

CITYPROD ET Rhythms PRESENT

# SOWETO GUMBOOTS

*"DANCERS LEAVE AUDIENCES WHISTLING, ULULATING"*

Daily Sun



CHOREOGRAPHER  
MDUDUZI MAGAGULA

DIRECTOR  
MAGDA HADNAGY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
MANDLA NHLAPO

## PRESS KIT

### AVAILABLE FOR SEASONS 2023/2024



[SOWETOGUMBOOTS.COM](https://www.sowetogumboots.com)

CITYPROD



# SUMMARY

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# EDITORIAL

Do not miss the fabulous **SOWETO GUMBOOTS!**

The audience is transported by the tribal songs and captured by the intense rhythms of the South African's minors dances, the famous gumboots.

This show is a physical performance, a historical tale and a digest of the best of traditional South African dance and singing. The principal instruments are their black boots, pounding the ground, and the callous hands of the dancers who beat, tap, ring and vibrate the gum.

Guitar, bass, percussions, keyboard, marimba and drums accompany the dances and songs in English, Zulu and Xhosa.

Fierce dances, art of rhythm and captivating polyphonies ... The audience do not resist the urge to get up and dance entertained by fifteen fabulous dancers, vocalists and musicians!

**SOWETO GUMBOOTS** is a great moment of happiness to enjoy for all the family.

*"Gumboots gave silenced minors a voice"*

**The Star**

*"Dancers leave audiences whistling, ululating"*

**Daily Sun**



# DISTRIBUTION

## PERFORMERS

**Gumboots dancers, vocalists**

**Guitar player, lead vocalist**

**Percussionist, lead vocalist**

**Drummer, vocalist**

**Keyboard player, vocalist**

**Bass player, vocalist**

**Marimba player, vocalist**

**Bongukwanda Mnikati**

**Nkosinathi Mlangeni**

**Mduduzi Magagula**

**Sifiso Maluleka**

**Thabang Mdhletshe**

**Teboho Thebehadi**

**Lindokuhle Radebe**

**Vuyo Qhaba**

**Gift Radebe**

**Bonginkosi Zondo**

**Mandla Nhlapo**

**Innocent Mdlalose**

**Itumeleng Nkonko**

**Innocent Hlobo**

**Jeje Ntuli**

## CREATORS

**Creators**

**Producer**

**Director, Scenographer, Costumes designer**

**Choreographer**

**Lyrics, Music**

**Philippe Barreau**

**Magda Hadnagy**

**Philippe Barreau**

**Magda Hadnagy**

**Mduduzi Magagula**

**Vincent Ncabashe**

**Magda Hadnagy**

**Mduduzi Magagula**

**Mandla Nhlapo**

**Mandla Nhlapo**

**Christian Cravero**

**Oliver Hauser**

**Pascal Mandin**

**Musical Director, Vocal Director**

**Vocal Coach**

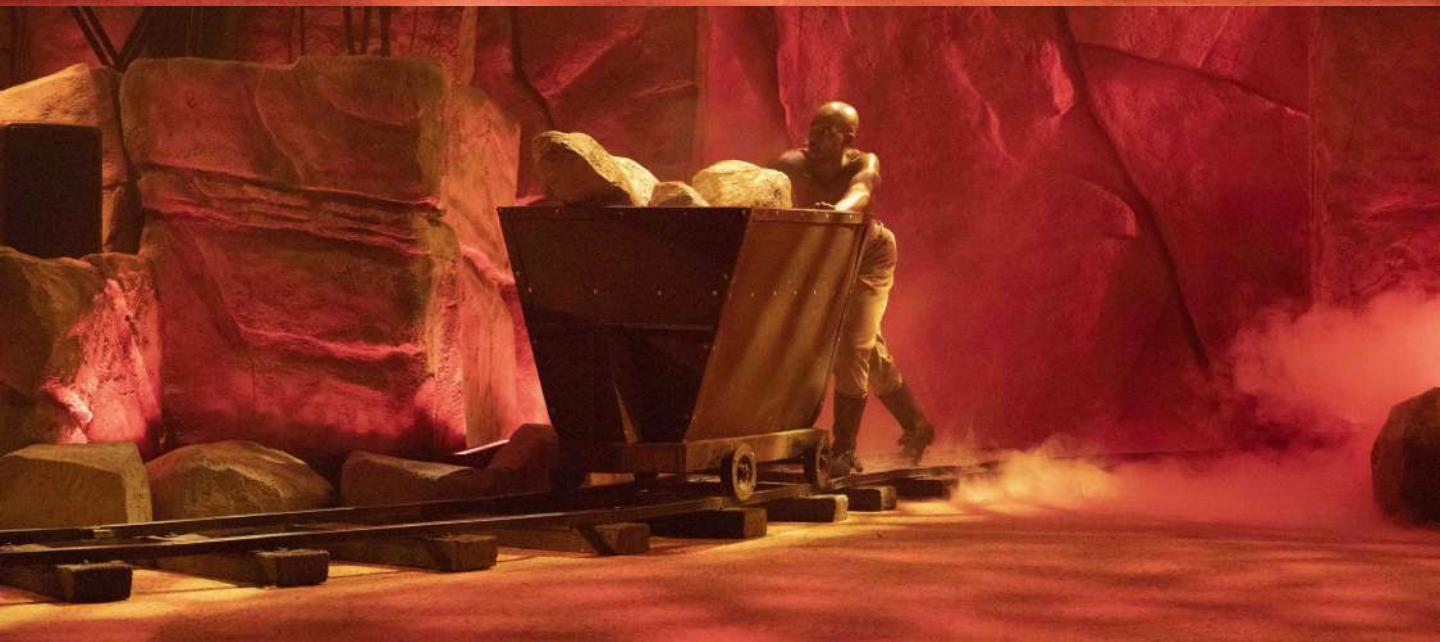
**Lighting Designer**

**Sound Designer**































# SYNOPSIS

It all begins in Zululand in 1871.

The Zulus celebrate their departure for the mines of Johannesburg South Africa, leaving their wife and children in the hope of a better living.

In the suffocating heat of the mine, half naked and dressed in skins, the minors create the first codes of rhythmic languages using their tools.

As time goes by, the minors leave their skins for pants and rubber boots and the first rails are installed.

