

Wanted

An Opera



Taiye ADEOLA

「WANTED」

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Taiye ADEOLA



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WANTED

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of the performing arts as one of the final year project plays.
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Taiye Shola Adeola

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WANTED

No 1 This king Must Die (2001) -Ayo Akinwale (play)
No 2 Oforiofo and other plays (2001) -Kenechukwu
Igweonu (play)

No 3 Talking Bodies: A Collection of Dance Librettos
(2003) -Felix A. Akinsipe (dance)

No 4 What Hope? and Other Plays (2005) -Felix A.
Akinsipe (play)

No 5 Aléchone (Character Makes a Person) (2007) Mike
Ogunbiyi (play)

No 6 The Killers (a social drama) (2009) -AbdulRasheed
Abiodun Adeoye (play)

No 7 The Smart Game (a neo-alienation script) (2009) -
AbdulRasheed Abiodun Adeoye (play)

No 9 Atori (2011) -Felix Damilola Emoruwa (play)

No 10 Rebirth (2011) -Felix Damilola Emoruwa (play)

No 12 A New West in the Loom (2012) -Abdullahi
Abubakar

No 13 Next Time (2012) -Abdullahi Abubakar

No 14 The gods have Spoken (2012) -Taiye Shola Adeola
(opera)

No 15 Creating A Future (2013) -Abdullahi Abubakar

No 16 Sirens & Whispers (2013) -Abdullahi Abubakar

No 17 Corper Tion (2013) -Abdullahi Abubakar

No 18 Three Plays: The Toilet, Silence & The Agenda
(2013) Segun Oyeleke Oyewo (play)

No 19 Dance Scripts for the Stage Vol. 1. (2014) Felix A.
Akinsipe (ed.) (dance)

No 23 All for God! (2014) -Abdullahi Abubakar (play)

No 24 Dance Scripts for the Stage Vol. 2. (2015) Felix A.
Akinsipe (ed.) (dance)

No 25 Omolewa (2018) Oludolapo Ojadiran (Play)

No 26 Wanted (2019) Taiye Adeola (Opera)

WANTED

DEDICATION

Dedicated to the almighty God the source of my inspiration.

To sincere men and women who have sacrificed their lives in their quest for a better Nigeria

WANTED

Author's Note

Wanted is a political satire that chronicles the history of leadership in Nigeria since the colonial era to the civilian rule in 1999. The opera employs the folk operatic idiom with the use of different Nigerian and Western musical styles to convey his message.

A major problem that has confronted Nigeria as a nation is that of leadership; the process of choice and the quality of leadership produced by such processes remain a challenge to the country. The multi ethnic nature of Nigeria with each of the major ethnic group struggling to dominate the other is also a problem that underlines the leadership issue. The desire of the citizenry for good leadership and the inability of the people who seize the power to give it, as a result of greed, corruption, ethnicity, dictatorship, abuse of office and so on, have been the dynamics of the politics of the Nigerian nation since its inception. The struggle to attain or retain power underpinned by selfish motives has over the years produced negative consequences from which Nigeria is yet to recover and can only be cured by good leadership. The need for good leadership which has not been given by successive occupiers of leadership position in spite of their various agendas is what the opera demands should be met. What Nigeria needs are leaders who will lead with integrity, sincerity and accountability; not looters, oppressors and dictators who plunge the nation into crisis.

Struggle, Hope, Unity, Ethnicity, Deceit, Corruption, Oppression are key themes in the opera. Some questions about leadership raised and answered in "Wanted" are: What kind of leader does Nigeria need? Who qualifies to lead? How should people in leadership behave? And what is the solution to Nigeria's leadership problem?

WANTED

Freedom from masters afar
We want

ALL: (Rising agitatively)

Freedom, freedom, freedom (2 times)

(One of the supervising Task masters rushes out in the midst of the clamour for freedom and later emerges with a Superior Officer).

SUPERIOR OFFICER: (Recitative)

What is going on here?

Why do you refuse to work?

YORUBA MAN: (Repeat) *"It's been long we've been ...*

Freedom, freedom, freedom...

SUPERIOR OFFICER: Now that you think you are able

To think and work for yourselves.

Now that you clamour for freedom

Your freedom is now given you

Now I declare Independence

You'll lead and rule yourselves

Free you are free, you are free-e-e

To stand, stand alone.

