

Reading in Al-Janadriyah Festival and its Influence on Saudi Literature (2)

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Abstract:

This paper explores Al-Janadriyah Festival, Saudi Arabia's largest cultural heritage event, and its multifaceted impact on Saudi literature, heritage, and national identity, with a particular focus on the festival's signature Al-Janadriyah Operetta. Since its inception in 1985, the festival has served as a unique platform for celebrating and preserving Saudi cultural heritage through diverse forms of artistic expression, including poetry, music, dance, and traditional crafts. Central to the festival's program, Al-Janadriyah Operetta is a theatrical performance that combines classical and nabati poetry, traditional music, and folk dances in a symbolic narrative of the kingdom's history and values. The operetta not only entertains but also educates audiences by dramatizing key moments in Saudi history—such as the unification of the kingdom—and reinforcing themes of patriotism, unity, and national pride. The study applies the descriptive-analytical-critical method as its approach.

Keywords: Anniversary, literary influence, Saudi Festival, Saudi National Guard, Operetta in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Al-Janadriyah (National Festival of Heritage and Culture) means that in its reality and in the activities that take place in it, all regions of the kingdom participate, represented by models of diverse heritages tinged with popular character. "The most important feature of Al-Janadriyah Festival is the huge artistic celebration that usually begins the various cultural and artistic activities every year. The festival enjoys royal patronage and a distinguished cultural and media presence. This celebration is the musical show, or what is commonly called the operetta, in which the National Guard is responsible for selecting, preparing, and supervising its implementation" (Al-Shadi, 2008, p. 53). In addition, "Janadriyah festival is a major cultural event that incorporates the kingdom's heritage with

displays of dance, art, poetry, and uncommon craftsmanship" (Michele et al., 2002). Many cultural and historical events are held during the festival, including the arts of construction, weaving, irrigation methods, agriculture, food, education, parades, dances, singing, folk songs, methods of buying and selling, measures and scales, and sewing clothes with needles and threads (Al-Faisal, 2014, pp. 10-13). In addition, it embodies the center of the mayor, the sheikh of the craft, and other works and arts that cannot be easily limited. This large entity extends east and west, north and south, and the center has many professions, arts, and literary events.

Some have remained by inheritance and succession, and some have changed their features due to the inevitability of growth and development. There were additions, but the image of the past occupies a large space in the national festival, rightfully. The people of the regions act out what their ancestors used to do regarding serious life activities and work, and how they entertain themselves with instruments derived from the environment and manufactured with the skill of the experts in what resembles specialization. The maker of Al-rababah (الربابة) is not the maker of the annay (الناي), and Al-simsimiyyah (السسمية) has its own creator and master, as do the tambourines. Read more at (Al-Humaidin, 2017).

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the impact of Al-Janadriyah Festival on Saudi literature, especially in terms of its contribution to the preservation, promotion, and development of literary works such as poetry and other cultural works. In particular, the study aims to examine the role of Al-Janadriyah Festival in promoting Saudi literature. The festival serves as a platform for the exhibition of Saudi literature, including poetry.

The aim of this study is also to find out how the festival has affected the local and regional literary scene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Al-Janadriyah Operetta is an important event in Al-Janadriyah Festival, which combines literature, music, and theater into a unique program. The operetta is an important part of Al-Janadriyah festival held every year in Saudi Arabia. It combines music, songs, and traditional drama to present stories that show the history, culture, and achievements of Saudi Arabia. It acts as a bridge between the past and the present, preserving traditional traditions while still offering modern conveniences. The operetta performed in Al-Janadriyah promotes interest in Saudi heritage by presenting the history, values, and culture of the kingdom through art.

