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Title

What We Can Learn from Black Women's Theatre

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/05d8w4sm>

ISBN

NA

Author

Shakes, Nicosia

Publication Date

2024-09-12

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM BLACK WOMEN'S THEATRE

I saw my first play when I was six years old. It was written and directed by my mother, Elaine Shakes and even starred her.



The story was about a teenage girl who was mistreated by her family and community when she got pregnant.

A seed was sown in my mind...

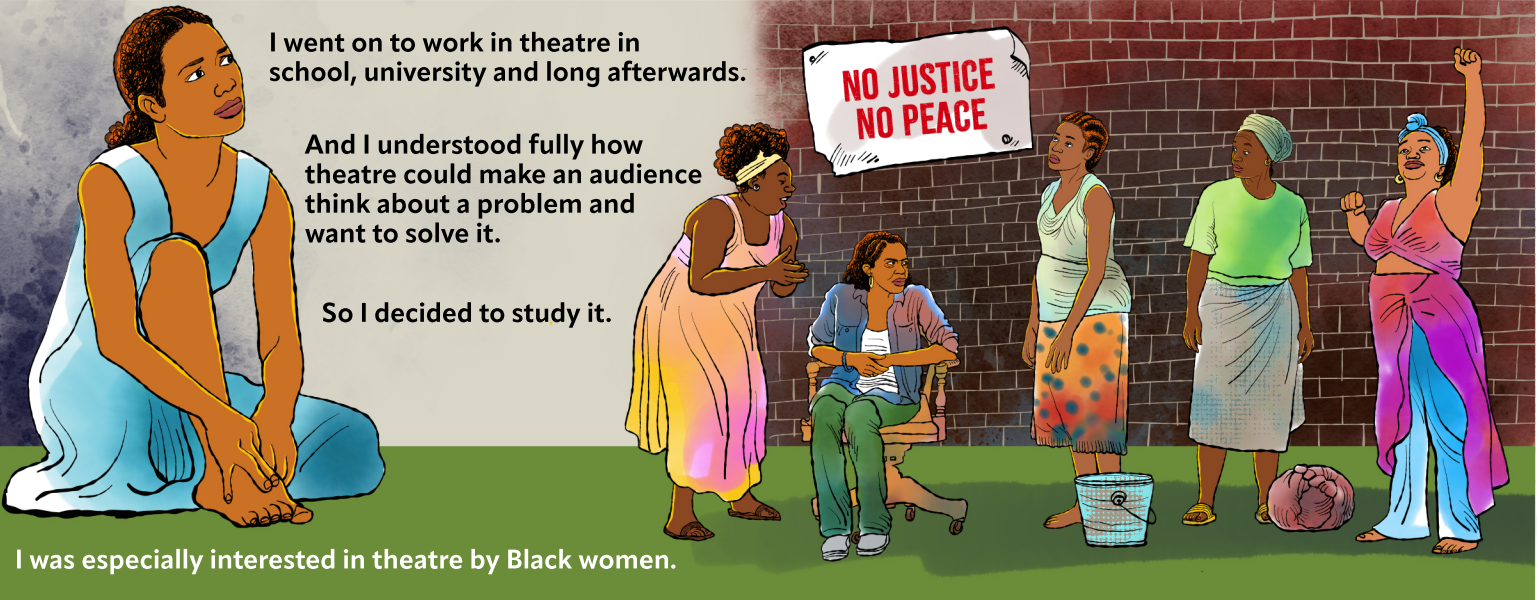


I went on to work in theatre in school, university and long afterwards.

And I understood fully how theatre could make an audience think about a problem and want to solve it.

So I decided to study it.

I was especially interested in theatre by Black women.

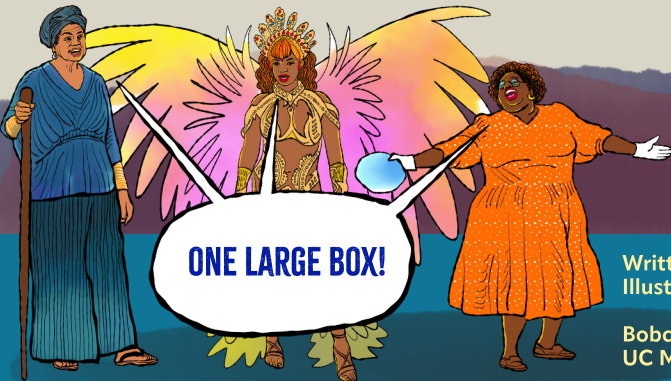


And here's what I've concluded...

Black women's theatre provides a space for stories that are under-represented in the media and academia. Black women's theatre embraces EMOTIONS and FEELINGS which we are often told to suppress. Black women's theatre is intersectional. It makes us think about the many ways people face discrimination based on RACE, GENDER, CLASS, SEXUALITY, etc.



And finally...Black women's theatre is one of the main ways we develop feminist and womanist ideas about EQUALITY and FREEDOM.



Written by Nicosia Shakes
Illustrations by Eli Africa

Bobcat Comics
UC Merced Center for the Humanities, 2024