(He calls the other task masters and they leave, there is jubilation)

WANTED

FREEDOM SONG: Free at last, free at last
We're free from colonialism (2 times)

HAUSA WOMAN: We'll lead and rule ourselves

IBO WOMAN: We'll think and solve our problems

YORUBA WOMAN: We'll work and see our labour grow

CHORUS: Our freedom is here at last
Free at last, free at last
We're free from colonialism
(4 times)

(As they sing this song background is changed to reflect Nigerian colour, map and flag).

We're free from colonialism

(As they settle down, one of them stands to speak)

HAUSA MAN: (Recitative)

Now that we are free

Who shall we choose to lead us?

Who shall we choose to lead us?

(Group meet for consultation. As this goes on, Narrators come on)

NARRATORS: Wanted, they want a leader

Wanted, a leader, one of them

Who will lead them

Let us see how they choose

WANTED

Let us watch who they pick
Wanted, a leader they want.

(After consultations, two men are presented. One Ibo, one Hausa.

The Ibo is installed as leader and the Hausa is to support him. The leader stands on a higher level).

IBO MAN: My people Men and Women of our land
I greet you (2 times)
As the leader of this community
I will lead, till we get safely to our destination.

(As he is speaking, the Hausa man by action and gesture commands the people to move to a side. The attempt of the Ibo man to command them to return to him as their chosen leader is not obeyed. The Hausa man is more in control than the installed leader. The two leaders come together to discuss an issue, they disagree and shout at each other. This causes confusion and division among the people. Factions emerge and suddenly there is noise. Soldiers emerge with guns to take over).

SOLDIER I: Fellow citizen of our great
Community
Trends of events since independence
Show there is conflict among our people

WANTED

We are taking over to bring stability
We therefore seek for your co-
operation.

(He moves to mount the leadership stand)

We therefore seek for your co-
operation.

(As he settles to begin supervision, some soldiers emerge, kill him and his lieutenants and take over).

SOLDIER II (Song I):

Don't be afraid
We are here because of you
Don't you worry
We have taken over for your sake
The mistakes of the past, we shall correct
The glory of this land, we shall project
Don't you worry
Don't be afraid we are here because of you.

YOUNG MAN: Solo: Khaki na Khaki
All: Khaki na Khaki (twice)
Solo: One soldier go, another soldier come
We think say we don geti freedom
We think say enjoyment don return
See our own people them dey rule with Gun
Khaki na Khaki o

WANTED

All: Khaki na Khaki
Solo: Khaki na Khaki
All: Khaki na Khaki
(The Soldier beckons to one of the citizens)

SOLDIERS II: (Recitative)
When last did you pay
My people some bonus?
(Before the citizen could give an answer)
Go now and work out
Some bonuses for them.
(He descends and walks out, the citizen also walks out.)

NARRATORS Wanted, they want a leader
Wanted, a leader, one of them
He was driven away
Now we see what they have
A man who rules them against
their wish
Let us wait and see
What he has in stock.

(The citizens who went out, comes in with some packages)

CITIZEN: At the command of our leader
At the order of our great soldier
Bonuses are hereby given to all
workers
Bonuses are hereby given to you
all

WANTED

(Soldier II comes as the packages are being shared out).

SOLDIER II (SONG II):

Men and women of our nation
Men and women of our land
I'm happy to let you know
(that) we are rich,
We are blessed
Our problem is how to spend
the money

(Citizens still receiving their packages jubilate).

CHORUS:

E o ri b'Oluwa to sike awa
E o ri b'Oluwa ti sike awa
O fun wa nile, o fun wa lepo
Oro aje mbe jaburata
E o ri b'Oluwa ti sike awa
Owo epo iyen nikan ole tan
tor'epo mbe jaburata
Sadankata ma se rinso o
A mbe fun o dakun tesiwaju.

(Another coup occurs in the midst of the celebration, the leader is arrested and another soldier takes over. He mounts the leadership stand).

NARRATOR: He has taken over
Another soldier
When will the people rule
themselves?

「WANTED」

When will the people choose their leader?

He has taken over

What can he offer?

(Another coup-the new leader is killed and carried off the leadership stand; some men in uniform consult each other and one of them is asked to resume the leadership stand).

SOLDIER IV (SONG I):

Fellow citizens of this great community

As you are all aware

Of the tragic killing of our former leader

I am now taking over as your new leader

I seek your support,

To move this community forward,

In my time

There will be food in abundance

There will be money, there will be shelter.

