

Osofisan A Chronology

Babafemi Adeyemi Osofisan born at Erunwon, Ogun State, Nigeria on July 16th.

Muyiwa
Awodiya

1959: Entered Government College, Ibadan, Oyo State, obtained his West African School Certificate in 1963.

1965: Obtained Higher School Certificate.

1966: Entered the University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Acted in James Ene Henshaw's *Dinner for Promotion*.

1967-68: Attended University de Dakar, Senegal for year-abroad French language programme. Acted in Moliere's *That Scoundrel Scapin*. Directed *You Have Lost Your Fine Face*, Moliere's *The Doctor in spite of Himself*, *Oduduwa Don't Go!*, Moliere's *The Invalid* and *Behind The Ballot Box*.

1969: Graduated B. A. (Honours) in French, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Premiered *A Restless Run of Locusts*. Enrolled for the Graduate Studies programme at the University of Ibadan.

1971-72: Attended Universite de Paris III, Paris, France, as part of his graduate programme. Acted in Wole Soyinka's *Madmen and Specialists*. Appointed Editor/Translator for the Ford Foundation, Nigeria. Commissioned as Translator of Kourouma's *Les Soleils de Independences* for the Ethiopie Press, Benin City. Commissioned as Translator of Alain Richard's *Theatre et Nationalisme* for the Ife University Press, Ile-Ife. Appointed Assistant Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages, University of Ibadan.

1974: Obtained Ph.D at the University of Ibadan. Acted in Jean Genet's *The Blacks*. *A Restless Run of Locusts* performed in Akure.

1975: *Kolera Kolej* (novel) published, New Horn Press, Ibadan. *A Restless Run of Locusts* (play) published, Onibonoro Press. *Somewhere in A War Period* (short story) published.

1976: Premiered *The Chattering and the Song*, Ibadan. *War's Aftermath* (poem) published, Opon Ifa. *'Kijipa Ekun'* (short story) published, Oduma. *Two Variations, A Theme* (poem), published, Opon Ifa. *Introduction to Wole Soyinka's Ogun Abibiman* (poem) published, Opon Ifa.

1977: Assisted in directing Wale Ogunyemi's *Langbodo* for FESTAC '77. Premiered *Who's Afraid of Solarin?* *The Chattering and the Song* (play) published, Ibadan University Press.

1978: *Who's Afraid of Solarin?*, published, Scholars Press, Calabar. Premiered *Once upon Four Robbers*. *Like a Dead Clock Now* (poems) published, Fourth Dimension, Enugu. Promoted Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages, University of Ibadan.

1981: *For Walter, I Beat a Gong*, (poem) published, Positive Review. *The Oriki of a Grasshopper* written.

1982: *The Oriki of a Grasshopper*, premiered. *Midnight Hotel*, Premiered. *Morountodun and Other Plays* published, Longman, Ibadan. The other two plays published in the volume are *Red is the Freedom Road* and *No More the Wasted Breed*. During sabbatical leave (1982/83), he was appointed foundation Editorial Board Member of *The Guardian* newspaper which began publishing on February 27th, 1983. *The Visitors*, a television drama series of thirteen episodes, written.

1983: Appointed Professor of Drama, University of Benin in October. Directed *Farewell To a Cannibal Rage* at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

1984: *Esu and The Vagabond Minstrels*, premiered in Benin City.

