

SCHMOOZE

DIRECTED BY FORD EVANSON

Wednesday 23 - Saturday 26 March

Rhodes Main Theatre

7pm

Tickets | R20 and R15 for students | Available at Theatre Café from 18th March

Age Restriction | PG 16

<http://schmoozetheplayatrhodes.wordpress.com/>

MOONS

Director's Note

The production of Schmooze is a devised theatrical production. This means that though some of the script was there at the start, the ensemble of actors and myself developed much of the text over the rehearsal process. It is exciting to work in this way because firstly everyone feels a part of the creative process and secondly the script is able to form around what the energy and thoughts are of the ensemble in relation to the general theme and problem presented by the first outlines.

If at this time and at this school our cultures share common ground in any way, then “celebrity” could be a critical part of that. We are all attracted to what everyone else is looking at, if there is a common object under our gaze then that object draws terrific power from that gaze. But the power is carefully restricted to our own (the watchers’) expectations. Schmooze plays with that twist within the conceit of the talk show and with the layering onto that subculture another distinctly local and more material culture of the tented temporary camp. From the beginning of this idea where I imagined a kind of jazz piece just rolling forward with fleeting scenes and images of both cultures colliding and intertwining, we came under the unique (and sublime!) pressure of a structured rehearsal period and a theatrical show. As the abstract of the imagination moves to the concrete of the stage, traditional theatrical questions start to exert themselves.

Just as the audience can’t help but try to forge connections between the various vignettes on the stage, the actors and director in rehearsal begin to connect as well, thinking of “story” and the inevitable question of “What happens next?” as the working days diminish.

We have ended up with a story which is a compilation of texts and our own adventures. What was first one thing became something else and in your hands will again become another thing. Ongoing we go!

Thanks for coming. Enjoy.

Ford

Special Thanks

Knokkie from The Knock Shop for the lovely beds;

The time, patience and determination of my cast and crew, especially the dogged work ethic of my stage manager, Karin Reum, and the invaluable extra two eyes of my assistant director, Madelé Vermaak.

To Andrew Buckland for the opportunity and his quick wit.

To St Andrews Prep for some valuable props.

A very special thanks to my wife, Ronelle, who has handled everything without a husband for six weeks!



Musical Director's Note

The original music for Schmooze is composed and performed by Daniel Hutchinson. He uses experimental instrumental and recorded sound to create a musical atmosphere that is both cozy and ominous at the same time, playing with the tension between the two worlds of the studio and tented village.

The centerpiece of the music is a stripped down upright piano, prepared with found objects, amplified, and played upon with mallets. Snatches of recorded piano music from the avant-garde are assimilated into the musical texture that provides a counterpoint to the unfolding drama of the script, punctuated by rhythmic effects in the style of Peking opera and enhanced by the vocal contributions of the talented cast.



Cast

Malcolm		Gerhard de Lange
Terence		Sandi Dlangalala
Hermien van der Merwe		Michelle du Plessis
Charlotte		Courtney Fowles
Ella/ Bride		Lucy Kruger
Angela		Dumisa Lengwati
Young Man/Louis van der Merwe		Josh Martin
Nomqcasu		Fezi Mthonti
Tobias		Zintle Ngubeni
Liv Tyler		Maude Sandham
G		Mathabo Tlali
Buddy		Dan Whitehorn