YOUNG MAN: (Repeat "Khaki na Khaki")

SOLDIER IV (SONG II):

Fellow citizens of this great community.

「WANTED」

I seek your support

To move this community forward

One of the ways to move on

Is to go back to the land

Let everybody farm

So that we shall feed well

I now declare

OPERATION FEED THE NATION

(He descends and moves out)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE II

(The scene opens with the citizens going about some business. Young man rises and sings).

YOUNG MAN: I think una hear wetin this man talk

He talk say make everybody farm

After dem don chop oil money

After dem don batter our economy

Operation feed what?

Operation feed the nation

All:

Solo:

All:

Operation feed what o?

Operation feed the nation

WANTED

Solo: Operation feed wetin?
All: Operation feed the nation

(Citizens carry boes and cutlasses)

CHORUS: Ise Agbe, ise ile wa ni o
Won ni ka pada soko
Agbe loba, Agbe loba se
Won ni ka pada soko

Solo: Ka f'owo sise, ka roko, ka jeun to da

All: Won ni ka pada soko

Solo: Ka sise oko, ka kere oko ye

All: Won ni ka pada soko

Agbe loba, Agbe loba se

Won ni ka pada soko

(The leader emerges as the song goes on and observes them with satisfaction).

SOLDIER IV (SONG III):

My people, I great you
I salute your courage
I commend your effort
Now give me your attention
The time has come for you
To choose a leader for yourselves
I therefore ask you
To look from among you
One who is able, to lead, to rule,
to direct and to continue from where
we are

WANTED

(Citizens are happy; they break into groups for consultation).

NARRATOR:

Wanted, they want a leader
Now they have a chance
To choose the leader they want
One of them, who will lead them
That has been their desire
Will this chance produce the leader
they want?

Let us wait and see

(Political groups now emerge).

POLITICIAN 1: People of our great community

I am an illustrious son of this land
I have observed the leadership
Of our community since
independence
I know what we need
I know what to do
I have what it takes
I possess the ability
To move our community forward
If you vote for me
Your children will have
Free education at all levels
Free health services
Everything will be free

「WANTED」

So, vote for me,
I am able
Vote for me, I am capable
Vote me as your new leader.

POLITICIAN II:

(Carries a lot of money and distributes to people)

My people
Don't be deceived by sweet words
I am the answer to your questions
One, united community is my focus
I will lead with sincerity
And openness
Don't waste your vote
Vote for oneness
Vote for progress
Vote for me, I am the answer.

(Soldier IV emerges and ascends the leadership stand).

SOLDIER IV: (Recitative)

Come now and cast your vote
Come now and choose a leader
Choose a leader for yourselves

(Election is conducted, the first politician appear to have won.

「WANTED」

There is a kind of consultation between the camp of politician II and the soldier-leader. Politician II is declared the winner and installed. The new leader mounts the leadership stand with some of his men. A box is lifted from which each of the men led by the leader takes money. Other citizens are neglected so they are not happy).

POLITICIAN III and FRIENDS:

Pol. - We are now in control

Fr. - We are now in control

Pol. - We are now in charge

Fr. - We are now in control

Pol. - My friend is the leader

I made him so to be

My friend is the leader

We shall rule this land
together.

We are now in control

Fr. - We are now in control

Pol. - We are in charge (thrice)

Fr. - We are now in control

FEMALE NARRATOR:

A be o roju aiye

A be o r'aiye lode o

A be o roju aiye

A be o r'aiye lode

Iya nj'omo ni keji

「WANTED」

Awon nkorin wipe won yo
A - a araiye
E o raiye lode se
Aiye ye won tan
Enia gbagbe a jo so
Bamu, bamu la yo
Iyen lorin ti won ko
Won o mo p'ebi n-pomo enikan
Aiye ye won tan.

ALL: Aiye ye won tan (twice)
Oro k'oro loku ti won n so
Aiye ye won tan o
Iwa kuwa loyo lo-wo won

SOLO: People are suffering
And leaders enjoying
They do not bother
As long as they loot
See them looting
See them stealing
See them destroying
And people are dying

CHORUS: *(Repeat "Aiye ye won tan")*
(Suddenly some soldiers emerge with guns; they order the leader to descend the leadership stand. Some of his men runs away and another soldier mounts the stand. The new soldier looks serious with his men).

「WANTED」

SOLDIERS: We have taken over
We are now in charge
We have taken over
We are in charge
We have taken over
We are now in control.

