

Jessica Atwooki Kaahwa, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae
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Brief Biography

Jessica Atwooki Kaahwa, Ph.D. has enjoyed a long career in teaching, designing and supervising of practical/research projects and has developed a wealth of resources on African and western conventional theatre history theory and criticism. Dr. Kaahwa started teaching at the current Department of Performing Arts and Film in 1987 and she was formerly appointed as full-time staff in 1990. She recently retired as a Senior Lecturer in 2020, but in 2023 was re-engaged to teach on contract in the same Department. Widely traveled, Dr. Kaahwa holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Benin, Nigeria, a Master of Arts degree in Drama from Makerere University, and a PhD in Theatre Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park, USA.

Dr. Kaahwa has been the architect of a number of national initiatives that have sought to use theatre and media as a constructive force in conflict settings and for health improvement. She has and continues to experiment with theories that expand the discourse on theatre applications. A good example is her recent experimentation with "Theatre for Personal Meaning" and "Theatre for Conflict Analysis. For instance, at the Baptist IDP Camp in Soroti and in Khartoum she focused on how theatre can be employed to locate the individual's voice in a group through a play-back theatre technique. She has also held workshops in Kurdistan's three Institutions of higher learning located at Hawler, Sulaymannia and Dohok on the similar methodology." At the Universities of Amsterdam, Warwick and Helsinki she particularly trained the MA International Performance Research students in practical handling of problems of drug abuse/addicts, racism, homeless, and lawlessness. At the same time, she continues to work on integrating "Processes Theory" into main-stream Applied Theatre practice, which she has developed into training manuals. She is also an accomplished director and actor with a number of stage productions and performances to her credit.

Dr. Kaahwa is an internationally recognized theatre scholar and practitioner and was, in 2011, invited to write and read the "World Theatre Day Speech" of 2011 and consequently became the Chief Guest at the UNESCO - ITI Assembly, Paris, France (March 23, 2011). Ever since, in addition to her teaching commitment at Makerere University, she has continued to travel in honor of her world theatre recognition encouraging and inspiring theatre efforts in diverse theatre cultures and contexts. In addition, 2018 she was honored with the 70th Anniversary Celebration of ITI Life Award Medal. In 2019 she received a highest honor of Theatre Scholar and Practitioner at Cairo International Festival for Contemporary and Experimental Theater, September 2019. Recently received Honorary Membership of African Theatre Association (AfTA) 24th November 2021

1. Academic and Professional Qualification

Period	Award	Institution	Course	Comment
Fall 1997 - Spring 2001.	Ph.D	University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.	Theatre History, Theory, and Criticism,	
September 1992-December 1994.	Masters	Makerere University, Kampala	Drama	
September 1983-July 1987.	BA	University of Benin, Bendel State, Nigeria.	Theatre Arts	
3 rd – 5 th August 2016	Certificate of Participation	Translation Training Workshop	Translation and Interpretation from and Ugandan Languages in the 21 st Century: The Need, the Practice, the Challenges and the Way Forward	
26 th –28 th April 2016	Certificate of Participation	Directorate of Quality Assurance, Makerere University.	Enhancing Graduate Supervision and Mentoring	
59 October 2012 – 31 August 2013	Participation of Certificate	Uganda-US Exchange Alumni Association.	Capacity Building Skills for Small Entrepreneurial	Applied Theatre Approach to Community Education
27 March—4 April, 2009	Participation Certificate	Khartoum International Theatre Institute and University of Sudan.	Developing an Interactive Research Methodology	Applied Theatre Approach for Peace initiative
18 – 27 July 2008	Attendance Certificate	Peace and Conflict Studies Faculty of Arts, Makerere University.	Research Training Workshop	Research Curriculum Development
October 2007	Participation Certificate	Financial Sector Deepening Uganda and British DfID	Research Training Workshop	Assessment of communication channels
16-20 August 2007	Participation Certificate	School of Public Health, John Hopkins University and Reev Consult International	Research Training Workshop	Research and Assessment