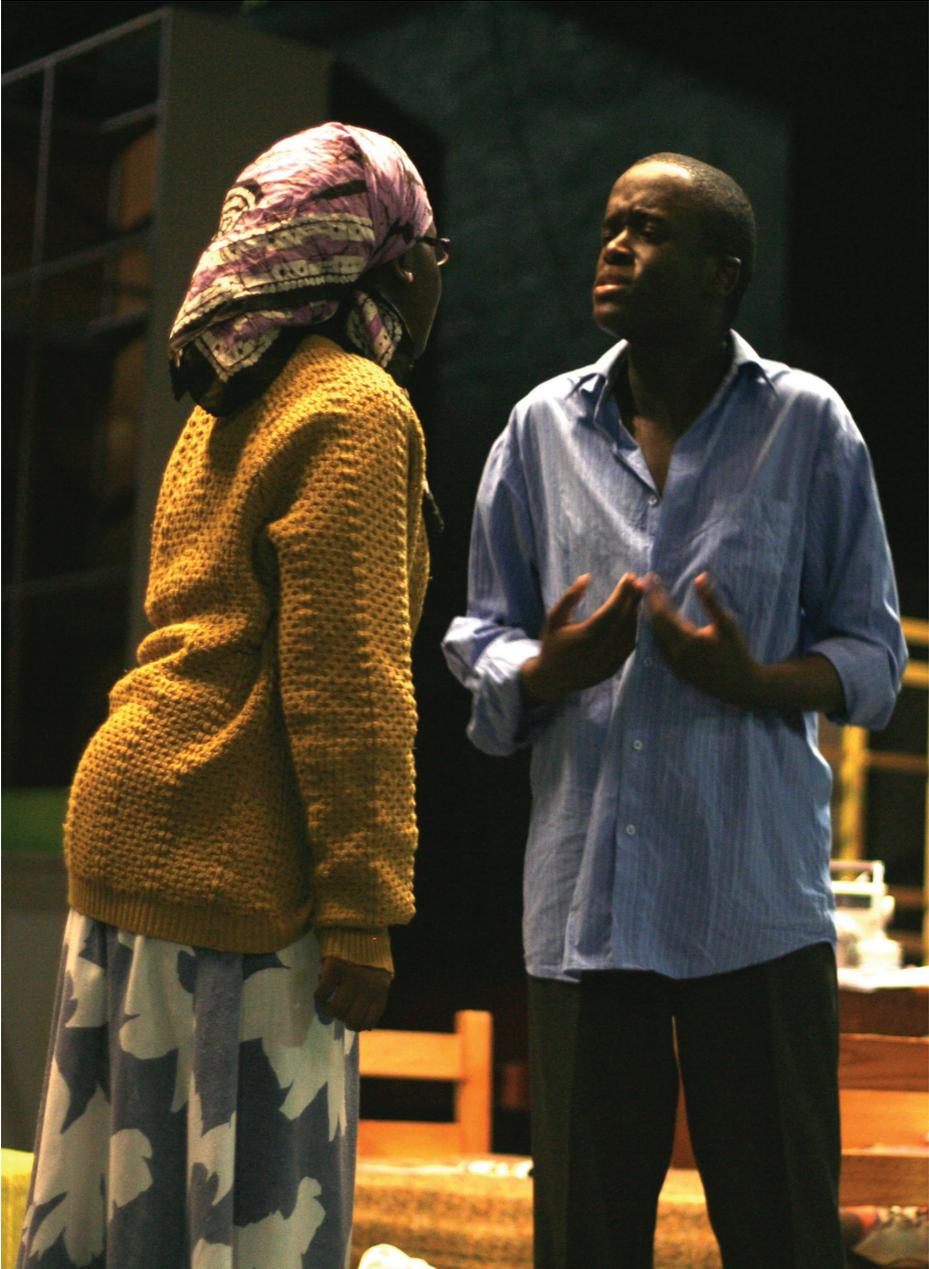
Production Credits

Director		Ford Evanson
Assistant Director		Madelé Vermaak
Musical Director		Daniel Hutchinson
Production Manager		Royden Paynter
Assistant Production Manager		Jacques de Kock
Stage Manager		Karin Reum
Assistant Stage Manager		Desiree Rapula
Design Supervisor		Roux Engelbrecht
Lighting Designer		Alex Farmer
Set Creation		Whitney Turner
Set Construction		Willie Coombs
Resident Photographer		Dianne Jordan
Theatre Administrator		Kate Bold
Front of House Manager		Kay Mngadi
Production Videographer		Rochelle van der Merwe
Props		Jason Joseph
		Jackie Spence
		Sbonelo Mgilane
Lighting Operator		Jade Manicom
Sound Operator		Zena Bally
Costume and Make Up		Cassy van Eeden
		Amy Rencken
		Simone Spence

dramadept & theatre complex

Production Manager		Royden Paynter
Theatre Administrator		Kate Bold
Chief Technical Officer		Oliver Cartwright
Head of Wardrobe		Rita Westbrook
Design & Technical Supervisor		Roux Engelbrecht
Head of Workshop		Willie Coombs
Secretary		Vusiwe Mnyobe
Stage Attendant		Welcome Mggwanci

Produced by the Rhodes University Drama Department
Corner Somerset & Prince Alfred Streets | Grahamstown | South Africa
PO Box 94 | Grahamstown | 6140 | Tel: 046 603 8538



The Friends of Fort England | Psychiatric Hospital Association

The Friends of Fort England Psychiatric Hospital Association was formed in 1970 by a group of concerned Grahamstown citizens. The aims of the organisation are to assist patients with amenities which are beyond the means of the hospital to provide; to raise awareness of the needs of the hospital patients within the community; to attempt to counteract the stigma of mental illness; and to raise funds for these purposes.

Some of the activities of The Friends of Fort England include: maintaining a weekly magazine library, collecting clothing, and providing transportation costs for home visits. At Christmas, money is provided for presents and a special dinner. Requests for the funding of specific patients needs, such as the cost of prescription glasses, are made via the occupational therapy department of the hospital.

Since March 2007, The Friends of Fort England has been the umbrella body for Corner House. This is a group home for former Fort England Hospital patients who live in a supportive, supervised, communal environment so as to assist them in readjusting to life with a psychiatric illness. Permanent premises for this project are desperately needed.

Funding for these projects are obtained through subscriptions, donations, street collections, occasional craft and jumble sales, interest on invested funds, raffles, and the sale of handmade greeting cards. Due to the ever increasing costs, funds are urgently needed and The Friends of Fort England rely on the support of the Community of Grahamstown.

The Friends of Fort England are facing a crisis in that current membership is dwindling as the existing members are getting older and no new members have joined. Help us to support this very important part of our community. If you would like to get involved please contact:

Roswitha Hobson | Chair | Friends of Fort England | 046 622 8936
Adrienne Whisson | Chair | Corner House | 046 622 3382

Thank you to the Rhodes University Drama Department for their support.

theatre management committee

Chair	Mr Tim Huisamen
HOD Drama	Professor Andrew Buckland
HOD English	Professor Dirk Klopper
HOD Music	Professor Marc Duby
HOD School of Languages	Professor Russell Kaschula
Theatre Director	Ms Heike Gehring
Theatre Administrator	Ms Kate Bold
Production Manager	Mr Royden Paynter
Senate	Professor George Euvrard
Senate	Dr Anton Krueger
Finance	Mr Mike Olivier
Estates	Mr Cromwell Dyala

dramadept | upcoming events

Innovations | 6th - 7th May

Undergraduates showcase their work in an evening of talent and fun

National Arts Festival | 30th June - 10th July

Students, staff and alumni from Rhodes Drama Department bring their theatre to a wider audience for the National Arts Festival. Not to be missed

Second Semester | Post Graduate Practical Examinations

Our gifted post graduates each work all year to produce a theatre piece which inspires, shocks, delights. These pieces are not to be missed.

Keep track of our productions

www.ru.ac.za/drama/productions/upcomingevents
or join our Facebook group!