Forced to work in an unsanitary and inhuman conditions, many of them die. Discovering a body lying in a cocopan, one of the minor starts to shout. He is immediately warned by one of his own reminding him that it is strictly forbidden to speak. This is how they start hitting their boots in order to be able to communicate with each other.

Other deported minors from Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe meet with South African minors and exchange the different rhythmic codes of their languages giving birth to the dance of gumboots.

Over time, during their break, the minors meet to share a beer singing and dancing all together.



# MUSICAL PROGRAM

## **MOTHER NATURE** (Music: Magda Hadnagy)

Introduction of the atmosphere of Zululand with its special sounds

## **ZIPOPO**

Zulu war song

## **ZULU**

Tribal dance of the zulus who were among the first to go to work in the mines in 1871

## **KALIMBA SONG** (Music: Magda Hadnagy)

Instrumental orchestra

## **STEELS**

Dance and sounds of the first tools used by miners

## **THE PRIER** (Lyrics: Mandla Nhlapo)

Prayer of hope sung in Xhosa

## **HOME** (Music: Magda Hadnagy)

The miners carry at arm's length the first rails in the mine, supported by the rhythms of percussions and voices;

To the sound of bewitching voices, the first cocopans arrive on the rails;

Poem paying tribute to the deceased miners

## **SHUT UP YOUR MOUTH** (Music: Magda Hadnagy)

Creation of the first rhythmic language codes with the rubber boots, minors not having the right to speak

## **AFRICA UNITY** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

Song of peace and union giving strenght and courage to the miners



# MUSICAL PROGRAM

**SUGARLA SONG** (Music: Mandla Nhlapo)

South African instrumental music

**TSHEBENTSHEBE**

Traditional gumboots dance

**ABAFANA BENGOMA** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

Miners happy song and dance

**SOLOS**

Different variations of the gumboots dancing

**AMAPHIKO** (Lyrics and Music: Mduduzi Magagula)

Love song of a minor who dreams of having wings to go and find his beloved

**TORCHES & SHUFFLES** (Music : Magda Hadnagy)

Dressed in helmets and using torches, the gumboots search and search tirelessly

**SHOSHOLOZA**

Old traditional gumboots song

**INGOMA** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

Minors song

**MABELE** (Lyrics and Music: Sabata Seslu)

Song and dance about the malts used to make beer

**CELEBRATION** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

To celebrate their rare moment of detente, minors drink beer to fall drunk



# MUSICAL PROGRAM

## **STIBILISHI**

Gumboots dance with public participation

## **THE SUN IS RISING** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

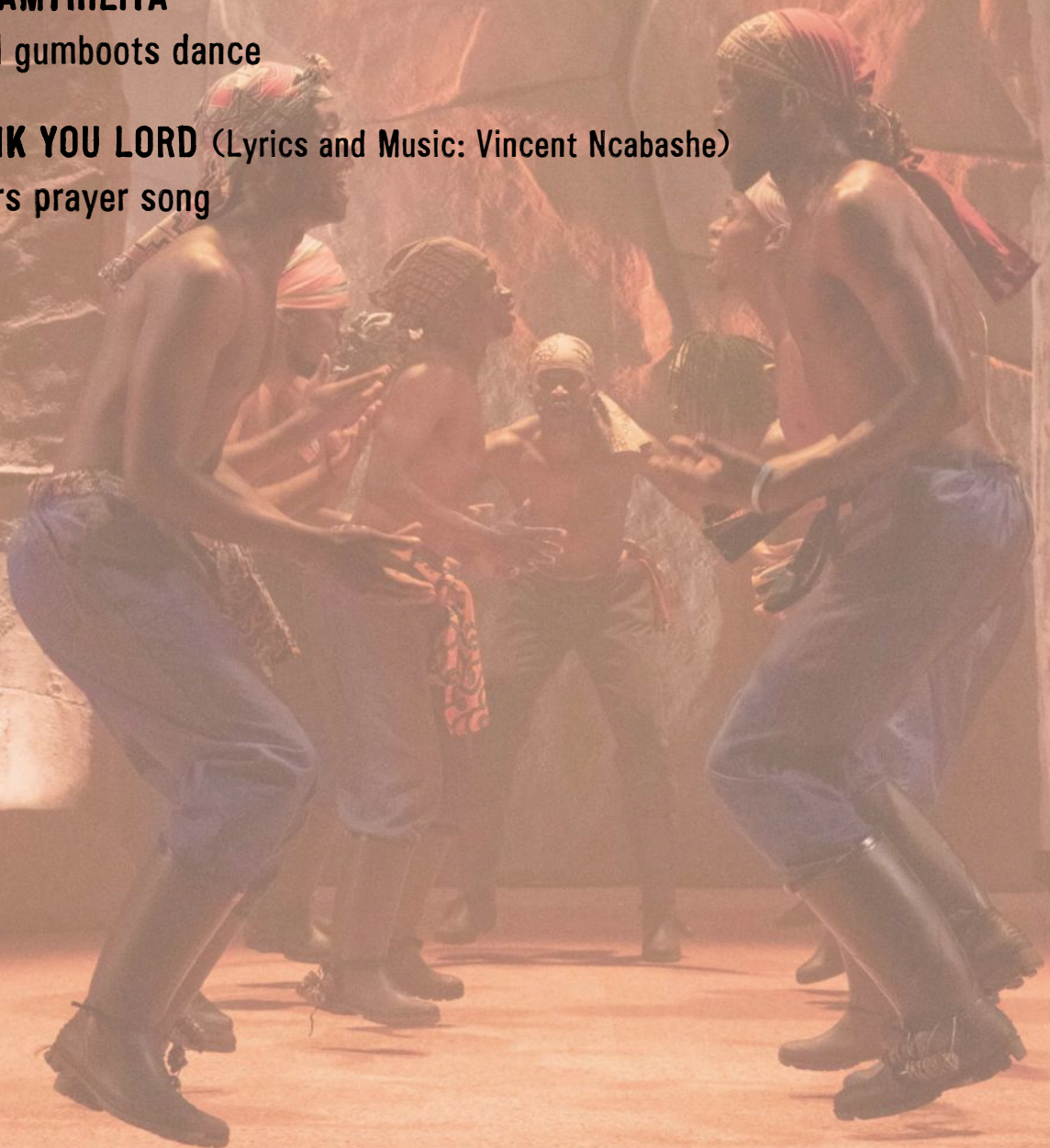
Song celebrating Africa

## **MAMAMTHILIYA**

Tribal gumboots dance

## **THANK YOU LORD** (Lyrics and Music: Vincent Ncabashe)

Minors prayer song





# THE CREATIVES



## PHILIPPE BARREAU CO-CREATOR, PRODUCER

After business school, Philippe started in the business more than twenty-three years ago by negotiating partnerships (sponsors and media) for theaters and for different entertainment production companies.

