

For those who This is a story of



Adejobi, the lame actor. He says "physical deformity should be an inspiration for one to aspire higher and appreciate the grandeur and mercy of God."

of them are the Orisun Theatre, the Players of the Dawn, the Ogunmola Theatre Party with his famous Palm Wine Drinker.

Ogungbe Group from Abeokuta and Adejobi Theatre Party. Two of these groups have already made their names—Ogunde Party and Duro Ladipo. This series will treat the origin and growth of each of these theatres and the people that make them what they are and I will start from a once obscure party which WNTV-WNBS in its characteristic talent hunt has been bringing up to the joy of the Nigerian public—

"Atitebi" is the title of the play which tells the story of a rich man who got his money by conceding a definite date to DEATH. Picture shows a group of messengers of DEATH who have come to say NOW it is the time.

When illustrious Hubert Ogunde about twenty years ago, started to entertain school children with his theatre party, very little attention was given to him. In fact, many people gave him various names while a lot of orders regarded acting as lazy humour. But I think the country was rather foolish and Hubert was wise. He saw the need for this type of mental development in the total life of a nation full of prodigies in all fields.

One main and most possible reason for this nation-wide cynical observation was due to the social set-up, where there was the close family unit, where leisure



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Know the value of Leisure, Nigerian Theatre Groups



Adejobi's group in a play on the tyranny of polygamy in a household where the senior wife of the head of the family poisons the son of a junior wife in the mother's absence.

tual slaves to the people of another race. He has even made up all documents and theatre releases with which he will launch this very important play true to history. The middle-aged gentleman has already put up a lot of plays both on television, theatres, and on the radio.

Mr Adejobi with his troupe of 18, five of whom are girls, has put up—Path to Prominence, Orogun Adedigbe, Ore Ki Gbe, 'Hannah's Trial, Ibronke and Atitebi. There are some of his plays which have been credited to more prominent actors because of the high standard of the plays. "I do not like this at all, after all, it is not only on the cross in Paradise regained", he commented when we touched on this point. This captain of a rising team, still remembers vividly his first public performance on February 6, 1946 at the Glover Memorial Hall where he dramatised that all time famous book of John Milton "Paradise Lost" and a number of other plays.

article, physical disability is no deterrent to progress on acting, at least. Mr Adejobi has proved this beyond any doubt and our boys and girls in higher academic levels of life should be up and doing. After all, play-acting is the basis of the literature and character of a people. The bountiful materials of Shakespeare books and a lot of others emanated from plays of this nature and these contributions have added to a number of other things which make the great nations of today truly great.

—Olasupo Olagbaju

Nigerian Television Service Programmes

SUNDAYS, AUG. 1; 8; 15; 22; 29

- 5.25 SIGN ON-NATIONAL ANTHEM NEWS HEAD-LINES
- 5.30 THIS IS THE LIFE
- 6.00 TEST ON THE TESTAMENT
- 7.00 N.T.S. 7 O'CLOCK NEWS REPORT
- 7.05 CAR 54
- 7.30 DONNA REED SHOW
- 8.00 THE DEFENDERS
- 9.00 DESILU PLAYHOUSE
- 9.50 N.T.S. CALENDAR
- 10.00 N.T.S. NEWS REPORT
- 10.15 CHANNEL 10 MOVIES NEWS IN BRIEF
- N.T.S. NIGHT REPORT
- SIGN-OFF NATIONAL ANTHEM

MONDAYS, AUG 2; 9; 16; 23; 30

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One main and most possible reason for this nation-wide cynical observation was due to the social set-up, where there was the close family unit, where leisure was used to tell tales of our forebears within the close circuit, but the youths who tasted something different in his plays knew more than their parents.

They eventually created the nucleus of those who know the value of leisure and just at the same time the more sophisticated people started to go to cinemas and they saw how relaxing the exercise was, more so in a country, with a sudden awareness and need for education—an undertaking which is mentally taxing.

OUR YOUTHS

Later, schools started to organise dramatic and literary societies and this was very much prominent on the extra curricular activities of schools. This was a timely and necessary adjunct to what Ogunde and others following his trail in enlisting the interest of our youths in drama and play acting had already started.

Later on another professional theatre started off in the name Duro Ladipo Theatre Party and it is needless to say that Duro, who about four years ago was a humble school teacher has now hit the pages of newspapers and



on animism. He has come out in a big way as a challenge to his predecessor Hubert Ogunde.