2. Employment Record

Rank	Employer	Unit	Year	Comment
Senior Lecturer	Makerere University	Dept. of Music, Dance and Drama	1 st December 2005- Todate	
Confirmation in University Service	Makerere University	Dept. of Music, Dance and Drama	27 th November 1997	
Lecturer	Makerere University	Dept. of Music, Dance and Drama	13 th June 1995- November 2005	
Assistant Lecturer	Makerere University	Dept. of Music, Dance and Drama	7 th January 1994	
Teaching Assistant on Contract	Makerere University	Dept. of Music, Dance and Drama	1 st August - 1990 - 1995	

3. Publications

Journal	Article	Comment
	A Book Review 2015: Refugee Performance: Practical Encounters, edited by Michael Balfour, Bristol, Intellect, 2013, xxv + 316 pp., £45.00 (hardback), ISBN 978-1-84150-637-1- © 2015, Jessica A. Kaahwa: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10137548.2015.1014171	
	“First Time Encounter Narrative of the 31 st National Arts Festival held at Grahamstown.” <i>South African Theatre Journal</i> , Vol. 19:2005.	
	‘Ugandan Theatre: Paradigm Shifts’. <i>South African Theatre Journal</i> , Vol. 18:2005.	
	‘Ugandan Theatre: Paradigm Shifts’. <i>South African Theatre Journal</i> , Vol. 18:2004. http://doi.org/10.1080/10137548.2004.9687782	
Book Chapters		
	“Repositioning of Traditional/Folk Drama in Contemporary Theatre in Islamic Countries” in <i>Theatre and Cultural Identity in Arab and Muslim World</i> . Sharjah: Arab Theatre Institute, 2015.ISBN:978-9948-22-538-6.	
	“Ugandan Theatre” in <i>The World of Theatre: 2011 Edition</i> . Bangladesh: Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Ltd, 2011.	
	Historical Changes in Ugandan Theatre”, <i>Theatre Year-Book 2010: Theatre Abroad</i> . Tokyo: Japanese Center of International Theatre Institute (ITI/UNESCO), 2010.	
	“Gender Performance in a Refugee Camp: Prospects and Challenges”. <i>Performing Gender in Arabic/African Theatre: Between Cultures, Between Gender</i> . Edited by Mieke Kolk, University of Amsterdam, 2009.	

4. Theatre Productions

Performances ¹	Production	Comments
February 22 nd 2023	“Breaking the Rhythm’ written and directed by Jessica Atwooki Kaahwa. Deals with human displacement and nostalgia.	Uganda Center for ITI, staged at the 36 th Congress, in Fujairah.
September 18 th 2018	“The Pursuit of Fairness’: Changes in Understanding of Women Rights in Uganda,” Makerere University.	Production was sponsored by IHC Global in conjunction with the Department of Performing Arts and Film, Makerere University.
24 th & 26 th November 2017	Designed the stage model, costumes and make-up for the stage production of <i>RUINED</i> by Lynn Nottage and directed by Dr. Charles Mulekwa.	Joint sponsored by United States of America and PAF, Makerere University
April 2017	Held Costumes Exhibition for Performing Arts and Film Open Day	Co-Sponsored by Department of Performing Arts and Film (PAF)
October 10 th & 11 th 2015	Directed and staged at the Uganda National Culture Centre (UNCC): <i>Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again</i> by Ola Rotimi,	Received certificate of appreciation
7 th -13 th October, 2013	Wrote, Directed and Staged “Three Levels above the Earth” at the 3 rd Hawler International Theatre Festival Production Competition, held at Hawler National Theatre, Erbil, Iraq.	Performed by the teaching staff of Makerere University, a blended troupe and won the First Prize.
18 th -24 th September, 2012	“Not You My Friend” Written, directed and staged: at the 2 nd International Theatre Festival Production Competition, held at Hawler National Theatre, Erbil, Iraq.	The Makerere University Troupe was awarded Babylon Media Inc. trophy for unique participation
23 rd March, 2011	“Putting it Between the Eyes” Written and performed at UNESCO stage in Paris; in celebration of World Theatre Day (WTD)	A tribute for the honor of WTD Speech writing
March 28 th 2009	“The Bandala Band” written by Richard Kagorobyia. Directed and staged at the Albugaa International Theatre Festival held in Kahartoum, Sudan.	6 Members of teaching staff participated and were exposed to other theatre practices

