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50:965:216:D1 African American Theater

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1. **“The Flying Dutchman”** was a ship that carried many Ndongan employed indentured laborers (people from present-day Angola) and landed in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619. Sadly, most died due to starvation due to the ship being delayed from bad weather. Only 20 Ndongans survived, and these Ndongans are the “symbolic beginning of African American identity” (Painter 26; Hill 11). Slave laws were enacted in 1680, categorizing them as enslaved people. This transition marks the beginning of African American **culture** and history and African American Theater depictions from the play *Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka.

The Haitian Revolution led **Haiti** to become the first independent black republic in the world. “Jean-Jacques Dessalines,” one of the generals and formerly enslaved people, led his army at the Battle of Vertieres and defeated the French (Sutherland, 2023).

The **call-and-response format** is when one musician says a line and another musician responds to it. It’s considered a musical conversation between two or more performers.

2. **“Spaceship”** - Kanye's video takes place during his work shift at GAP, and he's talking about his prejudiced manager who accuses him of stealing but then "puts him in front of the store" when African Americans come in (West, 2009). The irony is that the manager is racist but, at the same time, is promoting the idea of progressiveness and racial equality by making an African American the store greeter. This message relates to Chapter 2 of *A History of African American Theatre*, and how in the 1650s, a handful of free Blacks in Virginia were legally given land for "farming on the basis of having imported indentured workers from abroad" (P.11, 2003). Although this looked progressive, state governments were also passing laws to put more restrictions on free and enslaved Blacks.

**“New Slaves”** - Kanye’s video is a close-up shot with a black background, and Kanye is rapping about the slavery African Americans endure today. He talks about how African American artists get exploited by corporations that give them unfair contracts (West, 2013). This music video is essentially calling out the music industry for participating in racist practices which continue putting African Americans down.

### Works Cited (MLA Format)

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