Al-Janadriyah Operetta has been developing since the beginning. Early operettas such as "Birth of a Nation" (1990) focused on King Abdulaziz Al Saud's history of uniting the kingdom. This operetta explains the problems faced by the kingdom in its search for unity and reform by using traditional songs to convey the themes of unity and unity (Al Arabiya, 2019). Over the years, operetta has expanded to cover many topics, from national achievements to the development of culture and tradition.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Through reading, searching and investigating previous studies on the same issue or topic, the research has not come across any studies with the same topic. The absence of

previous studies on the same topic underscores the uniqueness and relevance of the research. It indicates that there is a genuine need for this study and that it has the potential to fill a significant gap in the existing literature. This can make the research more impactful and valuable, as it addresses a previously unexplored area of inquiry. Furthermore, that means the topic is new and original.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The Impact of Al-Janadriyah Festival on Saudi literature

Al-Janadriyah Festival plays an important role in promoting Saudi literature and highlighting its position on the local and regional cultural scene. Saudi literature is promoted, and its place in the local and regional cultural landscape is highlighted by Al-Janadriyah Festival. Since its inception in 1985, the festival has grown to become a well-known gathering place for poets and authors from all across the country, enhancing the literary landscape and introducing Saudi literature to a broad readership. Al-Janadriyah's literary events, including poetry evenings, cultural seminars, the book fair, and other events, have allowed the festival to emphasize poetry while also shedding light on other facets of Saudi literature, whether it be in prose, poetry, or drama.

Poetry is particularly important to Arab cultural life and has long been considered one of the highest forms of expression in literary art. In the desert, people would gather around the storyteller, who would tell tales of love, courage, chivalry, and war. This provided entertainment and oral preservation of history, traditions, and social values. The Holy Quran elevated the Arabs' fervor for language and poetry to unprecedented levels, exemplifying the most effective use of the Arabic language, surpassing anything the Arabs could produce at that time. Poetry is still popular among Saudis today, who gather at cultural events, most notably the annual Al-Janadriyah Festival for Culture and Heritage, and eagerly read the works of established poets (Culture, 2023).

One of the most prominent contributions made by Al-Janadriyah Festival in the field of Saudi literature is the revival of folk poetry. The poetry evenings at the festival devote a large space to Nabati poets from different regions of the kingdom, which has helped preserve this popular literary genre and pass it on to new generations. Poetry is an important part of Saudi literary heritage, reflecting the Bedouin values and traditions that characterize the Arabian Peninsula. Through Al-Janadriyah Festival, this poetry has gained a strong presence in cultural events, which has contributed to renewing interest in it and highlighting folk poets to a wide audience.

The contributions also include enhancing communication between Saudi and Arab writers, as Al-Janadriyah Festival is an opportunity for communication between Saudi writers and their counterparts from Arab countries. By organizing cultural and literary seminars, the festival provides writers and poets with the opportunity to dialogue and

exchange ideas on current literary issues. For instance, more than 300 thinkers and writers from different countries of the world participated in the cultural and literary events accompanying the 28th Al-Janadriyah Festival. They participated in the festival's seminars, which varied in issues and topics such as "The kingdom and International Balance," "Islam, Energy and Peace."

Other themes included "Arab Issues in Objective, Credible, and Professional Political Dialogue Programs," as well as "Political Islam Movements: Fixed and Changing in Vision and Discourse," in addition to "The Enlightenment Movement in the Arab World and the Renaissance," besides "National Capital, Savings, and Sustainable Development," and "Financial and Administrative Corruption and Sustainable Development in the Arab World." Other dialogue elements included "China and the Prospects of Relations with the Arab World," and "The Arabic Language and the Challenges of Identity." All these issues and more enliven the festival locally and spread it universally. Several evenings and poetry readings were also held at the Literary Club in Riyadh, the Literary Club in Medina, the Literary Club in Al-Baha, and at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University (Al-Aqili, 2013).

This cultural interaction enhances the development of Saudi literature and enriches it by learning about diverse literary experiences. The participation of Arab writers in the festival's activities also allows Saudi literature to spread and interact with broader Arab literature, which contributes to strengthening its position at the regional level. In addition to the festival's contribution to presenting new literary talents, Al-Janadriyah Festival also contributes to discovering new literary talents, as it opens the way for young writers and poets to present their works and participate in the events. Through poetry evenings and literary workshops, the new generation of writers is supported, which enhances the renewal of the literary scene in the kingdom. This interest in young talents helps in transferring the literary heritage from one generation to the next and ensures the continuity and development of Saudi literature.