In 1996, he joined a producer and headed the communication and production departments.

In 2004, he decided to create his own entertainment company CITYPROD. Its influence is international and produces shows all over the world.

The shows produced so far are: *Umoja, The Stars of Bolchoï, Acrobatic Nutcracker by the National Circus of China, Shadowland, Fire of Anatolia, Tribute to Miriam Makeba, The National Ballet of Cuba, Red Army Choirs, The Imperial Ballet of Russia, Georgian Legend, Natural Mystic Tour, Jimmy Cliff, Kool and The Gang, Soweto Gospel Choir, Magic Flute South African version, Tristan & Isolde The Symphonic Celtic Ballet, Cirkafrika, Sarafina* ...

In 2017 Philippe realized his dream by resuscitating the magic of *Les Misérables* in a French version concert with a triumphant French tour that exports around the world.

In 2019 he has been the Executive Producer of the French Musical *Siddhartha l'Opera Rock*, which was a great success during 6 weeks at Le Palais des Sports de Paris.

Last year, Philippe co-created and produced *Soweto Gumboots* where the world premieres have been taken place at Soweto Theatre in Johannesburg last February and in November at the Lyric Theatre Gold Reef City in Johannesburg.



# THE CREATIVES



## MAGDA HADNAGY

CO-CREATOR, DIRECTOR, SCENOGRAPHER  
COSTUMES DESIGNER

Magda began to learn the performing arts - singing, dancing, acrobatics - at a very young age.

When she was twelve, she sang in Opera de Paris choirs.

At seventeen, she brought her first album on the Polydor label in France.

Magda produced shows throughout the world, directing and choreographing them as well as designing the costumes and sets. At the same time, she also staged many shows for French and International productions.

In 2017 she took the artistic direction of CITYPROD and staged in particular the French version concert of the world phenomenon show *Les Miserables*.

In 2019 Magda ensured the staging, choreographies and scenography of the French Musical *Siddhartha l'Opera Rock*.

Beginning 2020, she staged and choreographed the new show *Othello The Musical* and in February she has been director, scenographer and costumes designer of the new South African show *Soweto Gumboots* that she also co-created.



# THE CREATIVES



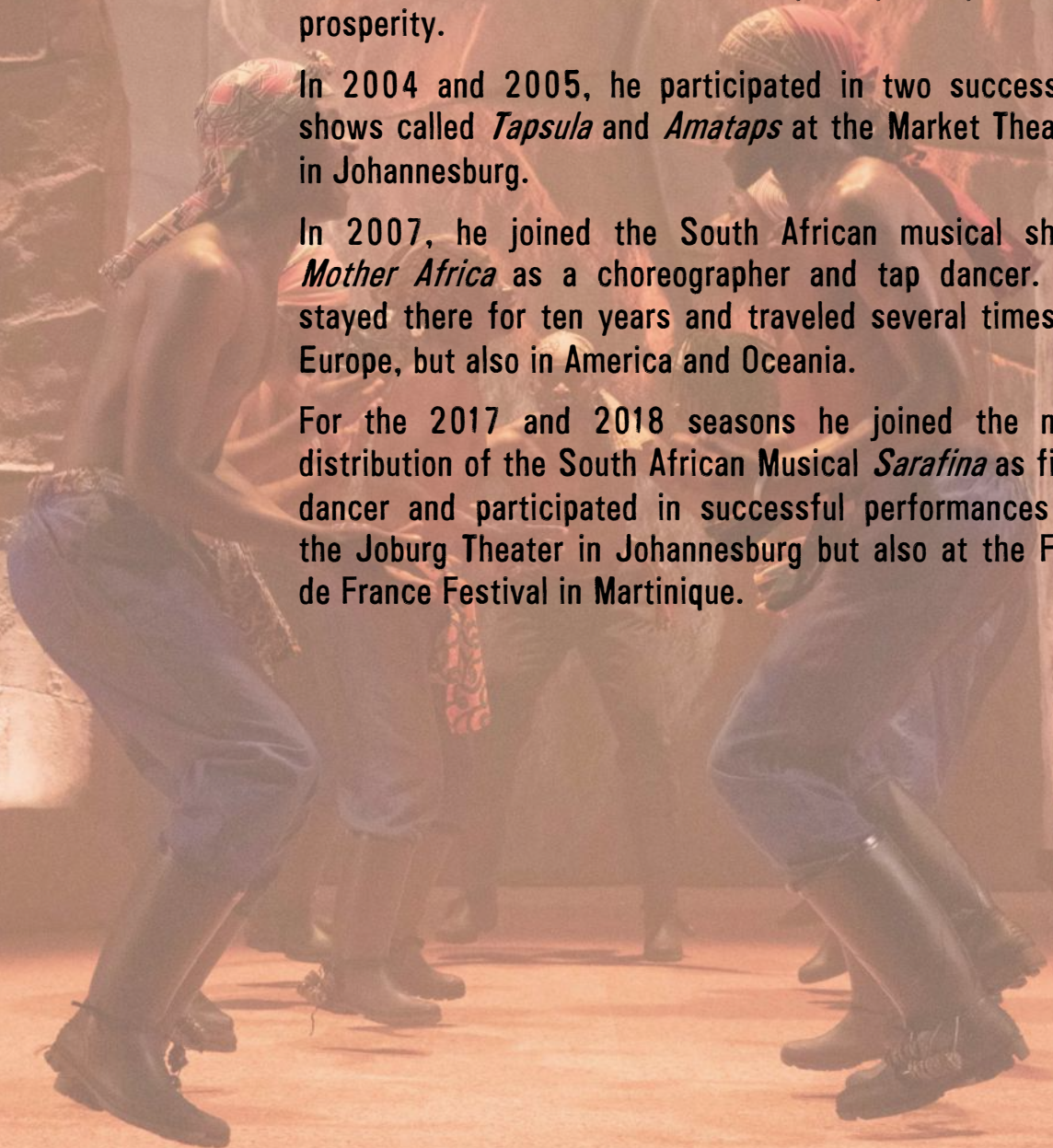
## MDUDUZI MAGAGULA CHOREOGRAPHER

Born in Soweto, Mduduzi began to learn tap dancing at the age of 12 under the direction of the South African Zwelibanzi "Mkhulu" Bhwangwe, the legendary old man. The latter does not only teach him to dance. It also teaches him about survival, discipleship, respect and prosperity.