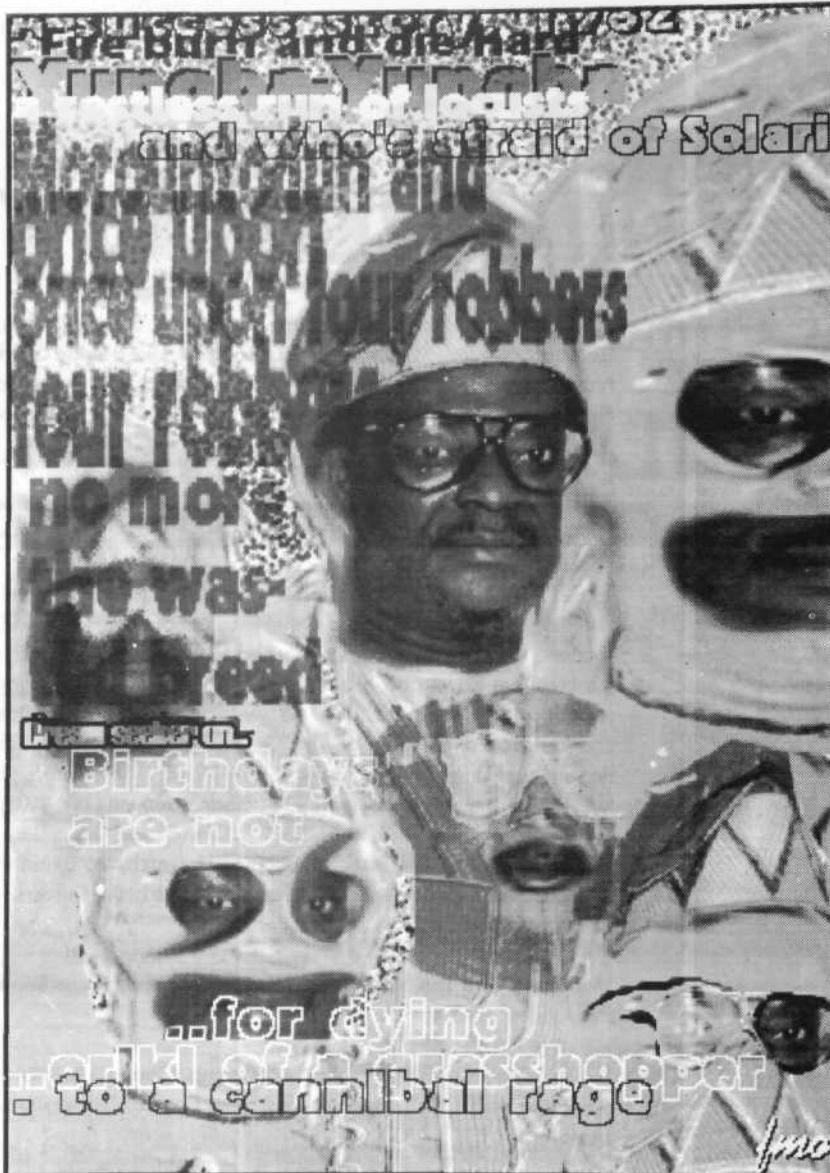
1985: Appointed Visiting Professor of Drama, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Appointed Professor of Drama, University of Ibadan.

1986: Returned to the Department of Theatre Arts, University of Ibadan. Attended International Writer's Workshop at University of Iowa, USA.

1987: Attended Jahnheinz Jahn Memorial Conference at the University of Mainz, Germany. *Another Raft*, premiered. Witnessed the performance of his play, *Farewell To A Cannibal Rage*, at Stanford University, California, USA. *Minted Coins* (poems, Okinba Launko) published. *Maami* (Novella) written and serialized in *The Guardian* (Nigeria) newspaper between 8th November and 27th December, 1987. Attended International Writers' Conference at the University of Iowa, Iowa, USA.

1988: Premiered and translated, with the collaboration of Dotun Ogundeji, *Yeepe, Solarin Mbo*, the Yoruba adaptation of *Who's Afraid of Solarin?* *Another Raft*, published. Listed in the new edition of *Contemporary Dramatists*, St. James Press. *Twingle Twangle: A Twynning Tayle*, premiered.

1989: *Cardelia* (Novelette) first serialized in *The Guardian*



BIRTHDAY CARD

at

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Birthdays
are
not
for
dying

newspaper and published, Lagos, Malthouse Press. Aringindin and The Nightwatchmen, premiered. Guest Writer, Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Ithaca, USA. President, Association of Nigeria Authors (ANA).

1990: Wuraola Forever (Novelette) Serialized in The Guardian newspaper. Resident Writer, Foundation Henri Clewes, La Napoule, France.

1991: Performed Oriki of A Grasshopper at St Olaf College, Minnesota, USA, and The Engagement at Cornell University, USA. Both plays were performed at four other university campuses in the USA. Guest Writer, Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, New Orleans. Guest Dramatist, African Studies Association, St. Louis, USA. Visiting Writer, Japan Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.

1992: Abigail (Novelette) serialized in The Daily Times (Nigeria). Food Foundation Fellow, Africana Studies and Research

Centre, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. Fellow in Drama of Other Worlds and visiting Professor of Drama, St. Alfred's College, Winchester, England. Aringindin and the Nightwatchmen published. Visiting African Writer, Inter Nationes, The Republic of Germany. Guest Dramatist, National Black Arts Festival, and Emory University, Atlanta, USA. Inauguration of Centrestage Africa, a Centre for the Arts, in Ibadan.

1993: Dreamseeker on Divining Chain (Poem, Okinba Launko) published. Yungba-Yungba and the Dance Contest, published. Relaunching of Opon Ifa Review. Ragdale Foundation Fellow for Playwriting at Lake Forest, Illinois, USA. Resident Faculty, Summer Institute, The Ohio State University Centre For African Studies. Appointed Principal Consultant, Atlanta Olympic Games Committee. Responsible for the preparation of African participation in Literature and Drama at the Cultural Olympiad 1996.

