

Shadow of an Eagle

Bill Marshall

A domestic drama, in a rural African setting. This play takes the motif of the eagle in Ghanaian mythology/symbolism to explore ideas of ambition, achievement and fulfilment, as individuals may experience for themselves, or as they may desire for others, particularly family members. It further reflects upon how ideas of ambition interact with competing responsibilities presented by the family. In the play, Bimpo leaves home to seek his fortunes elsewhere, but returns. He toys with the idea of supporting his disillusioned alcoholic father, but eventually decides he must pursue his own goals. His sister Sumanta falls pregnant, but her mother forbids her to marry the child's father because she feels he resembles her own husband too much, and she has greater aspirations for her daughter than she had for herself. All the family live in the shadow of their hardworking and successful grandfather, and implicitly constantly fail to live up to his expectations. Shadow of an Eagle was first broadcast on BBC African Theatre in 1969 and is now for the first time widely available outside Ghana.

996472232X 30pp 2003 Sedco Publishing £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Otaelo

Ahmed Yermia

9780390804 57pp 2002 Kraft Books Limited £6.95 /\$10.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95



The State Visit

Niyi Osundare

9780390588 67pp 2002 Kraft Books Limited £6.95 /\$10.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95



Yemoja

Ahmed Yerima

9780390669 63pp 2002 Kraft Books Limited £6.95 /\$10.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95



Akassa You Mi. A Historical Drama

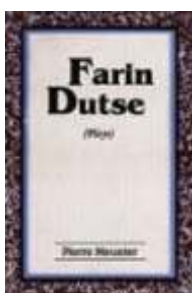
Ola Rotimi

Ola Rotimi died in 2000 just after receiving grants for the establishment of the Ola Rotimi Foundation for Theatre Development in Africa. An acknowledged pioneer using music, dance, crowds, ritual, libation, communal participation and themes and problems relating directly to Africa preoccupations and anxieties, he wrote seven published plays. The play in hand, first performed in 1977, is set against the following historical background: On the 29th of January 1895, troops of the Nembe Kingdom under the leadership of Fredrick William Koto attacked the premises of the Royal Niger Koto company at Akassa. What the British considered to be a raid, the Nembe people considered an attack to ensure economic survival for their people, and maintenance of their sovereignty.

"... a useful addition to many libraries" (World Literature Today)

978232115X 150pp 2001 Onyoma Research Publications £10.95 /\$16.95 - Paperback

Price: £10.95



Farin Dutse

Pierre Meunier

The title play evokes the devilish machinations of a governor saddled with the responsibility of maintaining law and order in a peaceful community. Violence, hatred, fear and rape are the hallmarks of his administration until he is consumed by a revolt of the people he governs.

"Meunier's writing is forthright and engaging." (African Book Publishing Record)

9780293051 176pp 2001 Spectrum Books £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

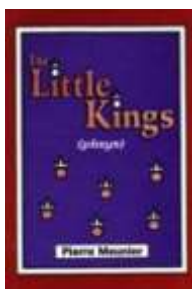


The Coffee Party
Pierre Meunier

Two plays by Pierre Meunier, a widely published playwright. The title play takes place in Ikoyi, the elite area of Lagos. It is a one-act play, and everything is staged in the drawing room of Madame Betty King, the wife of the director of an important oil company. The play shows how women of different nationalities and colours behave in expatriate Nigerian society, in the year following independence. The second play mirrors a drug baron-devil incarnate, who, goaded by the arrogance of wealth, embarks upon annihilation of innocent female undergraduates by sexual intimidation.

9780292853 128pp 2001 Spectrum Books £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95

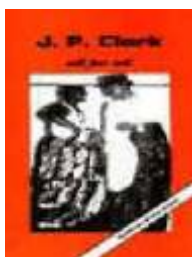


The Little Kings
Pierre Meunier

Two plays are included in this volume. The Three Little Kings, a personification of self-deceit and opportunism, is set in a time where little kings and queens constitute law unto themselves while revelling in the miasma of their ephemeral positions. The second play, Terror At Night, encapsulates the brutality of a jealous husband which ends in murder, suicide and the extermination of an otherwise blissful marital life.