SOLDIER V: My Government
Will not tolerate indiscipline
My Government
Will wage war against
indiscipline
You must line up for everything
You must not urinate any how
Orderliness is my watch word
Any citizen who do not obey
Shall be seriously dealt with

(Citizens ordered by the soldiers begin to line up to do some things).

NARRATORS: Wanted, they want a leader
Now, they have another soldier
One of them, the one they
choose
Has failed them
And so, the search for a leader
Continues, but when will it end
They want a leader
They have a soldier

「WANTED」

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE III

(Gun shots and noise, another coup, the incumbent leader is arrested and taken away. Another soldier emerges. He is beaming with smiles. He tries to interact with the citizens as he moves towards the leadership stand).

SOLDIER IV (SONG I):

I am a soldier with a difference
I consider my people
I am considerate, not a dictator
I have come as a saviour
I am a soldier who loves the masses
We can all work together
We can all work as one.

(He descends to interact with the citizens again, shaking hands with some of them).

JOURNALIST: (Recitative)

Sir, for how long do you think you will be in power

SOLDIER VI: I assure you it won't be long

I assure you, it will be soon
I assure you it won't long
I will be quitting the stage

「WANTED」

Then one of you, whom you will
choose

One, whom you trust, will be
chosen

As the leader

But for now, I am in charge

I seek your support.

(He moves back to the leadership stand. Some men emerge with a document which they present to the leader. He signs it and gives it back with a sign of assurance. He then moves to address the people).

SOLDIER VI (SONG II):

Some people from afar
Have come to us with a package
To help us with some money
My people, should we take it?
Discuss and get back to me.

JOURNALIST: Sir, what is the package about?
What are the conditions?

SOLDIER VI: It is something good

To help us move forward
Talk about it to my people

(He moves on to the stand while the journalist moves to the people to address them in groups. All of them reject the package and send delegates to the leader).

「WANTED」

DELEGATES: We have considered the offer
And decided, we are united in
saying
We do not want the package
We shall manage our
economy
Without the package.

(The leader smiles-meaning "it is okay").

SOLDIER VI: (Recitative)
I have collected the package
But it is all for our good
You wait, you will see the
advantage

(People grumble and ask one another)

CHORUS: Why did he ask us to discuss?
Why, why, why did he ask us to
debate?
When he knew he wanted the
package
Why did we have to discuss?.

NARRATORS: What a display of deceit
Telling the people to discuss
What already he has decided
What a display of deception
People said 'No', the soldier said
'Yes'

「WANTED」

People's voice he will not accept
What a display of deceit
What a display of deception

*(The soldier beckons to the people to be calm, he
descends to speak).*

SOLDIER VI (SONG III):

I am a soldier with a difference
I consider my people
I am considerate, not a dictator
That was why I sought your
opinion
Anyway, the package has been
taken.

*(He pauses for a while to think and then
continues)*

Now let us think of choosing a
leader
I assured you (that) it won't be
long
I will quit the stage

*(He points at a man; the man stands and walks
towards him).*

This man will be in charge
He will conduct the elections
Work with him
And give him your support

*(The leader moves back to the leadership stand to
observe what will happen next. Journalists approach
the electoral officer for a press conference)*

WANTED

ELECTORAL OFFICER:

There shall be two political parties
And you are free to join anyone
Election shall be through option A4
Let us work together to choose a leader

JOURNALIST: Sir, How long will the
transition programme take?

ELECTORAL OFFICER:

It is a process, it is gradual
It is towards a lasting
democracy.

JOURNALIST: How sincere do you think the
military is?
Will they go?

ELECTORAL OFFICER:

The soldier with a difference has
given his words
He has assured us (that) he will quit
the stage

*(He walks off ending the press conference;
People begin to consult and form groups for the purpose
of election. Two groups emerge, each with contestant).*

WANTED

NARRATORS: Wanted, they want a leader

Another opportunity is here
The soldier says, he is leaving
But is he sincere?
Where do the people go from here?
Let us see, how they choose
Let us see who they pick

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE IV

CHORUS: We want a leader
Not a deceiver
We want a saviour
Not an oppressor
We want a leader
Who will lead with sincerity
A leader who is patriotic
Yes, a leader who will lead us
A leader who will be transparent
A leader who will be detribalized
A leader who will move us forward
A leader who we shall all follow
We want a leader, not a looter
We want a leader
Not a spoiler
We want a leader
Who will lead with integrity

「WANTED」

A leader who is dependable
Yes, a leader who will lead us.