In 2004 and 2005, he participated in two successful shows called *Tapsula* and *Amataps* at the Market Theater in Johannesburg.

In 2007, he joined the South African musical show *Mother Africa* as a choreographer and tap dancer. He stayed there for ten years and traveled several times in Europe, but also in America and Oceania.

For the 2017 and 2018 seasons he joined the new distribution of the South African Musical *Sarafina* as first dancer and participated in successful performances at the Joburg Theater in Johannesburg but also at the Fort de France Festival in Martinique.





# THE CREATIVES



## VINCENT NCABASHE AUTOR, COMPOSITOR\*

Vincent Nickname “Viva” was born and raised in Diepkloof in Soweto. While still in school he joined the *Thabisong Youth Club* which was formed in 1974 by Mrs Makhudu.

The aim of the Youth club was to keep the children out of the streets, crime and drugs which for so many years was a great success as it produced the best. He received training in Drama, poetry and Dance.

In the Early 80’s he was one of the member which formed a group called *Rashile Poets* which performed a lot in shopping malls, markets and community hall which gave him training and experience and growth to his craft. With that he toured Nationally and to neighboring countries to mention a few Swaziland and Cape town that is where he realized that his dreams and aspirations where finally coming true.

In 1990 he formed a group called *Rishile Gumboot Dancers of Soweto* which was one of the most amazing long successful Gumboot shows that toured South Africa and internationally. Vincent was a lead singer, Dancer and guitarist which carried the show beautifully with his talent. Gumboot show which performed in Market Theatre and in the whole world.

In 2019 he meets Philippe Barreau and Magda Hadnagy and decide to create together with Mduduzi Magagula a new version of the Gumboot show called *Soweto Gumboots* for which Vincent will be the author and compositor.

At the same time Vincent continues to devote the remaining time to training the young people of Soweto in dance (Gumboot) and music.

\* For these following songs: *Africa Unity, Abafana Bengoma, Ingoma, Celebration, The Sun Is Rising, Thank you Lord*



# THE CREATIVES



## **MANDLA NHLAPO** **MUSICAL DIRECTOR** **VOCAL DIRECTOR**

Born in Soweto, Mandla begins to take an interest in the arts at the age of 12. He be trained as an actor, dancer, djembe and marimba player.

In 2000 he joins the *dikwa band* as a percussionist vocalist and collaborates with Ntiski and Thandiswa Mazwai, Sizwe Vena, Hugh Masekela and Sibongile Khumalo.

In 2007 he joins *Vuyani Dance Theatre* as a percussionist vocalist, and does tour the globe to places like USA, France, Congo, Mali, Angola, Switzerland to just count a few.

In 2013 he becomes Musical Director for *Sinokhanyo Dance Theatre* and in 2014 he represents South Africa in Cairo Egypt at the International drum Festival.

From 2017, he teaches music for three years in Johannesburg and at the same time made marimbas.

In 2019, he joins *Soweto Gumboots* as a percussionist, vocalist and also as Musical Director and Vocal Director.



# THE CREATIVES



## OLIVER HAUSER LIGHTING DESIGNER

Oliver's passion for lighting, his creativity, integrity, and energetic work ethic has become well known in the South African live events industry.

After achieving a diploma in Entertainment Technology in 2009, Hauser has worked on over 250 productions across a wide range of genres: Television, drama, comedy, opera, musicals, avant-garde dance, contemporary music, conceptual performance and corporate events.

He has designed, co-ordinated and managed lighting for productions at prestigious venues in Barcelona, Paris, Zurich, Berlin, Beijing, Lagos, the United States and in other cities internationally.

Some of his career credits include: *The South African Music Awards* 2018 & 2019, *Avenue Q* South Africa, *Rock of Ages* South Africa, *Jonathan Roxmouth's The Musicals* in Concert (2017 & 2018), *High School Musical* (Associate designer), *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Eve Ensler's Emotional Creature*, Molière's *Tartuffe*, *The Crucible*, *Reza De Vet's African Gothic*, *African Footprint* (Head of lighting), *Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance*, *Athol Fugard's Boesman & Lena*, *The Coloured Museum*, *Percy Mtwa's Bopha!*, *Beautiful Creatures*, *One More Night* (Phil Collins Tribute), *Marat Sade*, Gregory Maqoma's "*Cion*" (Set design and technical management)