1994: World premiere of new play, Nkrumah Ni... Africa Nil during the African Literature Association Conference held in

Accra, Ghana between 24-31 March, 1994. The Album of the Midnight Blackout published. Perhaps Osofisan's most glorious opportunity under the theatre spotlight came when he was commissioned to write three plays for two American theatres. The first play was Tegonni, Osofisan's adaptation of Sophocle's Antigone which was staged from October 21 through 29, 1994 at the Theatre Emory of the Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. The play was directed in a workshop production by the playwright himself. The second set of commissioned plays were by the world famous Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1995: Twingle-Twangle: A Tynning Tayle and The Oriki of a Grasshopper and other plays published. He directed Nkrumah Ni... Africa Ni! at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka between 23rd-27th October, 1995.

PUBLISHED PLAYS

1. A Restless Run of Locusts, Ibadan, Onibonjo Press, 1975.
2. The Chattering and the Song, Ibadan, Ibadan University Press, 1977.
3. Who's Afraid of Solarin? Calabar, Scholars Press, 1978.
4. Once Upon Four Robbers, Ibadan. BIO Educational Publications, 1980.
5. Morountodun and Other Plays. Ibadan and London, Longman, 1982.
6. Red is the Freedom Road, Ibadan and London, Longman, 1982.
7. No More the Wasted Breed, Ibadan and London, Longman, 1982.
8. Midnight Hotel, Ibadan, Evans Brothers Nigeria Limited, 1986.
9. Farewell to a Cannibal Rage, Ibadan, Evans Brothers Nigeria Ltd., 1986.
10. The Oriki of a Grasshopper, Ibadan, New Horn Press, 1986.
11. Altine's Wrath, Ibadan, New Horn Press, 1986.
12. Esu and the Vagabond Minstrels, Ibadan, new Horn Press, 1988.
13. Another Raft, Lagos, Malthouse Press Limited, 1988.
14. Birthdays Are Not for Dying, Lagos, Malthouse Press Limited, 1990.
15. Fires Burn and Die Hard, Lagos, Malthouse Press Limited, 1990.
16. The Inspector and the Hero, Lagos, Malthouse Press Ltd., 1990.
17. Aringindin and the Nightwatchmen, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) 1992.
18. Yungba-Yungba and the Dance Contest, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books (Nig.) 1993.
19. The Album of the Midnight Blackout, Ibadan, Ibadan University Press, 1994.
20. Twingle-Twangle: A Tynning Tayle: Ikeja, Longman Nigeria, 1995.

21. The Oriki of a Grasshopper and Other Plays, Washington D.C., Howard University Press, 1995.

UNPUBLISHED

1. Oduduwa, Don't Go, 1967.
2. You Have Lost Your Fine Face, 1967.
3. Behind the Ballot Box, 1968.
4. Once Upon Four Robbers, 1982.
5. Tomorrow the Firing Squad, 1983.
6. Nkrumah Ni...Africa Ni! 1994.
7. Tegonni, 1994.

(Television plays performed in The Visitor's series are not yet published).

8. To Kill A Dream, 1982.
9. At the Petrol Station, 1982.
10. Operation Abandoned, 1982.
11. The New Cathedral, 1982.
12. A Success Story, 1982.
13. Operation Rat-Trap, 1982
14. And Fear Comes Calling, 1982
15. The Audience Also Dances, 1983.
16. A Debt To the Dead, 1982
17. A Date with Danger, 1982.

FICTION - PUBLISHED

1. Kolera Kolej (novel) Ibadan, New Horn Press, 1975.
2. Somewhere In A War Period (short story), Ibadan, 1975.
3. Kijipa Ekun Ibadan, 1976.
4. Ma'ami (short story), serialized in The Guardian (Nigeria) 1988 and published by Heinemann Junior African Writers Series, JAWS (London), 1994.
5. Cordelia (Novelette), Lagos, Malthouse Press Limited, 1989.
6. Wuraola Forever (short story), serialized in The Guardian (Nigeria), 1990.
7. Abigail (short story), serialized in Daily Times (Nigeria). 1992

POETRY - PUBLISHED

1. War's Aftermath Opon Ifa, 1976.
2. Two Variations... A Theme, Opon Ifa, 1976.
3. Introduction to Wole Soyinka's Ogun Abibiman, Opon Ifa,
4. Minted Coins, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books Limited, 1987.
5. Dream-Seeker on Divining Chain, Ibadan, Kraft Books Limited, 1993.