Onwueme Says It For Delta Women

The rural womenfolk may have been robbed of their education, but that they are richly endowed with native intelligence and a vivid knowledge of norms and values of society is indisputable. In fact, the rural women easily apply the privileged position of “fast teachers” whose conventional education has been unattempted but remain indispensable.

An attempt to seek empowerment for women and justice being their plight to public attention through a play. There, she said, written by the United States-based Tissue Onwueme and recently directed for Calabar by Prof. Chris Nwamere.

The production which held at Calabar emerged from a Ford Foundation sponsored research project, Who Can Silence the Drum. Delta Women Speak which brought Onwueme to Nigeria last year to conduct interviews with the Delta Delta women and other victims of violence in the area.

Onwueme, a Professor of Cultural Studies and English at the University of Wisconsin since 1968, says her interest in the play as an attempt to explore responses by rural women who suffered violence and trauma in her study,无tion violence against women, using fictional names and settings to humanize historic-traditional/religious/cultural discourse in the Niger Delta.

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The play is one of the most significant in the present day Nigeria. It is a piece of work that is not only relevant but also timely in the context of the current social and political situation in the Niger Delta.

Onwueme should find lasting solutions to all of the problems in the area. On the rural women, Onwueme lamented how they have largely been victimized by the wrong doing of government officials, politicians, militarists, militarists, militarists and brokers in the area. She then, thought of their suffering and their experiences for posterity.

"The whole exercise is to interact with them (the women) and let them know that you have a voice and that someone somewhere cares about them. It is clear that all of them have a story to tell, and we should all listen. They too have their human right to protect, they deserve love, justice and affection," explained Onwueme who added that the main reason for the drama project was to "begin the process of empowering the rural women on the need to track their minds and present their views without any hindrances... we want them (victim) to tell their own stories."

Most importantly, Onwueme is sensitive to the plight of the womenfolk of the institution and the working class who are otherwise disempowered by the lack of privilege with policies of the Westernized Education. She has even taken a positive step for the rural women whose impact on society is a great but who are usually underrated by the same society.

Having established this, the women need to be confronted with issues facing them on stage together with the women. Onwueme says with women include: Ileme in Heaven, Tell it to Women, The Missing Face, Robert Pachamich, Do you want entry for 1998 ANA N’2.20.00.00, Mirror for a Moment, Black Children, Run and Empty Run, and Run of Water which has since been adapted into film.

About her literary career in the US, Onwueme described the stories as being highly creative, but that "if one's works are identified with quality and uniqueness, one will surely gain respect and recognition.

According to the award-winning playwright who left the shores of the country in 1959, "I am the sky in the fruit in America, but it takes a lot of hard work to attain quality. There is need for one to re-write oneself and not beyond oneself."

As a black scholar in a Western environment, Onwueme did not rule out racism in America but restated that aside the racism of democracy in Nigeria, the image of the country had changed positively and in which taken seriously.

The so-called "stigmatization" especially during the dark days of military regime, the image of the country has since then been negatively impacted by the West. But today, people are highly respected... Black scholars, are respected in the academy and in the variety where I teach, I say that I'm a face to reckon with," said the playwright who has recorded several forms in the US, Canada before taking up appointment at the Washington University.

However, Onwueme who attended both the universities of the University of Ihe and before traveling abroad, burned them down of infrastructure in other institutions. She learned the Ivory Tower in the country to a civilian. The writer said that there is need to maintain the structures on the ground and that governments and politicians should work in unity to maintain that structure. The writer said that there is need to work for the young ones about their future, about the values that make them Africans.

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