

## Why Should I Live by Your Labels and Limitations? Reflections on “*The Dungeon*”



By

**Mnena Abuku, Open AIR Researcher and Queen Elizabeth Scholar**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EST | [ZOOM](#)**

### Abstract

“*The Dungeon*”, the latest of Mnena’s creative works is adapted from Henrik Ibsen’s “*A Doll’s House*.” This work explores the indigenous cultural background of Nigeria in West Africa. It relates the deep decay in society where politicians use money and power to exploit the poor. It questions corrupt leaders, who have no political ideology, blueprint or plan but forcefully stay in power to rule over the people. The work also reflects the level of poverty in Nigeria. The down trodden masses continue to suffer. The poor down trodden, who have no voice, comprise of women, the rural community and children. Nora is the representation of the down trodden. This work does not only explore the issues of power play in Nigeria, but also focuses on the deep feminist and gender discourse about the institution of marriage in Africa where many are trapped in a prison of despair and sadness within this institution. Ibsen is more read or studied as a Western script, but re-interpreting it into an African setting, gives it a better understanding and inclusion in society.

### About



Mnena Abuku is an associate professor of Drama and Theatre. She is a consultant in Development Communication and director of LuCreative. She was previously a Queen Elizabeth Scholar – Advanced Scholars Fellow with the Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) network and has collaborated in research projects with the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (CIPIT), Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya. Her research interests include Gender Innovations, Entrepreneurship, Development, Migration, Peace and Conflict Studies, Education and Inclusion.

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