5. Teaching Experience (international and national)

University Lecturer	Institution	Teaching Context	Comments
2023- todate Contract	Makerere University, Dept. of Performing Arts and Film, Senior Lecturer, Kampala, Uganda.	Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Scenic Design, Stage Management, Directing	Contract
1990–To-2020 Tenured	Makerere University, Dept. of Performing Arts and Film, Senior Lecturer, Kampala, Uganda.	Drama (Directing, Theory, Criticism, Theatre for Development, Scenic Design, African Theatre, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Supervision.	Tenured
2002–To-2020	Supervisor and Internal Examiner of Post Graduate and doctoral committee member for Programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences.	BA, MA, PhD (Drama, Dance, Religious Studies, Mass Communication and Journalism, Literature, Philosophy and Peace Studies)	Specialized
21 st –26 th April, 2012	Conducted seminars and demonstrations of Participatory Theatre at Erbil (Hawler) Cultural Centre, Faculty of Fine Arts at Erbil University, Sulamaniya Institute of Fine Arts and at Faculty of Humanities, University of Dohok, Kurdistan-Iraq	Social Development, Conflict Analysis and “Personal Learning Process”: A Methodology for Community Engagement in Diverse Cultures	Demand for further academic and cultural exchange jointly funded by Kurdistan Area government and the German Goethe Institute
1 st – 31 st March 2010	Visiting Professor, Theatre Department, University of Helsinki.	Erasmus Mundus MA in International Performance Research (MAIPR) Programme 2009/2010	Expanding knowledge in Applied Theatre research. As well as created opportunity for colleagues and students for MA and PhD funding.
1 st --28 th February 2010	University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.	MAIPR Programme 2009/2010	Held a public lecture and stage demonstration on Applied Theatre

2 nd –31 st January 2010	Visiting Professor, Theatre Department, Warwick, United Kingdom.	MAIPR Programme 2009/2010	Secured Scholarship for MA and Ph.D for Ugandan Junior Scholars. The MA recipient is now a teaching staff at PAF
15 th March – May 2005 and June – December 2005	Lecturer/Researcher on Sabbatical at the Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South – Africa.	Teaching and research and interactive community work.	Bridged Stellenbosch University International Office with the office of Vice Chancellor, Makerere University (Prof. L. Lubobi). Also negotiated short visit academic support, two colleagues benefited

6. Research and Project Assessment Carried Out

Year	Title	Sponsor	Results
2015 - 2017	Organic Scenic Design in Uganda	Self/ Makerere University	Experiential teaching of Scenic design with well documented processes
2013 - 2017	Parallelism in Costume and Make-up Concepts and Appropriation of Classic Greek and Pre- Colonial Africa	Self/ Makerere University	Staged exhibition at Performing Arts and Film Open Day. A working manual, a potential publication for academic and professional usage.
2015-2016 3 rd – 5 th August 2016	“Translation and Drama: The Delicate Path of Trying to Preserve Humor and Meaning”	Self/ Makerere University	Presentation of findings at Translations Seminar & Workshop, held at Makerere University
2012 - 2013	Theatre and Business (Integrated participatory research)	Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2012 – U.S. Department of State and Uganda-US Exchange Alumni Association	1) 250 persons were impacted in small-scale entrepreneurial skills in the districts of Luwero, Serere, Hoima, Isingiro and Arua 2) A process report. 3) A post research

