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DATA ON NIGERIAN THEATRE ARTISTS (UNIVERSITIES)

NAME: Wale Ogunyemi, J.P., M.O.N.

ADDRESS: Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan.

SCHOOL(S) WHERE TRAINED:

1. Baptist Day School, Igbajo, 1944 - 48
2. Baptist Day School, Agurodo, 1949
3. Victory School, Oke Ado, Ibadan, 1950 - 54
4. Religious Playwriting Workshop organized jointly by the Christian Council of Nigeria and the Communication Services of all African Conferences of Churches at the Lutheran Seminary, Obot Idim, Cross Rivers State of Nigeria, 1963.
5. School of Drama, University of Ibadan, 1966/67
6. University of Leeds, England, 1973/74.

SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE PERFORMING ARTS: Playwriting, Acting, Directing, Dance, Design, Technical Theatre and Choreography.

SUBJECT(S) TAUGHT IN THE UNIVERSITY: Mainly research into oral history and the theatre.

PLAY(S) WRITTEN, PERFORMED AND DATE (YEAR): AND PUBLISHED

1. Business Headache, 1966
2. The Scheme, 1967
3. Be Mighty Be Mine, 1968
4. Aara Akogun, a Nigerian adaptation of Shakespear's Macbeth, 1968
5. Esu Elegbara, 1970
6. Ijaye War, a historical drama based on Ijaye War fought in the nineteenth century, 1970
7. Poor Little Bird 1972
8. The Vow 1972
9. Sign of the Rainbow 1973
10. Obaluaye, a Yoruba Music Drama, 1973
11. Kiriji, a historical drama based on the Ekiti Parapo War of the nineteenth century, 1971 and 73
12. The Divorce, 1977
13. Langbodo, 1977
14. Enivan, an adaptation of the medieval morality play - Everyman, 1987
15. Oluronbi, 1987
16. Partners in Business, 1990
17. The Hand That Feeds The King, 1993

OTHER  
→ Unpublished

TELEVISION SERIES SCRIPTS PERFORMED AT VARIOUS TIMES BUT NOT PUBLISHED (from 1978 to date)

1. BELLO'S WAY
2. COCK CROW AT DAWN
3. CARAVAN OF LIFE
4. THE VICIOUS CIRCLE
5. FOR BETTER FOR WORSE
6. TOO TRUE TO BE GOOD
7. ROUND ABOUT
8. JUJU ROCK (adaptation of Cyprian Ekwensi's novel JUJU ROCK)

HAS MANY RADIO PLAYS WRITTEN AND PERFORMED.

→ FILM SCRIPTS:

1. THE VOW (1971)
2. IJAYE WAR (1971)
3. THE DIVORCE (1978)
4. OKETE (1978) (already filmed)
5. LANGBODO (1978)
6. MOTHERLESS BABY (from Cyprian Ekwensi's novel of the same title.)
7. ENI A WI FUN (1990) (already filmed)
8. CULT OF THE BUFFALO (1992) (from Sola Agbaje-William's novel of the same title.)

↓ PLAYS DIRECTED, (MAJOR ONES)

1. BE MIGHTY BE MINE, (written by me) 1968
2. THE VOW " 1972
3. POOR LITTLE BIRD " 1972
4. OBALUAYE " 1973
5. THE DIVORCE " 1977
6. THE HAND THAT FEEDS THE KING (by me) 1987
7. IJAYE WAR (by me) 1988
8. PARTNERS IN BUSINESS (by me) 1989

→ major acting roles  
PLAYS ACTED (MAJOR ROLES ONLY):

1. DENDE in Wole Soyinka's KONGI'S HARVEST, 1966 (in Nigeria and Senegal)
2. IFADE in Wole Soyinka's THE STRONG BREED, 1967 (in Nancy, France)
3. ALABA in Amos Tutuola's THE PALMWINE DRINKARD, 1969 (in Algiers)
4. GOYI in Wole Soyinka's MADMEN AND SPECIALISTS, 1970 (in Connecticut, U.S.A.)
5. HASSAN in Elroy Flecker's HASSAN (1972 in Nigeria)