(The two contestants are seen consulting with the soldier. The soldier smiling gives them the go ahead to contest the election. They begin their campaign).

CONTESTANTS I: *(His campaign team carrying banners on which 'HOPE '93' is written).*

This Country deserves a leader
With experience, honorable and
dependable
You find in me (twice)
The leader that you desire (twice)
I am the hope for this nation
Vote for me, vote for progress
Vote for me as your leader
Vote for success and achievements
You find in me (2 times)
The leader that you desire (twice)

CAMPAIGN TEAM: Yes o yes, you are the man o

Solo: Yes o yes, you are the hope o
Na you be our only hope o

All: He is the man o
Yes o yes, you are the man o

「WANTED」

CONTESTANT II: *(With banners bearing 'THE ANSWER')*

I am the answer to your
questions
Questions about leadership
I'm the solution to your
problems
Problems of integrity
I am the saviour you desire
Vote me as your leader.

ELECTORAL OFFICER: *(Recitative)*
(He arranges the ballot boxes)

Come together everybody
Now to the polls.

(People move towards him. he places a box each in front of the contestants and ask people to line up and cast their votes).

CHORUS:

Oya kalo dibo
Oya kalo dibo
Oya kalo dibo
Oya kalo o
Muje muyi zabe
Muje muyi zabe
Muje muyi zabe
Muje zabe o.
Ka anyi ga huputa onye isi

WANTED

Ka anyi ga huputa onye isi
Ka anyi ga huputa onye isi
Ka anyi ga huputa o

(People line up to cast their votes, more people support

Contestant I. The electoral officer with his men counts the votes. While this is on, the soldier calls for the electoral officer who walks up to him. His actions show displeasure. The electoral officer returns to resume counting. The soldier commands his men to stop the counting and he speaks).

SOLDIER VI (SONG IV).

I observed the conduct of the
election
It is not free, it is not fair
It is full of many malpractices
It is my duty to put in place
A lasting democracy
The election is hereby annulled.

CITIZENS (Shouting in protest):

We no go gree o
We no go gree
Master dribbler (Maradona)
We no go gree
Ese, ese o ese o
Ewa ma lo

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JOURNALIST (Recitative): Is it true that the
election
Was not free and fair?

CITIZENS: It is the freest so far.

JOURNALIST (To another citizen) why do you
think

the election was annulled?

CITIZEN I: I think the soldier does not want
to go

CITIZEN II: It is simply unthinkable

CITIZEN III: There is just no reason for it.

PROTEST SONG: We are tired of soldiers
They should go away
We are tired of deceivers
They should go away, enough is
enough
We can rule ourselves
We want a civilian
We can rule ourselves.

SOLDIER VI: (SON V) (Tries to calm the
people down)
The annulment was in the
interest of this nation
It is my duty to put in place
A democracy that will last
Let us think of how to move
forward

'WANTED'

CITIZENS:

Let's suggest how to move
onward.

We want a civilian
Soldier, go away
We are tired of soldiers
We can rule ourselves

SOLDIER VI:

(Recitative)

Let us think of how to move
forward
Suggest ways of going on
But forget about the elections

CITIZENS:

We want a civilian
You must quit the stage now
We are tired of your
government
You must go away

*(The soldier moves up to his stand with some of his men
for consultation. He calls one of the citizens to talk
with and later moves on to address the people).*

SOLDIER VI (SON VI):

I am stepping aside
It is a sacrifice I must make
I am stepping aside
It is a sacrifice I must make

'WANTED'

An interim National
Government
Is hereby formed
To oversee the Nation's affairs
It shall be headed
By one of you
An indigenous son of this
nation.

*(He presents a man to them as the leader of the
government and installs him. He steps aside quitting
the leadership stand) but a soldier remains behind the
NCO man as if guarding him).*

INGMAN: Taking over the affairs of this nation
Is a great sacrifice
It was difficult for me to accept

But someone has to do it
Ours is a government of necessity
And it won't be long,
Before a democratic government
Will be elected
I appeal to all parties grieved
By the annulment of the election
To put it behind them
Let us put it behind us

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NARRATORS: Can this be the leader they want?
Will he be accepted by the people?
Can this be the leader the people want?
Can this be?
But how long will it take the people
To get to where they desire?
For how long will it take them
To get the people's choice?