The start of this people was very humble academically, but what do we see now? A group of academicians now leave lecture rooms and their marble tables in the offices to go to practice

people that make them what they are and I will start from a once obscure party which WNTV-WNBS in its characteristic talent hunt has been bringing up to the joy of the Nigerian public—

"Atitibi" is the title of the play which tells the story of a rich man who got his money by conceding a definite date to DEATH. Picture shows a group of messengers of DEATH who have come to say NOW it is the time.



"I later on left for Lagos immediately I left school to join my senior brother who was then in Lagos"—retrospectively says Adejobi overlooking his walking stick. On getting to Lagos Adejobi started to learn stenography and music. "Because of the overwhelming interest which I have in Music, I eventually took permission from my brother to abandon stenography for music and I went to churches and choirs in Lagos where I taught and sang songs until I came back to Oshogbo at the request of my aging mother, who threatened to die if I refused to come home."

Mr Adejobi finally settled in Oshogbo in 1953 when he registered his Musical Party now changed to Adejobi Theatre Party. He has since brought up himself and his ideas into action in a number of ways. Adejobi has performed in schools and for adult audience in Western and Northern Regions of Nigeria.

His plays are a sort of a mixed grill, for some of them originate from ancient stories of Yorubaland and prominent people who lived long ago, while others spring from critical imagination and some have their origin in the Bible.

Mr Adejobi is essentially a moralist who believes that a lot of his plays are purposely put

he is the limping Adejobi of Oshogbo and his theatre.

Adejobi, a man of about 40 years of age goes along and about his business with an almost last limb and what does this show? It shows that physical deformity does not provide a barrier to play-acting.



troupe of 18, five of whom are girls, has put up Path to Pronomence, Orogun Adedigbe, Ore Ki Gbe, Hannah's Trial, Ibronke and Atitebi. There are some of his plays which have been credited to more prominent actors because of the high standard of the plays. "I do not like this at all, afterall, it is not only on the cross in Paradise regained", he commented when we touched on this point. This captain of a rising team, still remembers vividly his first public performance on February 6, 1946 at the Glover Memorial Hall where he dramatised that all time famous book of John Milton "Paradise Lost" and a number of other plays.

"I came in contact with Duro Ladipo in Oshogbo in 1961 on a joint play for the towns people there" says Mr Adejebi, "and since then our relationship has been exceedingly cordial". Mr Adejebi is of the opinion that there should be no room for jealousy because the play-acting world is large and the application of intelligence to bring out very good plays is infinite in scope; therefore he does not believe that envy can help in such a very important profession.

As I have said elsewhere in this

should necessarily be somebody morally loose." This note of warning is so vital to those intending to take drama as a profession and in his characteristically humble way, Mr Adejebi has sent this important message to the nation.

"In order to uncover a lot of the mysterious facts in our history one has got to be familiar with archives as well as with individuals who have a great deal of interest in preserving the history of our past" contended Adejebi. "Play-acting is not a lazy man's job at all" he says.

Adejebi has just concluded research on 'Moreni' one of the most prominent characters in Ife history. The woman who used his human resources to save a whole people from being perpe-

ety judge. "To get to the top and produce worthwhile plays one needs to do a lot of research" punctuated in answering to one of my questions.

Play acting in Nigeria, he believes, apart from requiring a good frame of mind also requires technical arrangement of the message one wants to get across. Various customs also require a lot of money. This is a problem peculiar alone to Adejebi's Musical Party, but also to a lot of other groups. He believes that apart from planning, one also needs to get the confidence of discriminating parents whose daughters do perform. "It all requires a very high moral standard, a sort of living above and to give the necessary credo to those who feel that an actor

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- MONDAYS, AUG 2; 9; 16; 23; 30**
- 5.25 SIGN-ON NATIONAL ANTHEM NEWS HEAD-LINES
 - 5.30 EDUCATIONAL T.V. ENGLISH (LIVE)
 - 6.00 PLAYTIME (LIVE)
 - 6.30 BOLD JOURNEY
 - 7.00 N.T.S. 7 O' CLOCK NEWS REPORT
 - 7.05 LIFE WITH FATHER
 - 7.30 DRUM AND DANCE (LIVE)
 - 8.00 BURKE'S LAW
 - 9.00 N.T.S. NEWSREEL (LIVE)
 - 9.30 DANNY THOMAS SHOW
 - 10.00 N.T.S. NEWS REPORT
 - 10.15 THE DETECTIVES
 - SIGN-OFF NATIONAL ANTHEM

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