6. BAROMA in Wole Soyinka's THE LION AND THE JEWEL, 1973  
(in Leeds) *by J. B. Bracken*
7. HOOK <sup>F</sup>FINGER JAKE in THE THREE PENNY OPERA, 1973  
(in Leeds)
8. ZIZWE BANZI in Athol Fugard's ZIZWE BANZI IS DEAD, 1978  
(in progress)
9. ORUNMILA in A FLASH IN THE SUN ~~(joint authorship)~~ *(co-authored)*  
(U.S.A. 1982, Japan, 1983, U.S.A., 1984)
10. AMUKE in Wole Soyinka's FROM ZIA WITH LOVE, 1992  
(in Italy)

#### MAJOR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Wale Ogunyemi was a member of the Governing Board of the Oyo State Council for Arts and Culture from 1980 to 1983 and was Chairman of Osogbo Zone of the Council. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1981. It was in 1982 that he was bedecked with the Chieftaincy title of Majeobaje of Okuku by the Olokuku and the people of Okuku in Osun State. Also in 1982 he was made a Writer of the Year by the Nigerian Writers Club. The same 1982, in recognition of his cultural and artistic contribution to the development of theatre in Nigeria, he was accorded the National recognition by the Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by awarding him a National Honour of Member of the Order of the Niger (M.O.N.) It was cited that he has "in his own little way done for Nigerian mythology and tradition what William Shakespeare did for English mythology and tradition." December of 1985, he was a recipient of a Distinguished Performer Award (Local Grammy) by the Nigerian Television Authority in recognition of his contribution to the development of N.T.A. Ibadan and for the promotion of our culture. He did Oyo State proud when his play LANGBODO among several other plays by many Nigerian Writers, was chosen to represent Nigeria at FESTAC '77 and it was referred to as "Festac 77 Drama Spectacular" by International participants.

Apart from the attributes of courage and perseverance, Ogunyemi also has the qualities of devotion to duty, preservation of Yoruba culture, hard work, keen powers of observation, a robust sense of humour and an abiding humility that makes him a member of many organizations and committees: He was a member of 1988 NAFEST Task Force, Oyo State; Member, Technical Committee on Historical Monument for Aare Kurunmi of Ijaye, a 19th Century Yoruba War hero;

4.

Executive Member of the Association of Nigerian Authors (National) and Chairman of Oyo State Chapter of this same Association from 1989 to date; Patron of Oyo State Council of the Man 'O War Club; Member of the Multi-Dimensional Approach to Adolescent Fertility Management ("MUDAFEM") Project Advisory/Implementation Committee organized by the Fertility Research Unit of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Hospital, Ibadan.

He is at the moment Resident Creative Writer with the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan and married with five children.

**AWARDS AND PRIZES:**

1. British Council Scholarship, London 1973/74
2. British Council Fellowship, London, 1989
3. WE CAN ALWAYS CREATE, Second Prize, Organization of African Unity Playwriting Competition, 1971
4. THE VOW, (a film script) won African Arts Award of the University of California, Los Angeles, 1971
5. SIGN OF THE RAINBOW, B.B.C. African Theatre Award, 1972. Apart from being broadcast on B.B.C., the play has been translated into German, Finish and Checks languages and broadcast in these countries.
6. ENIYAAN won 2nd prize in Drama for Western State at the 1992 National Festival of Arts and Culture in Kaduna.
7. THE SCHEME also won 3rd prize for Mid-Western State at this same Festival in 1972.
8. OBALUAYE, won 1st ploe for Western State in Drama in Nigerian Language category at the 1974 4th National Festival of Arts,
9. LANGBODO won 1st place for the University of Ibadan at the 4th National Festival of Arts in 1974.
10. THE FISH BONE was selected for broadcast among several plays from all over Africa and the diaspora and was broadcast on BBC World Service for Africa 1st and 2nd December 1989 as part of their 50th Anniversary of Broadcasting to Africa.