



**The  
Washington  
Office  
on Africa  
Educational  
Fund**

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THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA EDUCATIONAL FUND

INVITES YOU

TO AN

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION WITH

NGUGI WA MIRII  
National Coordinator of the  
Zimbabwe Association of Community Theater

on

THEATER FOR DEVELOPMENT\*

Monday, March 12, 1990  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
Conference Room Four  
100 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Mirii is a practicing adult educator and a composer/song writer for community theater. He is currently working with the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Bishops of Southern Africa** on the design of cultural education programs and community theater for youth in the five Mozambican refugee camps in Zimbabwe. Mr. Mirii's U.S. tour is sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Disciples of Christ.

\*turn for description

## THEATER FOR DEVELOPMENT - Ngugi wa Mirii

Ngugi wa Mirii is one of the leading directors in theater for development, which involves techniques for addressing urgent social issues through drama for people engaged in community work and/or social services programs.

Theater for development is a process whereby the spectators/participants are empowered to address the urgent social issues of the community through popular theater techniques. This involves the following stages:

1. Identification of the popular cultural forms of the community, such as song, dance, music, prose and poetry.
2. Identification of specific problems within the community.
3. Fusion of cultural forms and the problems identified into a performance.
4. Evaluation of the issues by the community.
5. Establishing of a framework or method to address the problem identified.

What distinguishes this approach is its emphasis on spectator participation and the focus on an evaluation stage to work on structures which address the problems identified.

It is community-oriented and relies strictly on community members to determine the style and the feasibility of the solutions. It demands community involvement at each stage of the process.

Theater for development has been widely accepted in many parts of the world. It has played a significant role in South America, the Caribbean, Central America, Canada, Africa (Nigeria, Sierra Leon, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Kenya, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Botswana), the Philippines and India. It is experiencing growth in many parts of the United States.