



LIFE AT THE CURVE OF THE NILE

a play based on Tayib Salih's novel
Season of Migration to the North

September 18th, 2019
Rashid Diab Arts Centre
Khartoum - Sudan



RASHID DIAB ARTS CENTRE

The project "Community Theatre for Sustainable Development in Sudan" has been promoted and funded by the Embassy of Italy in Sudan, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities in the framework of the programme Italia — Cultura — Africa 2019 (promoted by MIBAC and MASCI) aimed at fostering mutual exchange and enhancement of social and cultural identities.



The goal is — through the Community Theatre - to promote awareness on Italian Cooperation's priority sectors in Sudan such as health, migration/forced displacement, social inclusion and gender equality and women's empowerment.

The theatre must be used to disseminate messages, sensitize communities about their objective and acting to better their condition. Community theatre for sustainable development occurs through the process of using drama and comics to promote developmental values in a given community.

From the ancient times, theatre has assumed a considerably potential role as a means employed to stimulate thoughts and to initiate community engagement on issues as diverse as health, education, awareness, ending violence against women and migration while transforming them into actual communicable forms that will help a community reimagine its way of life.

In theatre there is a special license: the unsayable can be said, the hidden can be revealed, people can cover and discover aspects otherwise overlooked and unknown.

Over there is like here, neither better nor worse. But I am from here, just as the date palm standing in the country yard of our house has grown in our house and not in anyone else's. The fact that they came to our land, I know not why, does not mean we should poison our present and future?

The narrator

Life at the Curve of the Nile is a play inspired by the novel "Season of Migration to the North" by the Sudanese novelist Tayeb Saleh, revered as a founding father of Sudanese literature. Published in 1966 the novel has been chosen as one of the top 100 novels of the 20th century of the Arab literature.

The script deals with the issue of the relationship between North and South, the cultural differences and the Southern perceptions of the European way of life and people, the latter seen as coming from a dreamy world shrouded in mystery. The theatrical text addresses the lack of human development as a major cause of both regular and irregular migration. It also compares the typological differences of human relations and roles in traditional societies in the South with their counterparts in the North, especially with regard to the role of women in African and European communities and the communication between Eastern and Western cultures.

الحياة عند منحى النيل مسرحية مستوحاة من روايه موسم الهجرة للشمال للروائي السوداني الطيب صالح الذي ينظر إليه على أنه الأب المؤسس للأدب السوداني. و التي نشرت عام ١٩٦٦ اختيرت كواحدة من أفضل مائة رواية في القرن العشرين في الأدب العربي .

تناول النص في مضمونه مسألة العلاقة بين الشمال والجنوب و الاختلافات الثقافية وتصورات الجنوب للطريقة الأوروبية للحياة والشعوب، والأخير ينظر إليها على أنها قادمة من عالم حالم يكتنفه الغموض.

يعالج النص المسرحي قضايا نقص التنمية البشرية كأحد مسببات الهجرة الشرعية و غير شرعية. كما يقارن اختلاف طبيعة العلاقات الانسانية و الادوار في مجتمعات الجنوب التقليدية و نظيراتها في الشمال، خاصة فيما يتعلق بدور المرأة في المجتمعات الأفريقية والأوروبية والتواصل بين الثقافات الشرقية والغربية.

If they force me to marry, I will kill him and kill myself - The narrator quoting Hosna Bint

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