

An Exploration of Three-fold Dramatic Elements: Performers, Theatre and Audience in C.T. Msimang and M.A. Blose's Plays

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ABSTRACT This is an exploratory study on the three significant dramatic elements which are performance, theatre and audience. It is practicable and credible to see the art of drama as existing fully only in performance. Therefore, the medium of drama is not only one of words or oral nature, but of words to which the material conditions of performance are added. The literary text is a form of blueprint, the potential and strength of which cannot become real until the characters are created and portrayed in the imitative art of the actor, with the events enacted and the setting presented physically on a stage with required scenery, props and sound effects. Drama is the most combinative of the arts, which entails music, mime, poetry and dialogue. It is both a personal statement and testimony of the playwright and a reflection of the culture from which the play is emanated. The three dramatic elements are looked at from expository view, narrative, descriptive, illustrative to interpretive views. It is always meant to be performed. The appreciation of drama is possible after watching the performance. The dramatist cannot present real life on the stage, but he imitates reality after combining a unity of time, place and action.