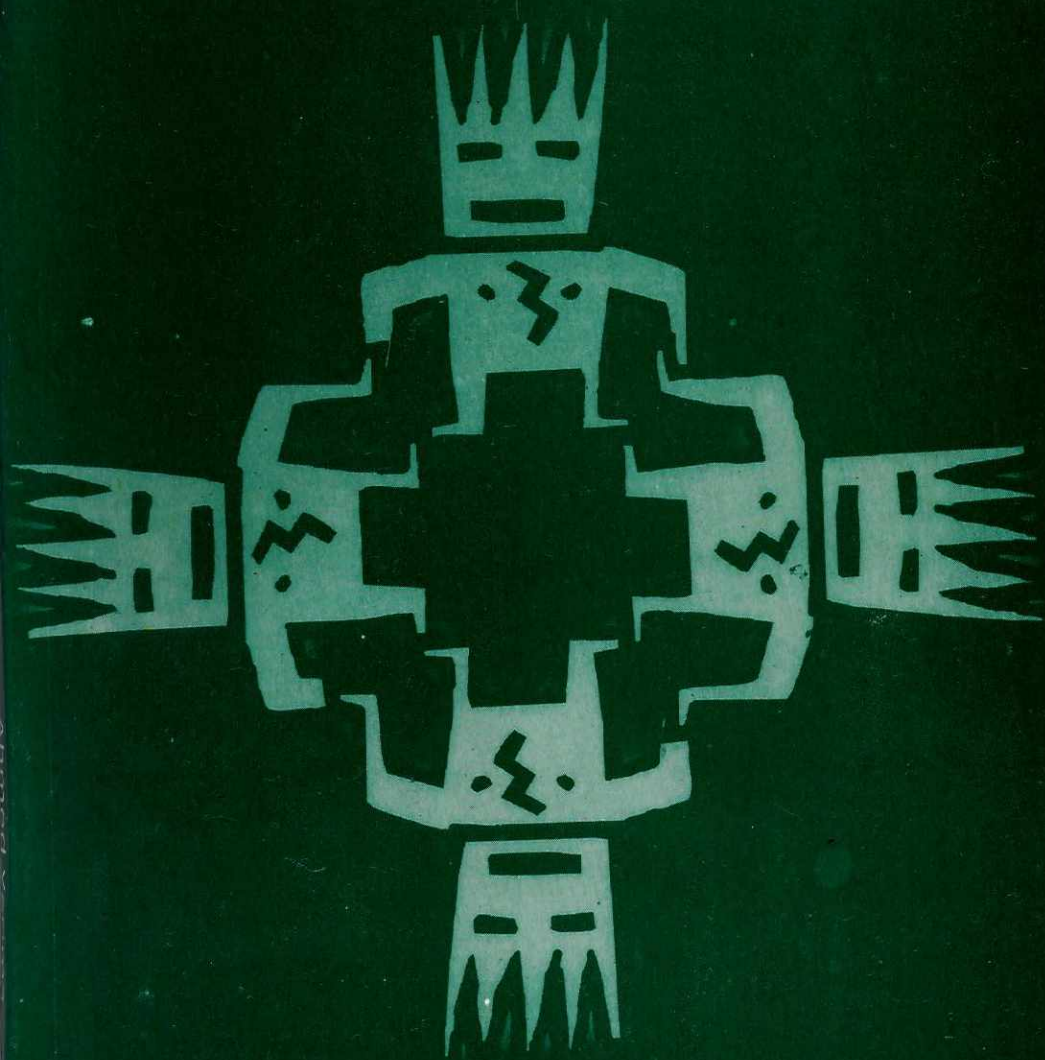


Modern Nigerian Theatre

The Geoffrey Axworthy Years, 1956-1967



Ahmed Yerima

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MODERN NIGERIAN THEATRE: THE GEOFFREY AXWORTHY YEARS, 1956-1967

The history of the development of Nigerian theatre is still being written. This interview with Geoffrey Axworthy, pioneer head and founder of Nigeria's first School of Drama in a university, and some of his reflections and those of others during his period are in continuation of that process. The book aims at presenting part(s) of the missing link in the narrative of the development of the Nigerian theatre and the universities which is yet to be fully documented.

The appendices are a rich compendia on notable theatre figures (Wole Soyinka, J.P. Clark, Hubert Ogunde, Duro Ladipo, Kola Ogunmola, Demas Nwoko, Sonny Oti, Nkem Nwankwo, Dapo Adelugba, Wale Ogunyemi, Martin Banham, Joel Adedeji etc) who played vital roles in the shaping of modern Nigerian theatre.

These reflections will be of lasting value not only to the general reader but to historians and scholars as well.

Director, actor, playwright and scholar, Ahmed Yerima, is the Artistic Director of the National Troupe of Nigeria. His other works include *Basic Techniques in Playwriting; Theatre and Democracy in Nigeria* (co-edited with Ayo Akinwale); *The Limam and Ade Ire; The Angel and Other Plays; 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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