

The Yoruba Fool Insignia: Beyond the Shakespearean Tradition

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ABSTRACT The Shakespearean fool is identified by his motley, the asses' ears, coxcomb or foxtail. He also exhibits certain characteristics and displays some antics. The Yoruba fool of Nigeria also has his/her hallmark traits which are identical to that of Shakespeare in certain respect. However, the Yoruba fool tradition on the screen veers from the Shakespearean fool culture. Unlike the western fool who is predictable to a certain extent, the Yoruba fool seems to be amorphous for s/he appears in different colours and shades. The treatise of this paper is to bring to the fore the emblems of the Yoruba fool. The study examines the paraphernalia, vis-à-vis its function. It concludes by drawing attention to the new trends in costuming the fool in Yoruba video films.