# PERFORMERS



**MDUDUZI MAGAGULA**  
dancer, vocalist



**BONGUKWANDA MNIKATI**  
dancer, vocalist



**SIFISO MALULEKA**  
dancer, vocalist



**THABANG MDHLETSHÉ**  
dancer, vocalist



**TEBOHO THEBEHADI**  
dancer, vocalist



**THABANG RAMAISA**  
dancer, vocalist



**NKOSINATHI MLANGENI**  
dancer, vocalist



**VUYO QHABA**  
dancer, vocalist



**GIFT RADEBE**  
dancer, vocalist



**BONGINKOSI ZONDO**  
guitar player, lead vocalist



**MANDLA NHLAPO**  
percussionist, lead vocalist



**ITUMELENG NKONKO**  
keyboard player, vocalist



**INNOCENT HLOBO**  
bass player, vocalist



**INNOCENT MDLALOSE**  
drummer, vocalist



**JEQE NTULI**  
marimba player, vocalist



# PRESS REVIEW

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Date: 25 juin 2021



**FRANCE-ANTILLES**

# Le MAG

LE MAGAZINE TÉLÉ · CULTURE · LOISIRS

**VOTRE PROGRAMME TÉLÉ INCLUS**

**RENCONTRE**  
L'album aux résonances d'actualité de Valley

**POLAR**  
Un premier pas littéraire pour l'inspecteur FXG

**EN JUILLET**

## SOWETO GUMBOOTS

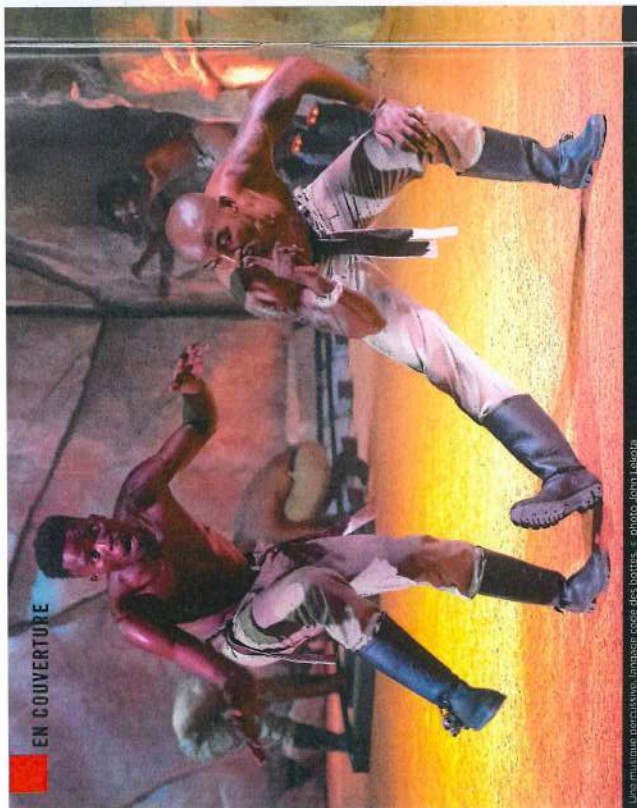
### LES DANSEURS SUD-AFRICAINS ATTENDUS EN MARTINIQUE

EDITION MARTINIQUE N° 214 DU 25 JUIN 2021. Supplément culturel au quotidien N° Paritaire 0120 C85894. Ne peut être vendu séparément.



# PRESS REVIEW

Publication: France Antilles  
Date: 25 juin 2021



Une entrée en scène, l'impression codée des bottes. © photo John Loubé

## SOWETO GUMBOOTS

### TRÈS ATTENDU EN MARTINIQUE

**Voilà un spectacle dont la perspective a de quoi mettre en appétit le grand public friand de festivals culturels, sur la scène foyaloise. Ils sont une belle dizaine d'acteurs à s'être rassemblés pour, paradoxalement, restituer leur douleur à travers des chants et des danses. Sous la houlette de la metteuse en scène Magda Hadnagy, qui a longtemps vécu en Afrique du Sud, ressurgit l'odieuse histoire de leurs grands-parents vécue dans la chaleur mortifère des mines sud-africaines.**

**S**i vous cherchez sur le Net, vous trouverez quelques bribes du grand spectacle Soweto Gumboots qui tapent, claquent, en symbiose, d'un seul bloc, comme un assaut guerrier, bien orchestré sous la direction musicale de Vincent Ndobaba, et les chorégraphes millimétrés de Mduzuzi Magagula. Le récit place d'emblée le spectateur dans une posture d'actualité celle de la résistance face à toute forme d'oppression. C'est la danse des « boucliers-réunis », qui de manière symbolique livre l'entame. En tenue de guerriers Zoulous, les hommes forment un mur de protection. Les voix soulignent d'Afrique du Sud tellement appréciées se mettent à scander des chants de lutte : trépidants sur la scène, ils sont prêts à résister contre toutes les attaques qui ont démolé et continuent d'abîmer les habitants de Zouloulund. Car il s'agit de gagner la guerre, qu'elle prenne la forme de l'actuelle pandémie ou encore celle de l'apartheid qui subsiste encore de nos jours, faisant des noirs des hommes de seconde catégorie.

### UN INCONTOURNABLE

Ni les rails et wagonnets portés par eux à bout de bras, ni l'insalubrité des lieux n'auront raison de l'unité qui lie ces mineurs de fonds d'Afrique du Sud dans les rangs desquels se retrouvent aussi des ouvriers du Mozambique et du Zimbabwe. Un spectacle vif composé de tableaux exceptionnels, présenté par des acteurs tout à la fois chanteurs, danseurs et comédiens soutenus par des musiciens hors du commun qui explosent au creux de gros rochers qui habillent la scène dans un phénoménal jeu de lumières et sur lesquels sont juchés les musiciens pour des instruments traditionnels pour certains, modernes pour d'autres.



© John Loubé



© John Loubé



### DES MAGAZINES TELEVISÉS

Comme chaque année, les télévisions locales mettront en place quelques primes de rappel, à travers des reportages qui seront diffusés au cours du journal télévisé, sur VIBATV, de même que ceux de grande renommée, seront conviés sur les plateaux des JT, sans oublier le magazine Journalier, à ne pas manquer sur Martinique La 1<sup>re</sup>, du 28 juin au 24 juillet, tous les soirs à 20h00.

### DES DATES

(sous réserve de modifications)

Le programme se précise au fil des jours. En tout cas quelques grandes lignes ont été dévoilées en off. Tout d'abord la locomotive, le spectacle d'ouverture, sera présenté par Soweto Gumboots. Sur scène, une quinzaine de danseurs, spécialistes de la danse des mineurs sud-africains.

**Ce spectacle est programmé les 10, 11, 12 juillet, à 20h00 au Grand Carbet.**

Malgré la pandémie, le public aura l'occasion de voir les artistes d'ici, de Malawi au charne lyrique dans les églises, mais aussi avec le théâtre et ses créations les plus en vue, la danse traditionnelle, urinaire ou contemporaine, et autres expositions originales ou performances artistiques.

Pas d'artefacts cette année, mais une multitude de spectacles au théâtre, notamment, nous feront découvrir.

**POUR RÉSERVER**

Plus d'infos par mail :

[festivaldefortdefrance@gmail.com](mailto:festivaldefortdefrance@gmail.com)

ou par téléphone au :

0596 71 82 79 - 0596 71 66 25

ou encore 0596 60 07 91.

