

ABSTRACT: THE DURBAN MOMENT

Black Theatre An Expression Of Black Consciousness

by Sam Moodley

Between 1969 and 1974 the Theatre Council of Natal in Durban emerged as a creative theatrical voice traveling in tandem with the Black Consciousness Movement. Its productions engaged audiences in questioning the socio-political and economic conditions of the time. Traditional audiences were slowly beginning to appreciate the breakaway from Eurocentric theatre to an Afro-centric approach to the Arts. The paper will trace the TECON's development of performances by its actors, the impact of its varied productions on Durban audiences but more especially the awareness of the political conditions that mirrored the experiences of Black communities in South Africa. TECON's productions as an expression of Black Theatre challenged the existing order, the values, the norms and spoke the language of revolt, liberation and Revolution.