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## **Defying Norms/Categories: Understanding Postdramatic Theatre Through Postmodern Times**

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### **Abstract**

Postdramatic theatre revisits the theoretical concepts of drama, plot, character, and the body in order to deconstruct the deeper nuances of human identity vis-a-vis theatre and performance, especially in the postmodern times when the 'absolute' has lost its meaning. The understanding of post-dramatic theatre entails the analysis of the new theatre aesthetics, especially post-1960s. This paper intends to understand the concept of post-dramatic theatre both as a theory as well as a philosophy that defies any normative way of doing theatre and making performances. The paper aims to argue that post-dramatic theatre does not pose an opposition to the conventional meaning of theatre performance but goes beyond it to broaden the horizon and meaning of theatrical performance keeping in mind the postmodern scenario. After understanding this concept of theatre, the paper also attempts to trace the relevance of postdramatic theatre in the Indian context, especially regarding the representation of crisis. This will be done in the light of how the meaning of postdramatic theatre in the Indian context entails an understanding around the aspects of multiplicity and diversity attached to the Indian theatrical traditions that are open to experiments and creativity beyond conventionality.

**Keywords:** Crisis, Drama and Performance Studies, Performance, Postdramatic Theatre, Representation.