9780293000 183pp 2001 Spectrum Books £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

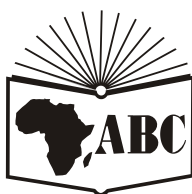


All For Oil
J.P. Clark

In the European scramble for Africa towards the end of the 19th century, Britain declared itself for the Oil Rivers Protectorate to gain monopoly of the palm oil trade in what is now part of the land it put together as a country. Later it formed the first Federation of Nigeria with the former Royal Niger Company as its principle commercial operator, and the indigenous people of the area, the Niger Delta, the suppliers of raw materials that Britain needed for its factories. The author is one of Africa's foremost poets. Drawing upon official documents and the oral tradition he presents a powerful panorama of the players in the original drama of the creation of Nigeria.

9780231323 80pp 2000 Malthouse Press £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95

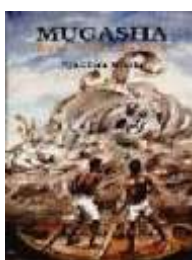


Boko
F M Archibong

Inspired by the Greek classics, this play tells the tragic misadventure of a young man, Boko, who is destined for ruin. Arrogant and pompous, he despises wise counsel and participates in a wrestling contest and wins. The prize is the hand in marriage of a stunningly beautiful woman, but the union is a disaster, leading to misery, incest and murder.

9780291105 59pp 2000 Spectrum Books £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95

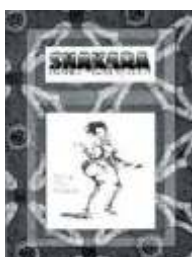


Mugasha. Epic of the Bahaya
Nyambura Mpesha

This is one of the most stirring tales from the folklore of East and Central Africa. Mugasha is a deity-king who harness natural elements and uses them to recapture the usurped kingdom of his father. He is in many ways a symbol of the indefatigable human zeal in the search for liberty and justice.

9966250646 98pp 2000 East African Educ. Publ. £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95

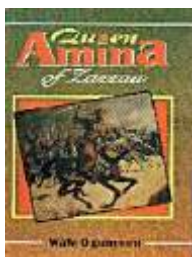


Shakara. Dance-Hall Queen
Osonye Tess Onwueme

Shakara Dance-Hall Queen is a gripping drama about the struggle for identity, power and control, engulfing mothers and daughters in a modern city which is sharply split between the rich and the poor. How do these mothers and daughters cope in a world where their very survival is constantly challenged by unyielding social and economic forces? Osonye Tess Onwueme is an award winning Nigerian author of many plays and the novel, Why The Elephant Has No Butt. She is one of Africa's foremost women writers, engaging with the social problems of the continent, and championing the cause of women.

0962886408 116pp 2000 African Heritage Press £9.95 /\$19.95 - Paperback

Price: £9.95



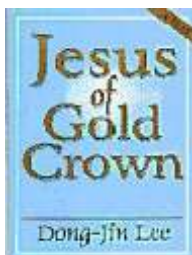
Queen Amina of Zazzau
Wale Ogunyemi

Award-winning Nigerian playwright Wale Ogunyemi here presents a dramatic interpretation of the life of Queen Amina. According to legend Queen Amina became the ruler of present-day Zaria between 1588 and 1589. She was a formidable woman who led her warriors into many battles, giving her fame and bringing glory to Zaria. She chose to remain unmarried and devote her energy to building a strong kingdom, although she was defeated in a final battle.

"...Ogunyemi weaves an enthralling tale of loyalty, sexism and betrayal of a woman whose ultimate success was eventually her own downfall." (West Africa) "Well-crafted theatrically, fast-moving, intelligent and entertaining." (African Theatre)

978030567X 89pp 1999[publ. 2000] University Press, Nigeria £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

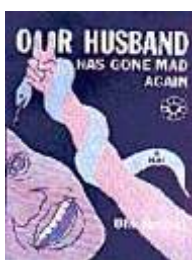


Jesus of Gold Crown
Dong-Jin Lee

The play attempts to pursue the true essence of Jesus. It ardently posits that those who give lip service to God, but are not practicing Christians, should change their ways and that Christ's teachings should be the basis of a living faith. Originally written in Korean, this play has been translated into English by the author.

