

ABSTRACT
WOMAN AS MOTHER IN SELECTED WORKS OF
WEST INDIAN DRAMA

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The plays under consideration roughly span the historical period 1950 - 1980. Derek Walcott's Ti-Jean and His Brothers first appeared in 1958, Errol John's Moon on a Rainbow Shawl, 1957, E. M. Roach's Belle Fanto 1967, Trevor Rhone's Old Story Time in 1971 and his Two Can Play in 1980.

The pivotal element in all drama is conflict, in these works the image of the mother is central to the creation of the plot. At the core of the construction of these plays are the characters reactions to the mothers' outlook, values and experiences. The interaction between the mother and those in her household provides both the focus and source of the action in these plays. The portrait of the mother and her family moves between love, estrangement, confusion, harmony, domination and liberation.

The dominant issues which this thesis focuses on are the responsibilities and sacrifices which women encounter when they become mothers. The plays under study illuminate a variety of responses to being a mother at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale and chart perspectives concerning mothers, mothering and how the female individual perceives herself and copes with this role.