

**Name:** *Kwoto Cultural Center*

**Country:** *Sudan*

**Artistic Medium:** *Theater, Dance, Music, Poetry*

**Dates:** 1994 to present

**Contact & Sources:**

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[http://www.comcat.org/novo/cgi-bin/bsiprojectframe.asp?ID\\_ProjectDetail=22&qs=22'](http://www.comcat.org/novo/cgi-bin/bsiprojectframe.asp?ID_ProjectDetail=22&qs=22)

<http://www.kwoto.org/>

<http://www.ned.org/grants/02programs/highlights-africa.html>

The arts and cultural center in Khartoum is dedicated to the revival of southern performing arts in the country of Sudan which has many different ethnic and cultural groups and serves as a kind of peace and reconciliation among these groups. It brings together these different language groups through music, dance and theater. The center works mostly in displaced persons camps around the city, universities, and prisons and sometimes even in the national theater. While clearly also serving as entertainment for these communities, they also tackle issues subtly, such as immigration, peace and justice, human rights, HIV/AIDS and non violent conflict resolution.

The Kwoto Theater provides two kinds of plays, the « one act plays » that last between 30 and 40 minutes and the « short sketches » that last between 10 and 15 minutes but are capsized with messages. These plays incorporate traditional dance and song from southern Sudan and convey information that is collected daily. After the performances, the audience is asked for their reactions. The group is different from other theater groups in the Sudan because of its use of 23 minority languages in its theater as opposed to Arabic. In using these languages instead, the group is expressing its desire for cultural expression and self identity.