9780290907 53pp 1999 Spectrum Books £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again
Ola Rotimi

The award-winning noted playwright here takes a comic swipe at ideological misfits and opportunists who strut the ever-accommodating political landscape of contemporary Africa. A former military Major, takes to politics. His motives have far more to do with vanity than patriotism, and his attempts to adapt to a situation he hardly comprehends produce highly comic results. His predicament is complicated by the unexpected arrival of his American wife who discovers two more marriages contracted without her knowledge and her husband beset by political problems.

9781540036 86pp 1999 University Press, Nigeria £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



The Comedy of Marriages
Pierre Meunier

Two illiterate, promiscuous and middle-aged men, one a rich trader, the other a transport magnate, are the central characters in this hilarious play. Given to insatiable lust and unquenchable lechery, and shamelessly proud of their previous 'conquests' and immorality, they woo two young, educated and beautiful women, who hatch a deceitful game plan.

9780290761 108pp 1999 Spectrum Books £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

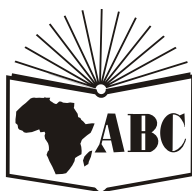


The Last Slave Traders
Pierre Meunier

Jadin, the French Managing Director of a West African trading company in the 1940s, is so addicted to the old order of slave traders, that hereduces his employees to mental and emotional subjugation, destroying their sense of self-worth and dehumanising them. Laurent arrives to challenge Jadin's ruthlessness, but the face-off doesn't last for long. When Laurent replaces Jadin, he turns out to be an even worse example of one of the last slave traders.

9780290702 98pp 1999 Spectrum Books £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Zumji and Uchenna
Pierre Meunier

Two passionate lovers from across the ethnic divide have their marriage disallowed on tribal grounds. Their wedding day ends in violence and tragedy, when their respective rejected suitors seek vengeance. But they prevail and eventually win the battle and are joined in wedlock.

9780290699 45pp 1999 Spectrum Books £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95



For Love of Biafra
Amanda N. Adichie

Adaobi and Mohammed are deeply in love, even hoping to get married although from rival ethnic groups; but the Nigerian civil war shatters their hopes. Set in the war-torn short-lived Republic of Biafra, the play chronicles the experience of an average, middle-class extended family during the war. Written from a Biafran perspective, the poignant story is a celebration of patriotism, fervour, faith and love unquenched even by defeat.

"...recommended for libraries with collections in African theatre and Nigerian materials."
(The African Book Publishing Record)

978029032X 112pp 1998[publ. 1999] Spectrum Books £7.95/\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Madam Tinubu. The Terror in Lagos
Akinwumi Isola

Directed by Wole Soyinka, this play was the 1979 convocation play of the then University of Ife. This is the first time it has been published in book form. The story presents a unique glimpse into the social and political powers of an important African woman who was strong enough to engage the colonial authorities, the indulgent African elite and the consenting traditional ruler. The ideological and moral battle is about the destiny of Africans in their own country, and the role of women in African societies.

978129390X 117pp 1998 Heinemann Ed. Books (Nigeria) Plc £7.95/\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Riot in Heaven. Musical Drama for the Voices of Colour
Osonye Tess Onwueme

TRAVELER-X, a man of African descent, and SOJOURNER NKRUMAH, a woman of African descent are at the crossroads of Earth, Heaven and Hell. Together they scheme for TRAVELER-X to get into Heaven at any cost, so that their people will begin to have a voice and representation among the tribal saints. In the process they realise there are human obstacles to the black man's entry into this mythological heaven, the greatest of whom are the historical figures JEFFERSON LUGARD and STANLEY LIVINGSTONE, heroes of the blessed history of the West, and heaven's sole occupants. Tess Onwueme is a leading African female playwright, presently Professor of Cultural Diversity at University of Wisconsin. She is recipient of numerous awards for her writing including the Association of Nigerian Authors Award for her plays Tell it to Women and The Desert Encroaches; and the Martin Luther King/Caesar Chavez Distinguished Writers Award. Ngugi wa Thiong'o comments on Onwueme's work: 'In her work, Onwueme has shown daring in her exploration of ideas, even if they lead to subjects and themes which may seem taboo. She describes these themes with a dazzling array of images and proverbs. Her drama and theatre are a feast of music, mime, proverbs, and story-telling... Onwueme consolidates her position among the leading dramatists from Africa.'