In addition to its role in promoting contemporary literature, Al-Janadriyah Festival highlights the importance of documenting Saudi literary heritage, whether through poetry or folk tales. "This festival, a cultural demonstration, is an annual platform for the nation's thinkers and intellectuals to exchange visions and present ideas in its forums, which ultimately serve the people of this genuine nation" (Sa'ati, 2008). In addition "The annual Janadriyah operetta is not only an icon of the festival, but it has also become a history that the audience recalls and sings" (Al Thaheri, 2016). It is an essential platform for preserving folk literature that reflects the traditions and social values of Saudi society. Al-Janadriyah Festival is a popular heritage that embodies the culture, customs, and traditions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The festival is adopted by the kingdom, represented by the Ministry of National Guard. It contributes to reviving heritage and consolidating national identity, where all

segments of society from all regions of the far-flung kingdom come together. All segments of society meet in one integrated village so that the concepts of fanaticism and tribalism melt and merge and are replaced by the concepts of integration, loyalty, belonging, unity, and constructive work (Al-Turki, 2017). During the festival, many traditional poems, popular proverbs, and stories that have been passed down through generations are revealed, contributing to preserving this literary legacy from extinction. The interest in documenting folk literature is not limited to poetry performances only but also includes literary exhibitions held during the festival, where ancient manuscripts and poetry collections belonging to prominent poets in the history of the kingdom are displayed. Oral narratives are also highlighted as part of the literary heritage that was transmitted orally between generations in rural and Bedouin areas.

Al-Janadriyah Festival is a major event that honors authors who have enhanced Saudi literature over the years. Every year, a portion of the festival's events are devoted to celebrating poets, novelists, and authors who have influenced Arab and local literature. This honor contributes to highlighting the achievements of Saudi writers and enhancing their status within the literary community. Through this honor, young writers and poets are encouraged to continue working and creating, which supports the continued development of Saudi literature.

Al-Janadriyah Festival acts as a bridge to bring Saudi literature to the globe, even if its primary concentration is on local tradition and culture. Saudi literature has gained international exposure as a result of the festival's international participation, which aids in its dissemination and translation into other languages. By interacting with writers from other countries and holding multilingual cultural seminars, Saudi literature is able to reach a wider audience, which enhances cultural exchange between the kingdom and the world.

These efforts contribute to introducing the world to Saudi writers and poets and highlighting the diversity and development of literature in the kingdom. They also help correct stereotypes about Saudi literature by presenting literary works that reflect the social and cultural developments witnessed by the kingdom. "Most of Al-Janadriyah festivals have been distinguished for being an arena for ideological and political discussions held in an atmosphere of openness" (Al-Rashed, 2016). Through the seminars held at Al-Janadriyah Festival, literary discussions are opened about different literary schools, which contributes to expanding the horizons of Saudi literature. These seminars discuss contemporary literary issues, such as modernity, post-modernity, and the emergence of the Saudi novel as a new literary force. These events are an opportunity for writers and poets to exchange ideas on how to develop writing styles and literary expression, which contributes to renewing Saudi literature and directing it towards new horizons.

The festival also focuses on highlighting the diverse Saudi culture and includes the participation of many different regions in the kingdom, allowing visitors to have a unique experience that reflects the richness of Saudi heritage. The festival is an opportunity to

communicate between generations and enhance national identity. It reflects the spirit of cohesion and brotherhood among all people living on this homeland. “Poems of the Saudi poets about the homeland begin with subjective feelings that express longing and nostalgia for the homeland. Because of their deep love for their homes, everyone has a wealth of feelings for their country that are carried within them by the poet” (Dahami, 2023). Al-Janadriyah Festival is a wonderful platform to celebrate Saudi literature and includes a range of distinctive events such as poetry.

