



# Praise for The Fuji Documentary

The director and producer of the film, Professor Saheed Aderinto, is a leading cultural historian and authority on Nigerian popular music. Though factually detailed and sophisticated in approach, the dominant note is one of respectful admiration for a unique cultural figure [Sikiru Ayinde Barrister]. The film is beautifully put together and entirely captivating -- a landmark in popular music documentation. Àjànaku'kojá "Mo rí nnkan firí", bá a bá rerin, ká a sọ pé a rerin!

Professor Emeritus Karin Barber, DBE, FBA  
University of Birmingham  
Author of *The Generation of Plays: Yoruba Popular Life in Theatre*

Professor Saheed Aderinto is a masterful storyteller who successfully brings his prodigious skills as a historian to documentary filmmaking. This film brilliantly tells the story of Fuji music as it emerges in the cultural efflorescence of post-independence Nigeria and then goes global. This film is a must-see for music fans and anyone interested in understanding the creative spark currently igniting Nigerian music, film, and art.

Professor Jesse Weaver Shipley  
The John D. Willard Professor (Dartmouth College)  
Author of *Living the Hiplife: Celebrity and Entrepreneurship in Ghanaian Popular Music*

An oratorical-historical masterpiece, Aderinto's Documentary engages the rich rhythmic archive of Fuji, a major Yoruba musical genre with roots in Southwestern Nigeria. It is a compelling account of the postcolonial transformation of the Nigerian soundscape... Here, Aderinto announces his versatility as a debutant filmmaker, while continuing to prove his worth as a world-class historian-ethnographer.

Professor Omotayo Oloruntoba-Oju  
Adekunle Ajasin University  
Author of *African Theatre Aesthetics: A Comparative Study of the Plays of Wole Soyinka and Femi Osofisan as Paradigms*





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**S**aheed Aderinto's rendering is masterful, and the visual prose is uncommon. With this film, he has proven to be the master of the subject and a brilliant visual narratologist. This documentary is rendered with stunning visual beauty, providing uncommon scholarly insights into the making of the most consequential genre of popular music in contemporary Nigeria.

Professor Onookome Okome  
University of Alberta  
Co-editor of *Popular Culture in Africa: The Episteme of the Everyday*

**P**rof. Saheed Aderinto has created a documentary that is richly entertaining, insightful, and incisive. It is a landmark exploration of Nigeria's musical history, inviting us to a deeper appreciation of the profound cultural expression that Fuji music represents. Congratulations to Prof. Aderinto for this invaluable work.

Femi Odugbemi, fta  
Co-Founder/Director, IREPresent International Documentary Film Festival  
Voting Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

**A** triumph. *Ìṣé takuntakun lèyí!* Adéríntó's interwoven voices of participants, performers, and specialist observers, render a moving history of *fùjì*, a modern, popular, music idiom that offers viewers a revealing glimpse into an optimistic time in post-independence Nigeria.

Professor Adélèké Adéèkò  
Humanities Distinguished Professor, The Ohio State University  
Author of *Arts of Being Yoruba: Divination, Allegory, Tragedy, Proverb, Panegyric*

**T**his wonderful documentary by Professor Saheed Aderinto pays tribute to Sikiru Ayinde Barrister and to a whole crucial dimension of Nigerian cultural history. It's lively, warm, rich, and fast-paced, crowded with testimonials and insights by people who were close to Barrister. Like the film maker himself, it wears its authority, lightly.

Professor Emeritus Jonathan Haynes  
Long Island University  
Author of *Nollywood: The Creation of Nigerian Film Genres*





# Praise for The Fuji Documentary

I was transported and transfixed. Professor Saheed Aderinto's documentary film on the fuji pioneer Sikiru Ayinde Barrister shows how history is made up not only of dry archives, but of lived orality, meandering anecdote, gossip and the everyday emotions of the people.

Dr. Carli Coetzee  
President of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom  
Editor, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*  
Chair of Lagos Studies Association Publications Committee

This trailblazing documentary by one of Africa's enigmatic historians and culture activists situates Fuji as a musical genre whose lyrics and instrumentation capture the common people's joys, fears, and aspirations. This documentary film has deservedly and permanently placed Fuji alongside major musical genres worldwide.

Professor Tunji Azeez  
Lagos State University  
Co-editor of *Inside Nollywood: Issues and Perspectives on Nigerian Cinema*

Prof. Saheed Aderinto's epic, 'The Fuji Documentary,' is rigorously researched and deeply populated with knowledgeable people. It is an emotional deep dive that does justice to the legendary pioneer of this homegrown genre. Take a bow, Prof!

Ed Emeka Keazor, FRSA  
Director of the award-winning "January 15, 1970."  
Associate Director of the Showmax HBO Series: "The Journey of the Beats."

Professor Aderinto's powerful 120-minute documentary weaves together biographical, critical, and anecdotal narratives interspersed with musical excerpts to paint a holistic picture of the remarkable career of Sikiru Ayinde Barrister, the late Nigerian superstar of Fuji and one of Africa's icons of popular culture in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century.

Professor Bode Omojola  
The Hammond-Douglass Five College Professor of Music  
Mount Holyoke and the Five Colleges  
Author of *Yoruba Music in the Twentieth Century: Identity, Agency, and Performance Practice*

