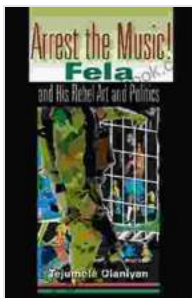


Fela: The Nigerian Musical Icon Whose Rebellious Art and Politics Shaped a Generation

Fela Anikulapo Kuti was a Nigerian musician, songwriter, and activist who pioneered the Afrobeat genre. His music was a powerful force for social and political change in Nigeria and around the world.



Arrest the Music!: Fela and His Rebel Art and Politics (African Expressive Cultures) by Tejumola Olaniyan

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2873 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Print length : 256 pages

Screen Reader: Supported



Fela was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria, in 1938. His father was a prominent musician and activist, and his mother was a strong supporter of his son's musical ambitions. Fela began playing music at an early age, and by the time he was a teenager, he was a skilled drummer and saxophonist.

In 1958, Fela traveled to London to study music. While in London, he was exposed to a wide range of musical influences, including jazz, funk, and soul. He also became involved in the civil rights movement, and his music began to reflect his growing political awareness.

In 1963, Fela returned to Nigeria and founded his own band, the Koola Lobitos. The band's music was a fusion of traditional African music with jazz, funk, and soul. Fela's lyrics were often critical of the Nigerian government and its policies. He was also a strong advocate for the rights of the poor and oppressed.

Fela's music became increasingly popular in Nigeria in the 1970s. He released a number of hit songs, including "Lady," "Zombie," and "Water No Get Enemy." His concerts were often packed with fans, and he became a symbol of resistance to the government's repressive policies.

In 1977, Fela was arrested and charged with treason. He was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. While in prison, Fela continued to write and record music. He also wrote a book, "The Black President," in which he outlined his political philosophy.

Fela was released from prison in 1980. He continued to make music and perform live until his death in 1997. Fela's music remains popular today, and he is considered one of the most important African musicians of all time.

Fela's Rebellious Art

Fela's music was often critical of the Nigerian government and its policies. He was a strong advocate for the rights of the poor and oppressed, and his music reflected his commitment to social justice.

Fela's lyrics were often explicit and provocative. He sang about corruption, poverty, and oppression. He also criticized the government's use of violence against its own people.

Fela's music was not just a form of entertainment. It was also a form of protest and resistance. Fela used his music to raise awareness of the problems facing Nigeria and to call for change.

Fela's Politics

Fela was a committed socialist and Pan-Africanist. He believed that all Africans should be united in their struggle for freedom and self-determination.

Fela's political views were influenced by his experiences in Nigeria and his travels to other African countries. He saw how colonialism had damaged African societies and he believed that Africans needed to be free from foreign domination.

Fela's political beliefs were reflected in his music. He often sang about the importance of African unity and the need for Africans to take control of their own destinies.

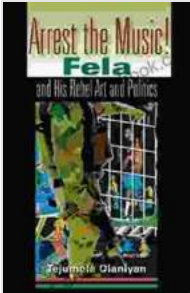
Fela's Legacy

Fela's music and politics have had a profound impact on Nigeria and the world. He is considered one of the most important African musicians of all time, and his music continues to inspire activists and musicians around the world.

Fela's legacy is one of resistance and hope. He showed that music can be a powerful force for social change. He also showed that Africans are capable of great things when they are united.

Fela Anikulapo Kuti was a true pioneer and a visionary leader. His music and politics have had a lasting impact on Nigeria and the world. He is an inspiration to all who believe in the power of music and the importance of social justice.

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