(SPOKEN) *Well, the search continues*

JOURNALIST: (Spoken) What do you think of this government?

CITIZEN: This is not the government of the people

JOURNALIST: What do you think is the way forward?

CITIZEN: The people's choice should be installed.

(One of the citizens gets up to address the people. While this is on, the ING MAN and the soldier are seen talking on the leadership stand).

「WANTED」

CITIZEN (SPOKEN): People of this great country
We all went to the polls
We casted our votes and elected one of us
What happened to our choice?
for how long do we keep quiet?
Let us get up and fight.
Yes, get up and fight for your right.

(The people gets up to protest)

CHORUS: We want the man we gave our votes
Enough, enough of deception
We want the man we gave our votes
We demand for his installation
(3 times)

(As the people settle down after the protest).

ING MAN: Fellow country men
For reasons beyond my control
I find it necessary
To voluntarily resign my
Appointment as the President
I find it necessary
To voluntarily resign my
Appointment as the President.

「WANTED」

(People react in surprise. He quits the stand and the soldier who has been behind him takes over and addresses the people).

SOLDIER VII (SONG I):

Following the voluntary

Resignation of the President of
the Interim National

Government

I have taken over (3 times)

I hereby appeal to all and sundry
To co-operate and let us work
together

Concerning the annulled
election

It has become part of the
Nation's history.

(To the other side of the stage, the acclaimed winner of the election is seen addressing a section of the people).

ACCLAIMED WINNER: I am the winner of the
election

It is the mandate

I refuse to let go

I am the winner of the election

I hereby declare myself as the
leader

「WANTED」

I hereby declare myself as the
President

I am the winner of the election

I refuse to let go, I am the
winner.

PEOPLE:

Yes, you are the winner of the
election

It is our mandate, we gave it to
you

O you are the winner of the
election

We refuse to let go, you are the
winner

We hereby accept that you are
the leader

We hereby declare that you are
the President

You are the winner of the
election

It is our mandate, we gave it to
you

(Soldier comes in to disperse them and arrest the acclaimed winner and some of his men).

LIGHTS OUT.

「WANTED」

SCENE V

(The soldier addresses his men)

SOLDIER VII (SONG II):

Listen to me my fellow soldiers
I am in charge, yes we are in charge
If any of these people dare speak a
word
Against my government, get him
arrested
I am in charge, we are in charge
We are in charge, we are in charge

(He laughs and dismisses the men. Three women enter).

WOMEN: Good evening Mr. President
How are you, how has the day been
We bring you greetings from the
women
We have come to seek your approval
To travel to Beijing

(They present the papers)

The trip will cost many millions
We therefore seek your approval
To travel to Beijing.

(Soldier VII rises up).

「WANTED」

SOLDIER VII: Approved, Approved,
Approved
Approved, Approved,
Approved
It is approved, many millions
for you

(The leader signs the document and the women take their leave. Two ladies emerge, seductively dressed. Soldier VII rises to welcome them).

SOLDIER VII (Spoken): Hello, my pretty ladies

LADIES: Your Excellency
We are at your service
We shall give you a treat
So enjoy yourself

(They throw themselves at him)

From our heads to our toes
We are all yours tonight.
Mr President, enjoy
yourself.

(The President orders for food and drinks and they settle down to eat and enjoy the night. A soldier comes in, He takes a salute).

SOLDIER: (Spoken) Your Excellency
(Music) The Security unit
Needs more equipment

WANTED

It will cost many millions

(He presents the documents)

I therefore seek your approval

To withdraw many Billions

From the Federation Account

(Soldier VII signs the papers as he sings)

SOLDIER VII: Approved, Approved,
Approved

Take many Billions

For Security

SSS (Spoken): Your Excellency

Some people are to assemble

Tomorrow for a rally

It is to be addressed

By the human right boys.

SOLDIER VII: The rally must not hold
Go there, disperse them

(Spoken) And arrest those boys

*(He dismisses them and joins the ladies to
resume the merry making).*

LIGHTS OUT

WANTED

SCENE VI

(A man is seen on a riser addressing the people)

HUMAN RIGHT MAN: (Spoken) Great people
of this country

PEOPLE: Eeh

H.R.M.: Great, respectable citizens of
our land

PEOPLE: Eeh

*(Soldiers emerge, disperse them, beat some and
arrest the H R M and some of the people)*

NARRATORS: How many more people will be
arrested?