Furthermore, Al-Janadriyah Festival is a wonderful platform to celebrate further cultural events such as the heritage village, Artistic performances, Cultural and literary seminars, and many others. “The village of Al-Janadriyah includes a complex for each region of the kingdom, including a house, a commercial market, equipment, industries, collectibles, and old goods, as well as what each region is famous for, including its cultural and civilizational heritage and popular performances” (Al-Hamid, 2017, p. 124). The Heritage Village contains pavilions or marquees representing different Saudi regions, where handicrafts, traditional costumes, and popular foods are displayed. The Heritage Village at Al-Janadriyah Festival is one of the most prominent features of the festival, as it expresses the history and culture of the kingdom in a comprehensive manner. The Heritage Village is considered a window into the past, reflecting the rich cultural identity of the kingdom and contributing to the preservation of heritage for future generations. It includes many activities, such as pavilions and traditional houses, as the village contains a group of pavilions representing different regions, such as Najd, Hijaz, Eastern, and Southern. Each pavilion reveals the traditional lifestyle, including architecture, furniture, and tools used in daily life.

In addition to handicrafts, visitors can watch craftsmen working in areas such as carpentry, weaving, and pottery, allowing them to learn about traditional skills. We also find popular foods, where a variety of traditional foods known to fathers and grandfathers are offered and still exist in the areas of their origin, such as Kabsa, Majboos, and Samosa, in addition to popular sweets, giving visitors a unique dining experience. In addition to art exhibitions, where the village displays the works of local artists, showing contemporary trends in Saudi art alongside heritage.

Popular bands, such as Al-Dahha and Al-Samri, give performances that emphasize the kingdom's diverse musical and dancing traditions. The artistic performances of Al-Janadriyah Festival are an important aspect of the celebration, displaying the kingdom's cultural and creative diversity. They include several events, such as folklore bands, where artistic groups from different regions participate, such as Al-Dahha, Al-Samri, and Al-Liwa, which present traditional dances and musical performances that reflect the history and heritage of the area. In addition, one of the most significant events, is theatrical performances, where plays are presented that address social and cultural topics, allowing the audience to understand contemporary issues in an artistic and enjoyable way.



Sword Dance at Janadriyah Festival (Michele et al., 2002)

Similarly, we find chanting groups, where religious, cultural, and social chanting concerts are held, where chanters present poems and hymns that address various topics, creating a spiritual and cultural atmosphere. Among these events, we find traditional music. A variety of musical performances are presented, including traditional musical instruments such as the oud, drums, and others, which shows the diversity of musical styles. In addition to artistic workshops, where workshops are organized to teach folk arts such as traditional dances and music, which encourages visitors to participate and interact. Children's shows should not be forgotten, as the shows include special segments for children, such as short plays and entertainment events, which attract families and encourage children to learn about their culture.

Seminars and lectures are held on topics related to heritage, history, and literature, which enhance cultural awareness among attendees. Cultural seminars at Al-Janadriyah Festival are an important platform for intellectual and cultural exchange and cover a wide range of topics. These seminars contribute to enhancing cultural and intellectual awareness and work to inspire visitors and enhance their understanding of Saudi heritage and traditions. Among these, we find seminars on various topics such as literature, history, the arts, and cultural identity. They also include contemporary issues related to Saudi society and its developments. In addition to the participation of experts, a group of academics, intellectuals, and writers participate in the seminars, which provide visitors with the opportunity to listen to in-depth opinions and analyses from experts in their fields. We also find open dialogues, as seminars encourage dialogue and discussion between speakers and the audience, allowing visitors to ask their questions and interact with the topics raised.

One of the most important cultural events and seminars is to highlight heritage, as some seminars include studies and workshops related to Saudi heritage, which contributes to preserving cultural history. We also find seminars that address the importance of literary, lyric, historical, and other books, as some seminars are dedicated to discussing modern literary works, including novels, poetry, theater, and several literary and cultural productions. "One of the earliest literary genres created by the poets and priests of antiquity

was theater. It has played a significant social role and influenced society ever since its inception.

Theater ‘is the recreation of life on a stage, every action performed, words spoken, gestures made are representations of real life, plays, novels, and similar works are personal expressions of the writer who attempts to pass a message to society’ (Dahami, 2024b; Suhaila, 2021). Pertaining Saudi drama and theater, theatrical experiments continued, albeit with varying interest, through several channels summarized as school theater, the oldest theatrical activity in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was followed by university theater, whose activity dates back to 1975. After that, the prominent role of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare, whose role in supervising and financing theatrical experiments was represented by its interest in cultural activity. Other channels also include the branches of the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts that are spread throughout the kingdom.



