

Obituary

Keneth Fondzeyuf Tume (1975-2020)

On 23 August 2020, Dr. Keneth Fondzeyuf Tume passed away in a ghastly car crash in Yaounde, Cameroon. His unexpected death shocked his friends, colleagues and students (current and former) all over the world. Until his death, Dr. Tume was a Senior Lecturer of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Bamenda, Cameroon. After obtaining a BA and an MA in Theatre and Performing Arts at the University of Yaounde 1, he was awarded a scholarship by the Volkswagen Foundation Network as part of the project, *Passages of Culture*, which enabled him to complete his PhD in Performing Arts and Cinematography. Besides his academic responsibilities, Dr. Tume also served as the Divisional Delegate of Arts and Culture for Mezam Division in the North West Region of Cameroon.

Dr. Tume was a skilled stage performer. His theatre family, friends and audiences will never forget his impressive impersonation of Jujuman in Bole Butake and Gilbert Doho's *Zintgraff and the Battle of Mankon*, Ikoffi in Jane Mbacham's *Wabu*, among many other roles he excelled in. Apart from being a stage performer, Dr. Tume also worked backstage as light technician, stage manager and director of several theatre productions across the country. He directed films, which included *Johnny Just Come* and *Ancestral Ties*. He equally facilitated Theatre for Development workshops with focus on peaceful coexistence, girl-child education, youth, agriculture and entrepreneurship. Dr. Tume's papers appeared in local and international journals and edited volumes. Among them are *African Performance Review* and *Cameroon Journal of Studies in the Commonwealth*. He was the founder and coordinator of the Centre for Participatory Research, which promotes theatre research and facilitates theatre-related projects like Theatre for Development workshops. He was a member of several academic associations, among them, the African Theatre Association (AfTA).

Having known Keneth as a friend, a colleague, a fellow theatre performer and enthusiast, it is unimaginable that we will never again enjoy

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his personable, enthusiastic and selfless character. He was always ready to sacrifice his comfort to offer help wherever it was needed – to friends, collaborators and strangers alike. His serviceable, kind, humourous and animating personality is among many qualities we will all dearly miss. Before I had time to finalise plans for him to travel to the forthcoming AfTA conference at the Humboldt University in Berlin in 2021, the cold hands of death snatched him away from us.

Keneth, may you continue to sleep peacefully in the bosom of your ancestors!

Pepetual Mforbe Chiangong
Humboldt University, Berlin