

Ahmed Yerima

COLLECTED PLAYS

I

**THE SICK PEOPLE
THE SILENT GODS
KAFFIR'S LAST GAME**



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In *The Sick People*, Ahmed Yerima combines action effectively with linguistic prowess and manages it to the level of the sublime. The landscape of *The Sick People* is littered with images of incest, infidelity, promiscuity, poverty, love, forgiveness, perseverance, and the will to survive in the face of a haunting experience from past sins. Yet from this seamy consciousness issues forth streams of wisdom with which the characters punctuate their lives in this captivating drama of existence and survival.

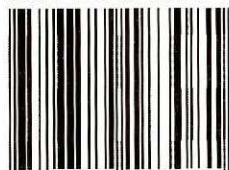
The crisis of leadership, the scourge of many African countries, is the thematic engagement of the playwright in *The Silent Gods*. What happens when the gods refuse to lead and guide a people in their quest for a new leader?

Kaffir's Last Game, an experimental drama, is set in Johannesburg Airport. It draws attention to the love-hate relationship between Nigeria and South Africa in the mid-1990s. It also dramatizes instability in government due to succession crises. Hiding under the historical and contemporary thrust of the play, Yerima pilories and proffers solution to the myriads of problems plaguing both nations.

Director, actor, playwright and scholar, Ahmed Yerima is a former Director-General of the National Theatre and National Troupe of Nigeria. His other works include *Gender Politics: Women's Writings and Films in Northern Nigeria* (co-edited with Saeedat Aliyu); *Discourse on Tragedy* (Gurara, 2009); *Critical Perspectives on Dance in Nigeria* (co-edited with Bakare Ojo-Rasaki and Arnold Udoka); *Modern Nigerian Theatre: The Geoffrey Axworthy Years, 1956-1967*; *Basic Techniques in Playwriting*; *Theatre and Democracy in Nigeria* (co-edited with Ayo Akinwale); *Orisa Ibeji*; *Heart of Stone*; *Tafida & Other Plays*; *Three Plays*; *Igatibi*; *No Pennies for Mama*; *Mu'adhin's Call*, *Ajagunmale*, *Little Drops*; *The Ife Quartet*; *Mojagbe*; *Tuti*; *Akuabata*; *The Wives*; *Aetu*; *Erelu-Kuti*; *Idemili*; *Hard Ground* (winner, The Nigeria Prize for Literature, 2006 and winner, ANA/NDDC J.P. Clark

DRAMA

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