King Abdullah and King Salman patronize Al-Janadriyah Festival (Al-Huthali et al., 2016).

These are the most important channels that support theatrical activity, the production of Saudi plays, and their participation in Arab and international festivals. As for the last channel, it is represented by Al-Janadriyah Theater, which is held annually as part of the activities of the National Festival for Heritage and Culture, where it pays special attention to the theater by attracting Saudi theater groups, which influences and encourages the theatrical movement (Al-Daghfag, 2020). Furthermore, Dahami (2022a), opines that “There is no doubt that the National Festival of Heritage and Culture in Al-Janadriyah is organized by the National Guard every year and has a great impact and influence. It is one of the most important tributaries concerned with the revitalization of drama and theater in the kingdom, as it organizes a theatrical festival as part of its activities.

In addition, perhaps the most notable outcome of the theater activities in Al-Janadriyah Festival is what was accomplished in the previous seasons of the festival's good organization and the accompanying evenings of discussion and dialogue about the performances”. Authors may be invited to share their experiences and opinions on writing. In addition to modern seminars on arts and innovation, where seminars also discuss the role of arts in society and how they can reflect social and political issues, which encourages critical thinking and creativity. In addition, we do not overlook youth seminars, where

seminars are held targeting young people, where their role in culture and society is discussed, and the importance of active participation in building the nation.

Al-Janadriyah Operetta: Meaning and Importance

Operetta is a theatrical art form that mixes acting, singing, and music. It is a separate art form that combines literature, music, and live acting on stage. Operetta is distinguished from opera by its lighter and simpler topics and musical treatment, with operetta presenting light and enjoyable stories with less emphasis on dramatic gravity. Although operetta originated in Europe during the nineteenth century, this art has spread globally. It has been adopted by many cultures, including the Arab world, where it has gained a special status through national festivals such as Al-Janadriyah Festival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Operetta is a theatrical art form that blends music, singing, and theatrical performance. The word itself is derived from the Italian "operetta." In operetta, acting sequences are alternated with singing and musical portions, resulting in a delightful blend of light drama and song. Operettas are mostly utilized to tell comic, social, or historical events, and their topics are frequently defined by lightness or symbolism, providing viewers with an amusing but significant creative experience.

Artistically, an operetta can be defined as a musical theatrical performance that includes an overlap between acting dialogue and singing sections and is presented in a style that combines entertainment and drama. Operetta usually includes simple or light stories that may be comedic, historical, or social and are expressed through music and songs, which dances may sometimes accompany. "Several features and characteristics led to the success of the national sung poem, some of which are due to the poem itself. Others are due to the performance of the poem. Perhaps the most important of these features is its proximity to the language of the people, whether classical or local. This gave it popular acceptance, rapid spread, and interest from official circles, and its use in official festivals and forums such as Al-Janadriyah Festival" (Althobaiti, 2021). Unlike opera, which focuses on serious and dramatic singing performances, the operetta is characterized by ease and simplicity in themes and musical style.

Many historians and critics mention that operetta originated in Europe, especially in France and Austria, during the nineteenth century. Later, the operetta spread to Austria and Germany, where it became an important part of the European artistic scene. Over time, operetta evolved to include more diverse topics and was no longer limited to comedy only. In addition, this art has spread to many different countries and cultures, where it has been modified to suit local traditions and national themes. In the Arab world, some countries have been influenced by this art, and many operettas have been presented that reflect cultural, historical, and national identity. One of the most prominent examples of this is Al-Janadriyah operetta, which is held annually in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and contributes to promoting national heritage and presenting it in a distinctive artistic form.

Operetta has great importance on several levels, whether from an artistic, cultural, or social point of view. The researcher sees at least five aspects. The first characteristic that emphasizes the significance of this art is the merging of several arts. Operetta is a

multifaceted art form that incorporates music, singing, acting, and dance. This mix of diverse disciplines offers a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience in which audiences can appreciate multiple facets of the arts in one show. This creative overlap helps to communicate tales or issues in engaging and appealing ways, making operetta a powerful technique for expressing ideas and emotions.