Page Facebook : Festival du Fort de France

[www.fortdefrance.fr](http://www.fortdefrance.fr)

**Restituer leur douleur à travers des chants et des danses**



# PRESS REVIEW

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40 • FRANCE-ANTILLES MARTINIQUE • VENDREDI 9, SAMEDI 10 ET DIMANCHE 11 JUILLET 2021

## LOISIRS & CULTURE

### SPECTACLES

# SOWETO GUMBOOTS, un des temps forts du Festival

Ils sont une belle dizaine d'acteurs à s'être rassemblés pour, paradoxalement, restituer leur douleur à travers des chants et des danses. Sous la houlette de la metteuse en scène Magda Hadnagy, qui a longtemps vécu en Afrique du Sud, ressurgit l'odieuse histoire de leurs grands-parents vécue dans la chaleur mortifère des mines sud-africaines.

Si vous cherchez sur le net, vous trouverez quelques bribes du grand spectacle Soweto Gumboots qui tapent, claquent, en symbiose, d'un seul bloc, comme un assaut guerrier bien orchestré sous la direction musicale de Vincent NCabashe, et les chorégraphies millimétrées de Mduduzi Magagula. Le récit place d'emblée le spectateur dans une posture d'actualité : celle de la résistance face à toute forme d'oppression.

C'est la danse des « boucliers-réunis », qui de manière symbolique livre l'entame. En tenue de guerriers zoulous, les hommes forment un mur de protection. Les voix sublimes d'Afrique du Sud tellement appréciées se mettent à scander des chants de luttes ; trépidants sur la scène, ils sont prêts à résister contre toutes les attaques qui ont démolé et continuent d'abimer les habitants de Zoulouland. Car il s'agit de gagner la guerre, qu'elle prenne la forme de l'actuelle pandémie ou encore celle de l'apartheid qui subsiste encore de nos jours, faisant des noirs des hommes de seconde catégorie.

Puis ils quittent la peau du guer-



rier pour, torses nus et dégoulinants de sueur, revêtir le bleu du labeur. Devenus « travailleurs du fond de la mine », ils arpentent le plateau pour creuser jusqu'à l'épuisement : ils savent, dans le brouillard de leurs esprits abattus, qu'ils vont devoir bosser sans avoir le droit de parler, ni bron-

### Une musique percussive, langage codé des bottes

Ils savent que ces longues cavités souterraines, vieilles de plus d'un

siècle, situées à plus de 4 km sous terre peuvent à tout instant les engloutir au profit du capitalisme... Cependant, souffrance et mutisme imposés ne sauraient en aucun cas être la règle ! Les mineurs-danseurs se réinventent : frappant avec une énergie exubérante et passionnée leur cowskin, ils exécutent de manière tellement synchrone une musique percussive qu'ils créent au fil des temps un langage codé obtenu en martelant du plat de leurs mains leurs grandes bottes de caoutchouc. Comme les battements de cœur de ces vies fragiles à préserver, le rythme s'obtient aussi en en-

fonçant des clous dans la roche des tunnels de la mine, autre section rythmique qui prolonge celle des gumboots...

### Un incontournable

Ni les rails et wagonnets portés par eux à bout de bras, ni l'insalubrité des lieux n'auront raison de l'unité qu'il lie ces mineurs de fond d'Afrique du Sud - dans les rangs desquels se retrouvent aussi des ouvriers du Mozambique et du Zimbabwe.

Un spectacle vif composé de tableaux exceptionnels, présenté



Les acteurs, tout à la fois chanteurs, danseurs et comédiens, sont soutenus par des musiciens hors pair. (Photos John Lekeja)

par des acteurs tout à la fois chanteurs, danseurs et comédiens soutenus par des musiciens hors pair. Un rendez-vous hors du commun qui explose au creux de gros rochers qui habillent la scène dans un phénoménal jeu de lumières et sur lesquels sont juchés les musiciens jouant d'instruments traditionnels pour certains, modernes pour d'autres. Ne perdez surtout pas de vue le personnage central, animateur-narrateur souriant et malicieux, excellent guitariste et qui de temps en temps calme les bagarres et anime les rares instants de joie qui rappellent l'humanité de ceux qui hurlent à l'unisson : « Blacklives matter ! ».

► Les 10, 11, 12 et 13 juillet à 19h30 au Grand Carbet du Parc culturel Aimé-Césaire à Fort-de-France. Plus d'infos à [festivaldefortdefrance@gmail.com](mailto:festivaldefortdefrance@gmail.com) ou par téléphone au 0596.71.82.79 ou 0596.71.66.25 ou 0596.60.07.91. Programmation complète du Festival sur le site internet : [www.fortdefrance.fr](http://www.fortdefrance.fr)



## Hommage au Nègre fondamental

Annulé la semaine dernière, le « Week-end césairien » est reprogrammé au sein même de la dernière maison où l'intellectuel a vécu. Cet hommage au chanfre de la négritude commencera demain par du théâtre et se clôturera le 11 juillet avec un concert de Victor Lazlo.

### Programme

► Samedi 10 juillet à 19h30 : théâtre : « Un mammonneur providentiel ? » par Hervé Deluge, pièce tirée de « Cahier d'un retour au pays natal ». « Et les chiens se taisaient » d'Aimé Césaire.

► Samedi 10 juillet à 19h30 : concert



# PRESS REVIEW

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Date: 12 juillet 2021



10 • FRANCE-ANTILLES MARTINIQUE • LUNDI 12 JUILLET 2021

## DANS NOS COMMUNES CENTRE

### EN IMAGES

## Le Grand Carbet a vibré au rythme des « Gumboots »

Samedi soir, au Grand Carbet, et dans le cadre du festival culturel, c'est au fil de cette comédie musicale que les spectateurs ont été transportés par les chants tribaux et la danse des mineurs sud-africains, le « gumboot » (littéralement « botte en caoutchouc »).

Textes et photos : L.B.



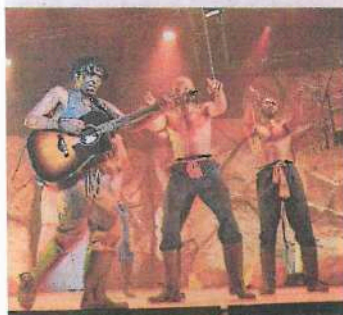
La prière d'espoir et poème d'hommage aux mineurs disparus.



Les premiers outils de travail, dans les labyrinthes de la misère, sont devenus des instruments de percussion de joie et un outil incontournable dans leur matériel scénique de « Rhythms : The Gumboots Story ».