1575790548 126pp 1996 Africana Legacy Press £10.95/\$19.95 - Paperback

Price: £10.95



The Court of the Queens
Rotimi Johnson

Described as a revolutionary play which delves into history with a vision of a better tomorrow, the play deals with specific social problems of a particular age in a modern state. The action takes place in the fictional Republic of Songhai. Three young university graduates examine the social problems of the day in so far as they relate to them directly or through communally shared experiences. Akin symbolises the visionary idealist, Metu the pessimistic realist, and Labo is concerned about her relationship with Akin. A strange coup d'etat ushers in a symbolic salvation comprising historical and legendary figures.

9782601616 66pp 1995 Malthouse Press £7.95/\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



The Gods Are Not to Blame. A Play
Ola Rotimi

The theme of Sophocles' Oedipus Rex is here transplanted to African soil. First staged at Ife in 1968, and awarded first prize the following year in African Arts annual competition, the play is more than an African Oedipus tale. The playwright is also concerned to show the tragic effects of ethnic and regional animosity. Written in 1976 when Nigeria was in the throes of the civil war, the title does not refer to the mythological gods or mystic deities of the African pantheon, but to the national, politics powers that dictate the pace of world politics.

0199110808 72pp 1992 University Press, Nigeria £5.95/\$6.95 - Cased **Price: £5.95**



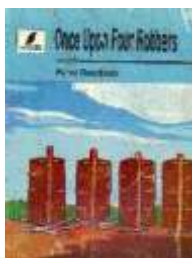
The Son of Umbele
Bill Marshall

Bill Marshall's sensitivity to the realities of human existence and the conflicts of the mind are eloquently manifest in his writing, be it a novel, a television drama, or a stage play. The Son of Umbele is no exception, this Ghana National Book Award winner has endeared itself to theatre enthusiasts as well as scholars since its premier at the Ghana Drama Studio in 1972.

"...Perhaps the only down side to this play is knowing when it will be brought to life through the unimaginable interpretations of each actor." West Africa

9964721188 73pp 1992 Sedco Publishing £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Once Upon Four Robbers
Femi Osofisan

The distinguished Nigerian playwright directed the first performance of this play at the Arts Theatre at the University of Ibadan. Osofisan's incisive vision is put at the service of oppressed humanity. His over-riding theme is that the machinery of oppression in human society is created by man, but man is also capable of demolishing it. The production includes Yoruba songs and incantations, and a glossary provides an English translation - as a guide for other directors to substitute appropriate dirges.

9781291796 107pp 1991 Heinemann Ed. Books (Nigeria) Plc £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

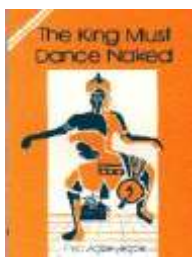


The Wives' Revolt
J.P. Clark

The author is one of the best known and most widely read of Africa's writers. A poet and a playwright, he was published by the illustrious Mbari Publishing House in the 1960s. This play was his first foray into comedy after twenty five years of playwriting. He hilariously pitches wives against husbands in a communal dispute over the sharing of a compensation fee paid by an oil company. The consequences, unexpected by both sides, are as devastating to the land as the damage done by the oil industry.

9782490962 62pp 1991 University Press, Nigeria £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

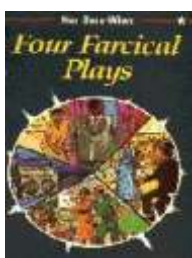


The King Must Dance Naked
F. Agbeyegbe

Awarded Play of the Year Award in Ghana in 1987, the subject matter of this drama deals with myth, marrying the strand of contemporary experience with historical antecedents. The oracle divines that one of Queen Odasun's twins - the girl child - must be sacrificed to avert an imminent calamity. She refuses to obey, and intentionally blunders. Why do the gods demand that the King must dance naked? The play poses the question, what is the connotative or paradoxical relationship between the parable of nakedness and purification and regeneration?