The second part is the cultural effect. Through this feature, opera helps to preserve cultural history and pass it down to future generations. For example, in Al-Janadriyah operetta, Saudi heritage is exhibited through Nabati poetry, traditional music, and folk dances, all of which help to strengthen national identity. The operetta is considered an effective artistic means of expressing cultural and national values, which makes it closely linked to the collective memory of people. In addition, “In modern times, Saudi poetry has evolved to reflect the social and cultural transformations in the kingdom. Poets began to discuss societal issues and political and economic developments. Saudi poetry has become a tool for expressing national identity and belonging” (Dahami, 2024c).

One of the most important aspects is education and awareness. Thanks to its exciting artistic style, the operetta can be used as an awareness and educational tool. Through the stories presented on stage, the operetta can shed light on social, historical, or national issues. This makes it an effective means of conveying complex messages simply and smoothly. For example, in some national operettas, such as those held in Al-Janadriyah, stories are presented about the unification of the kingdom or the social and economic transformations that the country has witnessed.

The fourth aspect revolves around entertainment. In addition to being an educational and cultural means, the operetta is also an important means of entertainment. Thanks to its lightness and fun, this art attracts a wide audience of different age groups and contributes to bringing joy and happiness to viewers. Music, singing, and dramatic dialogue give the show a distinctive character that makes it enjoyable and easy to follow. The fifth aspect is also one of the most important aspects of the operetta's importance, which is promoting national identity. The operetta can play a major role in promoting national identity, especially when presented on national or cultural occasions. In Saudi Arabia, Al-Janadriyah operetta is used as a means of celebrating national heritage and promoting feelings of loyalty and belonging. Through patriotic songs and folk poetry, the operetta contributes to strengthening the bonds between members of society and shows the diversity and richness of Saudi heritage.

Al-Janadriyah Operetta is the most prominent example of national operetta in the Arab world. This operetta is held annually at the opening of Al-Janadriyah Festival, a major cultural event organized in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1985. Al-Janadriyah Operetta is distinguished by presenting national and historical stories reflecting the major transformations the kingdom has witnessed over the decades. The Janadriyah Festival is one of the most important cultural and heritage festivals in Saudi Arabia, as it is held annually. The festival aims to preserve the national heritage and introduce it to new generations, strengthening the national identity. Among the most important events held at the festival is the singing operetta, which is an anticipated event every year. The festival contributes to highlighting different aspects of Saudi heritage through the arts.

Janadriyah Operetta is an important part of the activities of the Janadriyah Festival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which reflects the rich cultural heritage of the kingdom, as it is a mirror of Saudi heritage. It is a theatrical singing show that combines art, music, and poetry and is presented at the opening of the Janadriyah Festival. The operetta features the participation of an elite group of Saudi artists, composers, and poets and is performed on a large stage in the presence of a large number of political and cultural figures, in addition to a wide audience from inside and outside the kingdom. The operetta is considered a platform for expressing the national and heritage values of the kingdom, as it combines national songs, folk poetry, and traditional music.

The operetta usually deals with topics related to the kingdom's history, achievements, and cultural diversity and contributes to enhancing the sense of loyalty and belonging to the homeland. There are many characteristics associated with the Janadriyah operetta, the most prominent of which is the focus on national heritage. The operetta relies heavily on Nabati poetry, which is part of the Saudi literary heritage, as well as on traditional music that reflects the cultural diversity of the different regions of the kingdom. In addition to the characteristic of national symbolism, the operetta deals with topics related to the history of the kingdom. The unification of the country by King Abdulaziz is one of the important examples that the operetta highlights in one way or another, and also it highlights national values such as loyalty and belonging. In addition to artistic diversity, it is an essential characteristic. The operetta includes a variety of arts such as singing, folk dances, and visual performances, making it a comprehensive show that reflects the richness of Saudi heritage.