How many more will have to
die?

The leader they have rejects the
truth

He kills and aims the ones that
talk

How many souls will have to
perish?

The people are suffering, they
can't complain

For how many years will they
have to endure?

For how many years will they
have to suffer?

「WANTED」

For how many more years will they
search for a leader?

CHORUS: How many years?
How many more years of suffering?
How many, how many years?
How many more years do we have
to wait?
When will it be that we shall have a
leader

Who will be truly called a leader?

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE VII

*(The leader and the Ladies-Still on their
merriment A soldier comes in)*

SOLDIER (Recitative):

Your Excellency
Some men were arrested
They were instigating the
Community
To revolt against your
Government

SOLDIER VII: Go right away and
Take care of them,

「WANTED」

*(With a gesture that they should be
killed, the soldier goes away).*

Hello, hello my pretty ladies
You both look charming
And just appealing
What is it we have got today?

(He embraces them)

LADIES: Something good as usual
Something nice for your Excellency
We are here to give you satisfaction
Our bodies, the best you can find.

(A soldier comes in)

SOLDIER: (Spoken)
Your Excellency
The men have been taken care of,
Five of them

SOLDIER VII: (Laughs)
Excellent!
Good job

*(He dismisses the soldier as he continues to
laugh.*

One of the ladies brings out an apple)

LADY 1: Apple, beautiful Apple
Apple, what a pretty Apple
Good to behold
And beautiful to taste

「WANTED」

LADY II: Apples (are) good for the President
Apples, nourishing and refreshing
O-h Apples, beautiful Apples
(They give apple to the President)

LADIES: Apples, eat of this Apples
Apples yes beautiful Apples
Eat of these apples
They're beautiful to taste
Apples, good for the President
Apples, nourishing and refreshing
O-h Apples beautiful Apples

SOLDIER VII (Spoken)

I love apples you know
Give me some more
Before you leave
(The ladies feed him again with more apples as they sing the apple song and bid him farewell)

LADIES: Apples, beautiful Apples
Apple, what a pretty Apple
Good to behold
And beautiful to taste
Apples, good for the President
Apples, nourishing and refreshing
O-h Apples, beautiful Apple
Apples, eat of the Apples
We leave now, just keep on eating Apples

「WANTED」

See you tomorrow
Just keep eating Apples
Apples, good for the President
Apples, nourishing and refreshing
O-h Apples beautiful Apples.

(The ladies leave, the President gets up, shows a sign of discomfort, moves, slumps and dies. A soldier enters).

SOLDIER: Your Excellency
Sir, you are lying on the floor
(He moves closer to feel his pulse, discovers he is dead)

Dead? This cannot be
(He rushes to pick the phone. Calls three people)

1. Hello, come right away
The general wants you
2. Hello, The General wants to see you
Come over immediately
He says it is urgent
3. Hello, please hand me over to the general
Sir, the President wants you
In an emergency meeting now
(The men arrive in turns and he breaks the news)

WANTED

The general is dead

(Shocked by the news)

1. How?
2. When?
3. What happened?

(They hold consultation and move the body out)

LIGHT OUT

(On the street, people are seen discussing)

- | | | |
|----------|----|---------------------|
| CITIZENS | 1. | Is it true? |
| | 2. | It is a lie |
| | 3. | It can't be true |
| | 4. | Let's wait and see |
| | 5. | They say he is dead |

(In another group playing draft with a transistor Radio-time for news)

CITIZEN: Eeh - Wait
Let's hear the news
Good evening
Here is the news
First, the main items.
Our nation mourns the death
Of the head of state

(People jump up, shout and begin to jubilate)

WANTED

1. He don die o
He don die
Wicked leader (ruler)
He don die

2. Were lo bawa pa
Ee - were lo bawa pa (twince)
Eni ti a rope ko se pa
Were lo bawa pa

3. Ose, ose o
Ose o to ba wa mulo

(In the midst of the jubilation, a soldier emerges, climbs the leadership stand flanked by three other soldiers)

NEW SOLDIER: STOP, STOP, STOP

This is not a time for jubilation (2 times)

It is a time for sober reflection

It is a time to think

Let us build the fate of this nation

Let us build the fate of this nation

Let us now build the fate of this nation on

Hope

(The people stop to reflect on what he said.

Another news)

「WANTED」

NEWS:

Good evening
This is to announce the death of
the acclaimed
Winner of the annulled
election.

