

Review of: "Nigerian Postcolonial Comedy, Religious Shamanism and Modernity: Soyinka, Osofisan and Kalejaiye"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I do recommend publication of this essay, but I do so with the recommendation to better develop the stated thesis--to examine "shamanic practices to interrogate modernity ." The essay provides a thorough analytical summary of the three plays, all of which depict the characters (and society, religious and political leaders in particular) as corrupt, deceitful, gullible, and greedy. However, while the essay purports to interrogate modernity, the essay fails to show the result of the interrogation or its importance. What specifically is Yemi Atanda saying about modernity, which is represented by corrupt and greedy spiritual and political leaders? In other words, what is Atanda's point in interrogating modernity?

Also, the essay doesn't fully develop the importance of comedy--"It is imperative to find reasons why comedy, especially in Africa, has not been accorded due critical attention, as it is for tragedy." That imperative suggests that comedy deserves the critical attention accorded to tragedies. However, we are not told why it deserves that "critical attention." The essay presents three excellent comedies, yet it fails to discuss or evidence the importance of those comedies and their stinging, insightful critique of modern society. What are the takeaways from reading those particular plays or even reading this essay? The omission of that critical analysis is a failure to articulate the importance of comedy and its vitally important and necessary commentary on society. I recommend, therefore, that this argument/analysis be more fully developed in paragraph(s) preceding the essay's conclusion. Tell us why these comedies are important--their contributions to its reading and watching audience, society at large (including the religious and political leaders whom the plays critiques and criticizes), and the literary canon. And ultimately demonstrate why comedies should be afforded the same critical attention that tragedies receive, perhaps by discussing and evidencing comedy's vital contribution(s) to the betterment of society.

Finally, I recommend that the conclusion analytically summarize the essay and its (and the author's) contribution to the literary discourse.