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The portrayal of witchcraft, occults and magic in popular Nigerian video films

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ABSTRACT

The Nigerian video film industry has emerged to become the first "popular" film industry in black Africa. Its means of production and consumption has redefined the parameters of African Cinema. The video films employ themes and images that captivate the audiences' imagination and curiosity. Some of the most used themes in the Nigerian video films are those relating to the supernatural, magic and witchcraft. Whilst some scholars and filmmakers criticise the prevalence of themes of witchcraft, magic and the supernatural, it is these very themes that draw local audiences. This research project explores images and themes of witchcraft, magic and the supernatural in two genres of the video films; the evangelical or Christian genre, and the horror or voodoo genre, using the films *End of the Wicked* and *Child of Promise* as case studies of the two genres respectively.