			implementation and replication effect.
October 2007/ May 2008	Assessment of the impact of communication channels (use of drama and dramatic approaches) used by Uganda Microfinance Consumer Education Programme	DfID's Financial Sector Deepening Uganda (FSDU) project	Submitted a report. In addition, I gained practical understanding of the dynamics of "Theatre for Development (TfD) in diverse peri-urban settings.
August 16, 2007- January 25 2008	Assessment of communication tools (use of drama and dramatic approaches) used in "Be A Man" campaign by Communication for Development Fund Uganda (CDFU),	John Hopkins University, School of Public Health	Submitted a report. Gained knowledge necessary for "integrated approach" to researching a non-traditional subject. *Published online
January – March 2007	Assessment of Drama as tool of communication for Public Health ("Rock Point 256" a radio drama series' on intergeneration sex)	Joint funding by Communication for Development Fund Uganda (CDFU), Young Empowered and healthy (YEAH)/ and John Hopkins University, School of Public Health	Gained skills in pre-field orientation as well as post field debriefing. A report and expansion on the research of "Theatre Personal Meaning: A Process Approach for Critical Awareness"
October 2006 – March 2007	Theatre and Performing Arts in Uganda	Joint Makerere University Faculty of Arts and the Ford Foundation (2007)	Data collection and bridging theatre arts academic and professional practitioners Findings were presented at one Day Seminar at held Grand Imperial Hotel, 28/03/2007

7. Award Received

Research Award	Research Field	Output
Winner of Fulbright 70 th Anniversary Celebration October 2016	Convenor of William Fulbright 70 th Anniversary celebration Dialogue	1. Hosted 1000 Fulbright Alumni and aspirants from Uganda and the East African region and Administrators from Higher Learning Council. 2. There is an annual memorial lectures to boost

		education in Uganda. 3. Increased Recruiting and Funding for scholars
Winner of the 2012 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2012 – U.S. Department of State	Theatre and Business (Integrated research)	1. TOT in Luwero, Serere, Hoima and Isingiro = 250 persons were impacted in small-scale entrepreneurial skills using participatory theatre 2. A process report. 3. A post research implementation and replication effect.
The Ford Foundation for East Africa Grant 25 th March 2007	Arts and Culture: Experiences and Challenges of Theatre and Performing Arts Development in Uganda	Workshop (Artists and Theatre scholars in Uganda) 1. Dialogue on cultural diversity and heritage and how these affect the performing arts industry in Uganda. 2. Creation and revival of Theatre bodies such as ITI- Uganda and Uganda Theatre Groups Association (UTGA) for lobbying and collaboration purposes.

8. Organized Academic and Cultural Exchange

Category	Country	Engagement	Sponsor	Comment
Students and Teaching Staff	Erbil, Iraq	International Theatre Conference and Festival	Hawler, Duhok and Sulaymannia Cities, Erbil, Iraq	2012
Students and Teaching Staff	Erbil, Iraq	Hawler II International Theatre Festival	Hawler City, Erbil, Iraq	2013
Staff of Performing Arts	Khartoum, Sudan	Cultural/Education exchange	Albugaa Sudan Govt./ITI Khartoum/Makerere University	2008
Students and Teaching Staff	Uganda/University New York, USA	Joint Public Health research using theatre arts	Makerere University/	2008
Students and Staff	Bangkok, Thailand	World Traditional Sports Display	Makerere and Thailand Government	1996
Students and Staff	Nairobi, Kenya	Annual African Youth Conference on Development and Environment (AYCODE)	Uganda Culture and Communications	1992-1995

9. Supervision of post graduate students

Doctoral students in Literature and Religion and Peace Studies.

Masters students in Mass Communication and Journalism, Industrial Fine Arts, Peace and Conflict Studies, Leadership and Human Relations Studies, and Performing Arts.

10. Other Academic Activities

Conferences			
Conference Name	Paper	Place	Date
Translation Training Workshop	<p>“Translation and Drama: The Delicate Path of Trying to Preserve Humor and Meaning”</p> <p>(Translation and Interpretation from and Ugandan Languages in the 21st Century: The Need, The Practice, The Challenges and the Way Forward)</p>	Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.	August, 2016
International Conference of Bridge Builders	Participatory Theatre workshop and diversity in Borderlands	Senjy, Poland	22 nd August 2015
International Theatre Conference	“Theatre for Conflict Transformation	University of Warsaw and Gardzienice Cultural Centre, Poland	October 2014
Stakeholders	“Theatre for Activism and Moral Responsibility: A Reworking of Ethics of Doing”	Makerere University - Joint Project between Schools of Psychology, the Margaret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Arts and the Department of Performing Arts and Film, School of Liberal and Performing Arts.	April 2014
International	“Repositioning of Traditional/Folk	Sharjah: Arab Theatre	January 2014

