



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

Story

directed by Nicola Elliott



Photographer | Sophie Marcus

Rehearsal Room | Settlers Monument | Duration 50 minutes

Thursday 2 July 21:30 | Saturday 4 July 10:00 | Sunday 5 July 18:00

Age Restriction | 14





Created by

Nicola Elliott

in collaboration with the Cast

Mia Arderne

Khaya Mthembu

Byron Davis

Tshego Khutsoane

Lucy Kruger

Joni Barnard

Director's Note

If you are reading this after the production (which is most likely seeing as the “preset” probably kept you occupied before we started) with the desire to answer the question “what did it mean?” then I should tell you that the work and this note are intended to be only partially satisfactory in providing answers to that question. If the production has not started (if, in other words, Joni is still taking off all those shoes and Byron is still tidying), then allow this note to tell you where we started this process, and not to restrict your interpretation of what is about to occur.

I've found it far more interesting in this work to point to meaning-making through the use of self-conscious theatrical devices than to fulfil or represent meaning in the way that satisfies my “whathappensnext” drive (that part of me which craves a story in which to be immersed). Indeed, the idea for this work started with my intellectual interest in my desire, as a theatre audience member, to search constantly for meaning, whether or not meaning was intended.

Having said that, many of the stories that take place in Story are not from intellectual investigation. They come instead from the feelings and predicaments related to the act of performance, which is an area that has interested me throughout my training and creative endeavours. Our intention – in spite of the pleas of whathappensnextism – is not always to explain, show, demonstrate or tell a story (although there is lots of that going on), but, overall, to experience (us and you) the subtext of storytelling, of

performance - the sometimes awkward, sometimes sublime space between the performer and the character; between the real and the representation.

To lay it out plainly: Like many of the works entitled "Story" which have come before this one (notably Merce Cunningham's in 1963), this Story eschews traditional narrative. The stories are to be found in structural elements of, for example, time, duration and pause; light and illumination; space and proximity; overlap of opposing theatrical styles; the story of all the body parts and the story of just one of them. For, whether we like it or not, we seem to be always telling a story in the most general sense. We seem to be always involved in meaning making even, as performers, during the most abstract creations, and, as people, in our everyday life. Consider how we imbue the world around us with significance. How magical that the ordinary, via our meaning-making processes, can transcend to valuable, important, significant, beloved.

We hope that you enjoy this direct and indirect experience. I hope that it makes you think an awful lot as well as not at all.

Words

Francois Jurgens

"This Poem is not by Wallace Stevens" and
"The 80's Me Generation Song"

Joni Barnard

"It's a scarf"

Mia Arderne

"Waistcoat"

and **Nicola Elliott**

Music

From *Uncommon Ritual* produced by Edgar Meyer and Béla Fleck in association with Mike Marshall. Sony Classical, 1997:

"Uncommon Ritual" (composer Edgar Meyer)

"Chromium Picolinate" (Meyer, Fleck)

"Contramonkey" (Meyer)

"Change Meeting" (Meyer)

Third movement from *Amalgamations for solo bass* (Meyer)

From *The Cole Porter songbook* by Ella Fitzgerald. Polygram, 1984:

"Begin the Beguine"

"I get a kick out of you"

(cover extract performed live)

Production Credits

Director	Nicola Elliott
Poster & Programme Design	Kate Bold Bronwyn McLean
Production Management	Royden Paynter
Stage Manager	Alex Farmer
Theatre Administrator	Kate Bold
Designer	Nicola Elliott Karin Reum
Resident Photographer '09	Sophie Marcus
Special Thanks	The Staff of Rhodes Drama, especially Gary Gordon , Heike Gehring , Royden Paynter and Kate Bold .

Special thanks to the cast
and collaborators, as well as
Brink, Twiggy and Francois.

Theatre Management Committee

Chair	Mr Tim Huisamen
HOD Drama	Professor Gary Gordon
HOD English	Professor Paul Walters
HOD Music	Professor Marc Duby
School of Languages	Professor Russell Kaschula
Theatre Director	Ms Alex Sutherland
Theatre Administrator	Ms Kate Bold
Production Manager	Mr Royden Paynter
Senate	Professor George Euvrard
Senate	Dr Anton Krueger
Senate	Dr Tim Radloff
Finance	Mr Mike Olivier
Estates	Mr Cromwell Dyala

Drama Dept & Theatre Complex

Chief Technical Officer **Oliver Cartwright**

Head of Wardrobe **Rita Westbrook**

Design & Technical
Supervisor **Roux Engelbrecht**

Secretary **Vusiwe Mnyobe**

Messenger & Clerk **Vuyelwa Nonie Hoza**

Stage Hand **Welcome Mgqwanci**

Produced by the Rhodes University Drama Department

Corner Somerset & Prince Alfred Streets | Grahamstown | South Africa

PO Box 94 | Grahamstown | 6140 | Tel: 046 603 8538

www.ru.ac.za/drama

Drama Department Events 2009

August - September Young Directors' Season '09

Honours

Natasha Lech
Revolutionary Road

Roshnee Guptar
For the Love of the
Nightingale

Byron Davis
Withnail and I

Saint-Francis Tohlang
Closer

Masters

Robert Haxton
Bent

October Theatre in Motion '09 Physical Imagination Takes Flight

Postgraduate choreography,
physical theatre and dance.