It is noteworthy that the general feature of the operetta presented in Al-Janadriyah includes certain components that have become its distinguishing feature. These include assigning a Saudi poet with experience and fame to write about a specific topic. Then, the involvement of large-scale folk bands, the use of a vast display area, and the employment of the latest technical techniques for implementation. The most prominent feature is the strength of the participating singing names. The names chosen are often from the first rank of Saudi singers as well as composers. The features that distinguished the operettas of Al-Janadriyah Festival were enough to make them popular and deeply influential in the taste of the audience. Its main theme is constant in all versions, which is the homeland, with differences in expressive formulations from one operetta to another (Al-Qahtani, 2023, p. 32; Al-Janadriyah Operetta, 2019, p. 98).



Scene of Operetta, "Birth of a Nation" 1990, (Thikrayat, 2020)

As the productions have become more spectacular in terms of artistic designs, music, and direction, the operetta's tactics have also changed. The operetta has also drawn senior artists, musicians, and poets to join, which has improved the caliber of the performances and increased their appeal to the public. Over the years, the Janadriyah Festival has witnessed the presentation of many distinctive operettas that have left a great impact on the audience. One of the prominent of these operettas is the Operetta, "Birth of a Nation" (1990), this operetta is one of the first operettas presented in Janadriyah, and it is distinguished by its presentation of the story of the unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the hands of King Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The operetta addressed the difficulties faced by the kingdom in its path towards unity and development and highlighted the efforts made to build a modern state. Classical poetry was used to shed light on the story of the unification of the kingdom. Poetry here was a means of expressing unity and solidarity among the people of the kingdom under one banner (Al Arabiya, 2019). In addition, "Saudi poetry encompasses a rich array of styles and forms, with many poets actively contributing to the richness and direction of its cultural and literary heritage" (Dahami, 2024a). Furthermore, "The Birth of a Nation was created by the poet Saud bin Abdullah, and it was as great as the occasion on which it was first presented (the National Festival for Heritage and Culture in Janadriyah). It was sung by the artist Mohammed Abdu and the artist Talal Maddah, and they excelled in it as usual, and it became a hit with adults and children, singing it because it touches the hearts and plays with the sincere national feeling" (Anwar, 1990, p. 9; Saud ibn Abdullah, n.d.).



Scene of Operetta, "Birth of a Nation" 1990, (jalili99, 2023)

Recommendations

The educational aspect of Al-Janadriyah Operetta has been identified as a key strength in transmitting Saudi history and national values. It is recommended that educational institutions collaborate with the festival organizers to create learning programs that delve deeper into the operetta's themes, historical narratives, and artistic techniques. This initiative could include workshops, lectures, or even interactive sessions for students, enabling them to engage directly with the festival's cultural and literary contributions.

While the operetta often features prominent Saudi poets, singers, and composers, it is recommended that more opportunities be provided to emerging artists. By offering a platform for new and upcoming talents to participate in the operetta, the festival can contribute to the growth of Saudi literature and performing arts. This will ensure ongoing innovation in the festival's artistic offerings while also nurturing the next generation of Saudi literary and cultural contributors.

More thorough research on the festival's effects should be conducted by academic institutions and cultural organizations in order to emphasize the significance of Al-Janadriyah Festival in advancing Saudi literature. Studies on the operetta's development, impact on Saudi literary forms, and function in fostering national identity may fall under this category. Such studies would advance knowledge of the festival's cultural significance and offer insightful information for further iterations of the occasion.

CONCLUSION

The Al-Janadriyah Festival has had a deep and far-reaching impact on literature of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, defining the country's literary landscape and encouraging a culture of originality and invention among writers, literary personalities, and poets. The festival's commitment to promoting cultural variety, originality, and innovation has helped to elevate Saudi literature to the global stage, garnering attention and appreciation from literary aficionados all over the world. The festival's literary component has given writers a forum to reveal their work, interact with a larger audience, and explore new subjects and ideas in their writing. By highlighting Saudi Arabia's rich literary traditions, the festival has contributed to the preservation and promotion of the country's cultural heritage, instilling pride and admiration for Saudi literature in both local and worldwide audiences. The operetta remains an integral part of Al-Janadriyah Festival, reflecting the kingdom's cultural evolution while staying rooted in its rich heritage. Through its combination of entertainment, education, and cultural preservation, the operetta continues to play a crucial role in promoting Saudi literature and national pride.

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