Conference on Theatre and Cultural Identity in Arab and Muslim World	Drama in Contemporary Theatre in Islamic Countries”	Institute	
International Theatre Conference	“Theatre for Conflict Analysis and Personal Learning Process: A Methodology for Community Engagement Diverse Cultures	at Erbil (Hawler) Cultural Centre, Erbil University of Fine Arts, Sulamaniya Institute of Fine and at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Dohok, Kurdistan-Iraq,	April 21-26, 2012
The American Council of Learned Societies: Africa Humanities Program	“Expanding the Boundaries of a Theatrical Experience”	Makarere University in conjunction with the American Council of Learned Societies: Africa Humanities Program	September 21-23, 2010
International Theatre Conference - 9th Edition on Theatre and Peace Culture	“Prospects for Arts in Peace Initiatives: A Theatrical Methodology”	Institute of Performing University of Sudan, Khartoum	March 27 th - April 4 th 2009
Intercultural Conference on Performing Gender in Arabic/African Theatre	Prospects for Gender performance in a Refugee Camp	University of FAHAD Khartoum	December 11th -13th 2007
The Professor Rose Mbowa Memorial Lecture	Public Lecture on Theatre for Development	Makerere University Main Hall	23 rd February 2006
11. Convening Seminar and Conferences and celebration of World Theatre Day			
Convenor	Conference/seminar	Place	Date
Chair/Organizer	5-day Play Directing and Scenic Design workshop for theatre practitioners and students. ITI-Uganda, Makerere University (PAF) & UNCC Sponsored	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	18 th -22 nd March 2024

Chair/Organizer	3-day Play Directing and Acting Workshop for theatre practitioners and students. ITI- Uganda, Makerere University(PAF) & UNCC funded	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	25 th -27 th March 2019
Team Coordinator, Scriptwriter and Director	IHC Global Community Sensitisation on Women's Property Rights in Uganda	Kawempe, Nansana, and Wandegeya in Kampala.	9 th April-30 th September 2018
Chair/Organizer	3-day Play Directing and lighting and marketing Workshop for theatre practitioners and students. ITI- Uganda, Makerere University(PAF) & UNCC funded	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	25 th -27 th March 2018
Chair/Organizer	5-day Play Directing and Audio and Stage Management Workshop for theatre practitioners and students. ITI- Uganda, Makerere University(PAF) & UNCC funded	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	23 rd -27 th March 2017
Chair/Organizer	The celebration of Fulbright 70 th Anniversary (Attended by the Chancellor, VC, DVC (AA), Principals, Directors and Department Heads, former and aspiring Fulbrighters US embassy and Makerere University funded	Makerere University Main Hall, Kampala	October 21 st 2016
Chair/Organizer	3-day Play Directing and Copyright Workshop for theatre practitioners and students. ITI- Uganda & UNCC funded	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	25 th -27 th March 2016
Chair/Organizer	3-day Playwriting Workshop for theatre practitioners and students ITI- Uganda & UNCC funded	Uganda National Cultural Centre, Kampala	25 th -27 th March 2015

Chair/Organizer	1-day Joint Workshop on Theatre and Performing Arts in Uganda: Present Challenges of Theatre and Performance (for Professional Artists and Cultural Studies and Performing Arts Scholars) Ford funded.	Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala	28 th March 2007
12. Service to the Society away from academics			
Title	Role/Activity	Period	Comment
Current Service EC	Member of Executive Council of International Theatre Institute World-wide	23 rd February 2023	
Mentor	Mentor at Tebere Arts Foundation (TAF)'s "Emerging Artists Intensive Lab"	2022-todate	
Counselor/Mentor/Teacher	Lively Children Mentor/Counsellor AND Sunday School Children Teacher	2020-todate	
Director	Children/Seniors Professional Theatre Producer	2018-todate	
President	Coordination of activities of Uganda Centre for ITI / and Vice President of the ITI Regional Council of Africa (East African Region)	2015-2023	Handed over.
Consultant and Practitioner	Facilitator Theatre in Conflict Zone/ Theatre without Borders/Participatory Communication Strategy Designer	2002-todate	
Acting Deputy Dean	(Academic & Finance) Faculty of Arts	2009 - 2010	
Acting Head, Department of Music, Dance, and Drama	General administration/ chief examination officer (on and off campus)	2006 - 2007	
Chairperson Transport Management Committee	Schools of Liberal and Performing Arts and School of Languages, Literature and Communications Studies	2006 – 2020	