Les danseurs étaient survoltés.



L'unité africaine face à la misère au fond de la mine, avec les chansons de paix et d'union donnant force et courage.



L'histoire inhumaine, dans les mines d'Afrique du Sud, commence en 1871. Et les Zoulous ont été parmi les pionniers à aller travailler dans ces mines.



Un public, enthousiaste et conquis. Les spectateurs ont bien compris l'histoire des Gumboots (bottes en caoutchouc) et leur importance dans la communication entre les mineurs interdits de parler ou tout simplement d'échanger.

### ILS ONT DIT

#### « C'est un spectacle à voir »

Tai-ii

« C'était magique. Il y a vraiment de la recherche dans leur spectacle. C'est vraiment original. Je n'ai pas tout compris parce que c'était en anglais. Mais sinon, c'était magnifique. C'est un spectacle que je recommande à beaucoup de personnes. »



#### « L'ingéniosité des personnes en situation difficile »

Georges

« Un spectacle extraordinaire qui nous a permis de mieux comprendre comment les langages sont nés dans la mine. Le seul langage possible était celui des mains et des pieds. Ça montre également l'ingéniosité des personnes, en situation difficile, d'inventer des langages et aussi des façons d'échanger pour effacer les difficultés et la douleur. »



#### « L'histoire était bien rendue »

Denise

« Très beau spectacle ! Quelque chose de très animé, très gai et très agréable à regarder, très dynamique, très vif avec de très bonnes chansons. Les comédiens avaient de l'énergie à revendre et aussi à partager. Je suis conquise ! L'histoire était bien rendue, bien mieux rendue dans la première partie. J'ai bien senti toute une évolution de la situation des gens en Afrique du Sud. Il y a toute une histoire derrière. »





# PRESS REVIEW

**Publication:** The Star (early edition)

**Title:** Gumboots eave silenced miners a voice

**AVE:** 73276.71

The  
Star

**Page:** 3

**Publish Date:** 20 February 2020

**Author:** MPILETSO MOTUMI

## ■ THEATRE

# Gumboots gave silenced miners a voice

MPILETSO MOTUMI

BACK in 1871 when miners were not allowed to speak while they worked they came up with their own language.

It was the language of the gumboots and it is being brought back to life with *Rhythms – The Gumboots Show* premièring at the Soweto Theatre tomorrow.

Together with choreographer Mduzuzi Magagula and musical director Vincent Ncabashe, director Magda Hadnagy will bring this important chapter in South African history back to life after 15 years.

The show tells the story of miners, their hardships to provide for their families, as they leave Zululand to work on the mines. The show is a physical performance as well as a historical tale.

"I wanted to do this creation because I am very involved and committed to South Africa. Most of the time, overseas, when they have SA productions, they show the audience only happiness... gumboots is a big part of the history.

"In 1871, the first miners were Zulu. This show represents the years from 1871 to 1947. It will teach the audience how the gumboots started," said Hadnagy.

"They were not allowed to speak in the mines. How can you prohibit someone from speaking? There is a lot of things about slavery, I fight against that, but I also want to show the world why and how those men were treated and how they died in the mine."

Hadnagy said the production would show how gumboot dancing developed.

"The beginning relays the history and then later on in the show we get to the early 1930s and go into gumboot songs. It is really about the South African miners' history."

She said the one thing she wanted to achieve was to get rid of the ignorance which people may have of the history of the country. For the last two years they were developing the script before finally auditioning for the show



**RHYTHMS – The Gumboots Show** is a production that tells of the life of miners through physical performance. It is a historical tale and a digest of the best of traditional South African dance and song. | **BHEKIKHAYA MABASO** African News Agency (ANA)

five months ago.

"The audience can expect to discover the rich history of miners and how they created the language of hitting on their gumboots. There will be singing and a band and gumboot routines that will thrill."

The show will run at Soweto Thea-

tre until March 1 before moving to the Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City in June.

"From there, we will go to the Caribbean Island in July, move to France for a month then tour the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Spain. We hope it will be a success so it can keep going around the world."



# PRESS REVIEW

Publication: Daily Sun North West

Title: BAYAYISHAYA LABAFANA!

AVE: 102955.26

**DAILY SUN**

Page: 11

Publish Date: 24 February 2020

Author: JABU KUMALO

## BAYAYISHAYA LABAFANA!

By JABU KUMALO

**T**he complete darkness that engulfed Soweto because of load shedding on Friday did not discourage theatre lovers from filling the Soweto Theatre to capacity.

Even the rain added to the misery, but it was not a deterrent. People

were determined to watch *Rhythms – The Gumboots Show* at all cost.

And oh boy! They were not disappointed.

Right from the start as the dancers poured onto the stage as if they were running away from a falling mine, the audience was

whistling and ululating. Their rhythmic dance, with the background of soothing music from a six-piece band, was refreshing coming from a

week of political nightmare.

Their sweating bodies gave a feeling that they were indeed deep in the belly of the earth, digging for the minerals that made a hand-

ful of our countrymen rich. When it came to individual dancing or solo singing, it was difficult to pick out who was the best. They all had come prepared to entertain.

It was no wonder one member of the audience shouted: "Jealous down, bay-

ayishaya labafana!"

The show is not only about dancing. It also highlights the painful truth of what the men who work in the mines endure.

It is about how easy many of them could lose their lives when there's a rock fall.

The story is also a sad reminder that those who work in the mines have little to show when they retire.

The dancing and singing

competitions the miners engaged in were a way to help them forget about home sickness and the fear of going underground.

■ The show will run until 1 March. Tickets are available from Webtickets from R100

### Dancers leave audience whistling, ululating

Scenes from *Rhythms – The Gumboots Show*, which will run at the Soweto Theatre until Sunday.

Photos by Jabu Kumalo



## Dudu's fight not only in the ring

By SUN REPORTER

CELEBRATED film director Jahmil XT Qubeka's much anticipated film *Knuckle City* opens in theatres on Friday.

The film, which is Mzansi's official entry to the 2020 Oscars, paints the story of Dudu "Nightrider" Nyakama, played by Bongile Mantsal.

Dudu's a down-and-out, aging boxer who struggles to get the one fight he believes will uplift his broken family.

Contending with the criminality of the boxing world, Dudu unwittingly enlists the help of his reckless but resourceful gangster brother Duke (Thembekile Komani), who's just been released from jail.