9782601233 68pp 1990 Malthouse Press £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Four Farcical Plays
Ken Saro-Wiwa

This collection consists of four one-act farces for the stage. The Transistor Radio won a prize at the Nigerian Festival of the Arts in 1972, and also won a prize and was broadcast on the BBC's African Theatre programme. It has been broadcast also in Norway and Yugoslavia. Adapted for Nigerian television, it was the first episode of the highly successful television series "Basi and Company". Bride by Return has also been adapted for radio and broadcast by the BBC; The Wheel is a searing political portrayal of corruption in Nigerian society; and Madam No Go Quench Again is a treatment of the classical story of the phoenix, rendered in Nigerian pidgin English. The plays marry social concern to a language of communication aimed at the broadest possible public.

1870716094 95pp 1989 Saros Int. Publ. £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95



Another Raft
Femi Osofisan

The major Nigerian playwright adapts in this play the compressionist techniques used earlier by his elder compatriot, J. P. Clark. He updates the story of a nation adrift to the age of military coups d'circumflexetat, and at the same time expands his focus to the overall fate of the black community lost in the sea of history. Femi Osofisan has three times won the Association of Nigerian Authors' annual prize for literature.

"...one of the most brilliant works to be produced from this continent this year." (West Africa)

978260108X 86pp 1988 Malthouse Press £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95

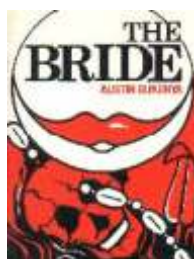


Hopes of the Living Dead
Ola Rotimi

The Lepers' Rebellion in Nigeria in the years 1928-32 provides the background for this play. One of Africa's top contemporary playwrights, the author fashions one of Nigeria's first tremors of collective struggle into a timely parable on national solidarity, self-reliance and purposeful leadership. Historical facts are distilled into dramatic truths.

9782460133 112pp 1988 Spectrum Books £10.95 /\$19.95 - Paperback

Price: £10.95



The Bride
Austin Bukenya

'I am not cursing your ancestors for being dead/but dead they are, and they should let us/have our share of sun and wind while we live... Why can't we be allowed to speak for ourselves/and for our grandchildren?' This verse play depicts a new generation which is tired of a society ruled by obsolete traditions, prejudice, blood and death. It wants to replace these with values of love, tolerance and peace. In this spirit, a love affair develops, and everyone is enveloped by a sacred cult of the benevolent deity, 'Wanga'. The play was first performed in 1973 in Kampala. The author, who is a renowned poet, novelist and stage and screen actor in East Africa, considered his play, to be a kind of pan-African creative experiment, adopting idiom from many African languages. In the context of the development of African theatre, and in the same vein as Soyinka, he meant it as a reaction against the simplistic, anthropological representations of African folk in much of the writing (for the stage) of the 1960s and 1970s.

[no ISBN avail.] 59pp 1987 East African Educ. Publ. £6.95 /\$11.95 - Paperback

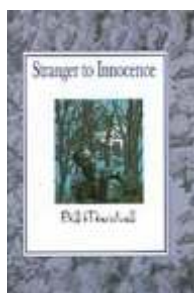
Price: £6.95



The Chattering and the Song
Femi Osofisan

9781210362 57pp 1976 Ibadan University Press £6.95 /\$13.95 - Paperback

Price: £6.95



Stranger to Innocence
Bill Marshall

A short play, set amidst the daily life of a priestly family in a small African township. One day, the Stranger, Tawa, a mysterious and solitary creature who has been ostracised to a bamboo hut in the forest by the local people, comes to the priest's house. The priest and his family take him in, arousing the contempt of the local town and council of elders, who further punish Tawa by burning down his bamboo hut. Tawa confesses to the priest the source of his guilty conscience and unhappiness in a denouement, which nonetheless emphasises values of courage, sympathy and forgiveness. Bill Marshall is an established Ghanaian dramatist writing plays for radio and television, a novelist, and a high-profile figure in the film and media industries. This revised edition has recently been reissued, and made available to a wider audience outside Ghana.

9964722338 34pp 1969[publ. 2003] Sedco Publishing £7.95 /\$14.95 - Paperback

Price: £7.95