13. Membership to the University Community			
Makerere Convocation	Member	1990 – to-date	
Makerere University Academic Staff Association	Member	1990 – 2020	
St. Franciscan Congregation	Senior Staff Student Mentor	1996 – 2020	
14. Distinguished Recognition			
Type	Description	Date	Comment
Honorary	Honorary Membership of African Theatre Association (AfTA)	24 th November 2021	
Lifetime Award (Trophy)	26 th Edition of Cairo International Festival for Experimental and Contemporary Theatre (CIFCET)	September 19 th , 2019	
ITI 70 th Anniversary Medal & Certificate	Honoured for the distinguished Contribution in Theatre Arts at International Theatre Institute 70 th Anniversary celebration.	23 rd November, 2018.	
Makerere University Recognition	Outstanding Teacher of Stage Arts and Artistic Directing		
Special Guest	Special Guest at UAE at the opening of ITI World Organization for the Performing Arts Office by Fujairah Culture and Media Authority	14-15 January 2011.	
World Theatre Day Speechwriter 2011	2011 “World Theatre Day” Speechwriter on Theatre and Culture Development Sponsored by International Theatre Institute (ITI) at UNESCO, Paris.	March 25, 2011	
Guest of Honour	ITI- Khartoum in conjunction with ITI-worldwide celebration of Culture Day in Khartoum,	March 27, 2011	

15. Professional Experience as an Academic University Lecturer

<p>Teaching Ability and Experience</p>	<p>Theatre Writing Reviewer Reviewer of Articles on Theatre from the Sub-Sahara Africa for South African Theatre Journal (SATJ), 2009—To-date.</p> <p>Experience Assistant/Graduate Assistant /Lecture/Senior Lecture/ Visiting Professor</p>		
<p>Courses Taught</p>	<p>Performance Theory Interactive Performance, Theory and Practice Community Theatre and Public Information Communication African Theatre Theatre of Black Experience (Diaspora Experience) Radio and Television Broadcasting Theory and Practice Radio, Television, Film Scripting, and Production Screen Writing for Television and Film -Play writing -Interactive Processes in Peace and Conflict Communication -Politics, Gender and Human Rights Studies Critical Pedagogy and Learning Processes Human Rights, Good Governance and Development Theories of Mass Communication Sociology of Development Research Methods Ritual Theatre and Theatre Therapy Workshop Planning and Training/Facilitation Theatre History, Theory, and Criticism Theory and Practice of Play</p>	<p>Sept 1987-March 2020</p>	

	Directing and Production Drama Therapy Dramatic Literature Stage Crafts, Theory and Practice: Lighting Set and Scenic Design Costumes, Make up and Mask Design Public Speech and Speech Writing Theatre and Rights Based Development Theatre and Gender Studies Theatre and Drama in Education – Children and Young Adults Theatre (TIE/DIE)		
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHING (Undergraduate & Graduate)			
Taught MA Sociology	Sociology Rural Development (SOC.7102)		
Taught on Literature Programme	Advanced Literary Theory (MA Lit.) Community Theatre for Development (MA Lit.)		
Taught on Journalism & Mass Communication	Environmental Journalism. Introduction to Broadcasting Radio and Television Production. Public Information for Development. Introduction to Mass Communication. Radio Production. Television Production. Speech Writing and Public Speaking.		
Professional Practice	Theatre in Conflict Zones		