(The people cry and sing some dirges)

NEW SOLDIER: STOP, STOP, STOP

*This is a time for sober reflection (2
times)*

It is a time for sober reflection
It is a time to think
Let us build the fate of this nation
Let us now build the fate of this
nation on Hope

*(The people stop as though to reflect on his
words and begging to sing the song of HOPE).*

SONG OF HOPE

Talking about hope
Hope, hope, hope
That is what we've got
Hope, Hope, Hope
And time and life is gone
Hope, Hope, Hope
Our people in distress

「WANTED」

Hope, Hope, Hope
Hope was what we had
We went to polls to vote
The hope we thought we had
Was gone and here we are
We're talking about Hope
When shall it be true?
And when will hope be real

CHORUS: Hope, Hope, Hope
Yes, it's been Hope, Hope, Hope,
We have been hoping
We have been hoping
We have been hoping
We have been hoping
Yes, it's been Hope, Hope, Hope,
(But) When hope is delayed
The heart is weary
When hope is delayed
It becomes painful
We have been Hoping (4 times)
Yes, it's been hope, hope, hope,
It's been long, We've been hoping
Yet we just, must hope
Someday, our hope will be real

Solo:
All:

Yes we have hope
We have the hope

「WANTED」

Solo: Our nation shall be great again
All: We have the hope
Solo: We'll have the leaders that want
All: We have the hope
We shall have leaders who shall be honest
We shall have leaders, who are detribalized
We shall have leaders who will lead the people
To a place of peace and plenty
Yes we have the hope
Yes we have it, hope we have it
Yes we have the hope
Yes we have it, hope we have it
Yes we have the hope
We have the Hope, Hope, Hope
We have the Hope, Hope, Hope.

LIGHTS OUT

「WANTED」

OTHER CREATIVE WORKS BY TAIYE ADEOLA

- Emmanuel (1994) - A Christmas Cantata for Piano and SATB Choir
- Love Divine (1995) - An Easter Cantata for Piano and SATB Choir
- Irewaye (2016) - A Christmas Cantata for Piano and SATB Choir
- The God's Have Spoken (2001) - A folk Opera published in 2012

CHORAL ANTHEMS

- A wa Dupe (1992)
- E je ka pinu (1992)
- God is love (1993)
- Allowed be thy name (1994)
- Eyin o fi Ayo fa Omi (1994)
- E wo Jesu (1994)
- Adura fun Nigeria (1996)
- Submit yourself to God (1997)
- A ti bi Oba (1998)
- T'is so good (2002)
- Iku ori igi (2005)
- Iranti Olododo (2006)
- Ope la mu wa (2011)
- Igbala De (2014)
- Aaye Kosi (2015)
- Sise Igbala Re (2016)

「WANTED」

INSTRUMENTAL

- Theme and Variations For saxophone Solo and African Ensemble (1989)
- Grand Father's meditation - a short piece for Piano (1987)
- Royal Fanfare - For Tenor solo, Brass and Dundun Ensemble (1994)

STUDIO RECORDINGS

GOOD MORNING HOLY SPIRIT -

Audio cassette and CD released in year 2000

KEPE JESU -

CD released in October 2002

EVERLASTING HOPE -

CD released in October 2002

The Book

Wanted is a political satire that chronicles the history of leadership in Nigeria since the colonial era to the civilian rule in 1999. The desire of the citizenry for good leadership and the inability of the people who seize power to give it as a result of greed, corruption, ethnicity, dictatorship, abuse of office, and so on are the dynamics of the politics of the Nigerian nation since its inception. This need for good leadership which has not been given by successive occupiers of leadership positions is what the opera demand should be met. The author and composer employ the folk operatic idiom with the use of different Nigerian and western musical styles to convey his message.

The Author

Taiye Shola Adeola holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree in performing Arts with specialization in music from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degree in Music, and Masters of Religious Studies from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; He studied theology at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso, Nigeria where he obtained his Masters of Divinity (Theology), and Certificate in Ecumenism from the Institute for Ecumenical Studies Bossey, Switzerland. He is presently a lecturer at the department of the performing arts of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria where he teaches music. He is a musicologist, composer, conductor and music director with many works to his credit.

"Wanted" is his first but second published opera (written in 1999); his second but first published opera is "The gods have spoken" (2012)

He has also written cantatas and many anthems and songs.



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