Duke's extreme ambition is a magnet for danger.

Their mum lost the use of her

legs in an ambush that claimed the life of their dad, the notorious Art Nyakama (Zolisa Xaluva).

Dudu also struggles with the fact that his teenage daughter is hanging out with a kasi gangster.

Also haunted by the ghost of their father, Dudu soon finds the fight at home is far more challenging than any opponent he can possibly face in the ring.

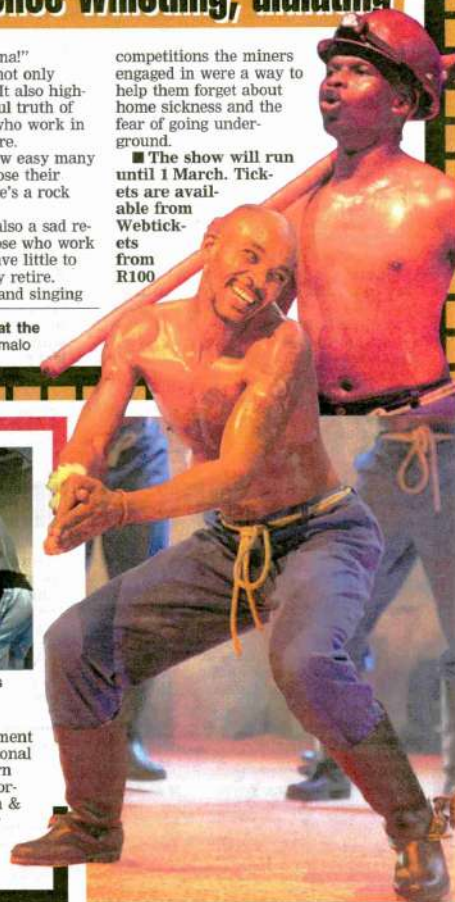
The cast also includes Faniswa Yisa, Patrick Ndlovu, Siv Ngesi, Owen Sejake, Angela Sithole and Nomhle Nkonyeni.

The film is produced by Yellowbone Entertainment, in partnership



A scene from *Knuckle City*, which is Mzansi's official entry to the 2020 Oscars.

with Mzansi Magic, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Empowerment Fund, the Eastern Cape Economic Development Corporation, and the National Film & Video Foundation. *Knuckle City* was shot in East London and Mdantsane, where the film director Qubeka grew up.





# PRESS REVIEW

## SOUTH AFRICA

**SATURDAYStar**

November 14, 2020

<https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/news/the-lyric-theatre-returns-with-the-acclaimed-gumboots-show-cbb53908-2ba7-4f4e-9375-a32b73115e97>

**DAILYStar**

November 11, 2020

<https://dailystar.co.za/2020/11/11/watch-lyric-theatre-reopens-with-iconic-rhythms-the-gumboots-show/>

**THE  
SOUTH  
AFRICAN**

November 12, 2020

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/rhythms-the-gumboots-show-lyric-theatre/>

**SOWETO life**

February 19, 2020

<http://sowetolifemag.co.za/burnt-tyres-and-sweat-ready-for-soweto-theatre-as-gumboots-show-takes-center-stage/>

**BLAZON  
MAGAZINE**

February 19, 2020

<https://www.blazonmagazine.co.za/experience-rhythms-the-gumboots-show-not-to-be-missed-at-soweto-theatre/>



# VIDEOS LINKS

**Full show** (password: Cityprod75): <https://vimeo.com/629826396/b8083d56d7>

## **Extracts of the show**

Opening Zoulous: <https://vimeo.com/628297978>

Kalimba song: <https://vimeo.com/628298511>

Steels: <https://vimeo.com/628298632>

The Prier: <https://vimeo.com/628299005>

Home Home Home (rails setting): <https://vimeo.com/628299202>

Home Home Home (cocopan): <https://vimeo.com/628299308>

Shut up your mouth: <https://vimeo.com/628299439>

Shut: <https://vimeo.com/628299975>

Unity: <https://vimeo.com/629091270>

Sugarla song: <https://vimeo.com/629091393>

Tshebentshebe: <https://vimeo.com/628300189>

Abafana Bengoma: <https://vimeo.com/628300803>

Solos: <https://vimeo.com/628300913>

Amaphiko: <https://vimeo.com/628301079>

Torches: <https://vimeo.com/628301384>

Shosholoza: <https://vimeo.com/628301706>

Ingoma: <https://vimeo.com/628302389>

Mabele: <https://vimeo.com/628302528>

Celebration: <https://vimeo.com/628302751>

Stiblishi: <https://vimeo.com/628303353>

The sun is rising: <https://vimeo.com/628303795>

Mamamthiliya: <https://vimeo.com/628303910>

Thank you Lord: <https://vimeo.com/628304185>

**Audience reactions:** <https://vimeo.com/628304472>

**Teaser Soweto:** <https://vimeo.com/629158711>

**Set up at The Lyric Theatre:** <https://vimeo.com/476950350>

**Rhythms for re-opens Lyric Theatre:** <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7xf34k>

**Jerusalema Dance Challenge:** <https://vimeo.com/476615653>

**SACB News (South Africa) - Morning Live:** <https://youtu.be/VG69JMxHFas>

**ETV (South Africa) - The Morning show:** <https://youtu.be/e5LoYE1xjNU>



# TECHNICAL SHEET

## **Composition of the Company**

**22 people on tour**

**15 performers**

**Production & Crew: 7 pax**

## **Tour period**

**Seasons 2023 – 2024 - 2025**

## **Technical conditions**

**Ideal dimensions of the stage running: Width 11m x Depth 9m**

**Reasonable dimensions of the stage: Width 10m x Depth 8m**

## **Duration**

**80 minutes with no intermission**

## **Financial conditions**

**Contact us**

**Exclusive production for Worldwide**

**CITYPROD**

**12 rue de Nancy**

**75010 Paris**

**France**



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*for South Africa*

**INGOYAMA PRODUCTIONS**

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+ 27 (76) 175-8310

*Download video full show (HD)*

<https://we.tl/t-9ttsEmijzw>

*Download video extracts of the show (HD)*

<https://we.tl/t-Qjwwskl1KP>

*Download photos*

<https://we.tl/t-xdrWbUJtZg>

**SOWETOGUMBOOTS.COM**

