

A B S T R A C T

A HISTORICAL SURVEY AND ANALYSIS OF
DRAMA IN TRINIDAD: 1957 - 1966.

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The formative period for drama in Trinidad could very well have been between 1957 - 1966. During these years, drama began to secure a much firmer footing in the social life of the country. On the evidence, drama activity substantially increased during this period - both in terms of the number of groups which were staging dramatic productions and in terms of the cross section of the native population who were becoming involved in this sphere. Drama was slowly weaving itself into the social fabric. A number of factors contributed toward its growth and development during the period and one of the purposes of this research paper is to examine these factors.

The years 1957 - 1966 give rise to certain clear developments. The most important of these is that there was a self conscious movement towards the establishment of the West Indian drama. These activities proceeded in spite of the lack of facilities and without positive encouragement from people and institutions strategically placed to have made a greater contribution. The verdict of this period is that although there was a great deal of activity in the dramatic sphere, drama did not develop as far as it might have. Much of the potential was never harnessed because of the limiting conditions to be described in this research paper.