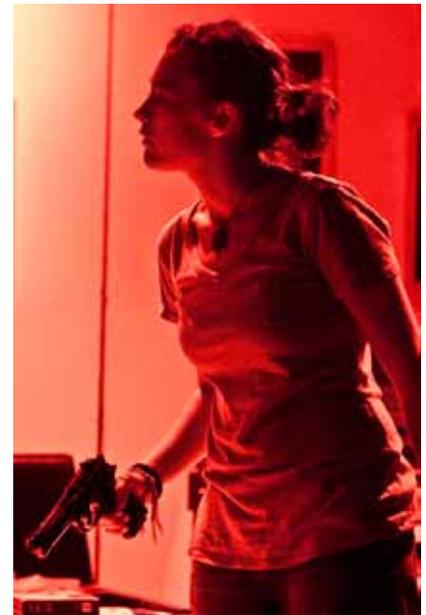




# Rhodes Drama Review

## 2009 | 2010



# Introduction

“As experimentation and innovation are revered in the sciences, so we believe that within a university environment we should attempt to explore fresh ways of telling our stories that do not rely solely on past experiments.” - Prof Gary Gordon, 2003.

What is the function of a Drama Department in a university in South Africa in 2010? The question presents a number of tempting challenges to our staff and students. Are we preparing graduates for the performing arts ‘industry’? Are we developing researchers and scholars for the ‘academy’? Are we setting up creative challenges for young and developing ‘artists’?

And the answers are all “Yes”. The Rhodes Drama Department energetically engages with providing the means for the realisation of all three functions and more.

The Department views theatre as operating at the very heart of the Humanities. It is seen as essentially active in researching and inquiring what it is to be human. The central tool or pathway for this inquiry is an active engagement with the making, interrogating, practicing of, and training for, live theatre.

The best service we can provide to any student who spends time with us is to find ways to provoke, lure, tempt and coax that person’s unique creative signature into performance works that identify them as artists and human beings no matter what sphere of life they choose and how their personal expression is manifested.

The results, in the work of the Department’s alumni, speak for themselves. Theatre makers, performing artists, choreographers, directors, arts journalists, arts administrators, community activists, academics and educators who graduated from Rhodes have made their names by responding dynamically to the new questions and problems, joys and sorrows, and losses and triumphs which life tirelessly germinates.

I am immensely proud to have been asked to lead the extraordinary team who make up the staff of the Drama Department at Rhodes. Each one is tirelessly dedicated to finding new ways to challenge, lead, and learn alongside students in multidisciplinary and collaborative approaches to theatre. The fruits of the unique experience of teaching and learning at the Rhodes Drama Department are evident in the work of the department’s senior students and staff, as well as the two professional companies, the flagships of the department: The First Physical Theatre Company and The Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company. They are constantly producing an astounding range of work from plays in the conventional space of the theatre to breathtaking physical theatre, arresting site specific work and sustained community processes.

Professor Andrew Buckland  
Head of Department

# Andrew Buckland Head of Department

## 2009 in brief

Played Sgt Pepper in *LOVE The Beatles* for CIRQUE DU SOLEIL in Las Vegas.

Co-directed, with Brink Scholtz, *The Swimming Lesson* for Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company which played at the National Arts Festival.

Directed *Stilted* for First Physical Theatre Company, which played at the National Arts Festival.

## 2010 in brief

Resident artist and performer in collaborative performance *Meet Market* as part of the Infecting the City Festival in Cape Town.

Directed *Morountodun* by Femi Osofisan with the students of the Drama Department.

Performed a season of works for the Baxter Theatre and the Market Theatre; *Andrew Buckland; 3 Plays, One Man, 150 Characters*. The show was nominated for a Naledi award and a Fleur du Cap award.

Co-wrote and performed in *Breed* for Ubom! which played at the National Arts Festival. The production was a winner of the Standard Bank Silver Ovation Award.



*Morountodun* | photographer | Sophie Smith

# Juanita Finestone-Praeg

## 2009 in brief

Choreographed *Study For Crying Girl*, the Honours Choreography piece for Theatre in Motion 2009

Choreographed *Breath* for Choreography-in-Camera Series: Volume 1 edited by Acty Tang

Directed *Inner Piece* for First Physical Theatre Company which showed at the National Arts Festival

External Examiner for UCT and WITS

Continued as Associate Artistic Director for First Physical Theatre Company and engaged in all its archival, educational programmes and choreographic works.



## 2010 in brief

Won the Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award 2010

Became Artistic Director for First Physical Theatre Company from July 2010

Choreographed *Volstruis Paleis* which performed at the KKKNK with members from First Physical Theatre Company

Performed in the Butoh work, *Amanogawa*, a collaboration with Swedish choreographer, Frauke

Choreographed *Moment(um)*, the Honours Choreography Piece for Theatre in Motion 2010



*Study for a Crying Girl* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith

# Alex Sutherland

## 2009 in brief

Presented two papers, one at the African Research Conference in Applied Drama and Theatre at the University of the Witwatersrand, and the other at the International Federation of Theatre Research conference at the University of Lisbon, Portugal.

Completed a 6 month certificate course on “Introduction to social therapeutics”, an approach to human development through improvisation and performance, with the East Side Institute in New York

Project & co-artistic director for *Float*, a collaboration between the Grahamstown youth theatre company, Art of the Street, and Lusaka based Barefeet Theatre.

Lead performer in *Listening to the Rain: A Tribute to Anthony Minghella*. Directed by Professor Gary Gordon and Acty Tang, the show played at the Rhodes Theatre.

## 2010 in brief

Alex was on sabbatical for the first half of 2010, and took maternity leave for the second half. Welcome to the world Gabriel!

Wrote an article for a book, *Interrogating drama and theatre research and aesthetics within an interdisciplinary context of HIV/ Aids* (in press)

Wrote an article which has been provisionally accepted for publication in *Studies in Higher Education*

Worked with the Grahamstown Correctional Facility drama group on developing theatre making skills and theatre productions. The group won double gold certificates for their theatre work at the Grahamstown Eisteddfod, and presented their work in the Rhodes Theatre as part of the Makana Drama Development Festival.



*Listening to the Rain* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith

# Heike Gehring

## 2009 in brief

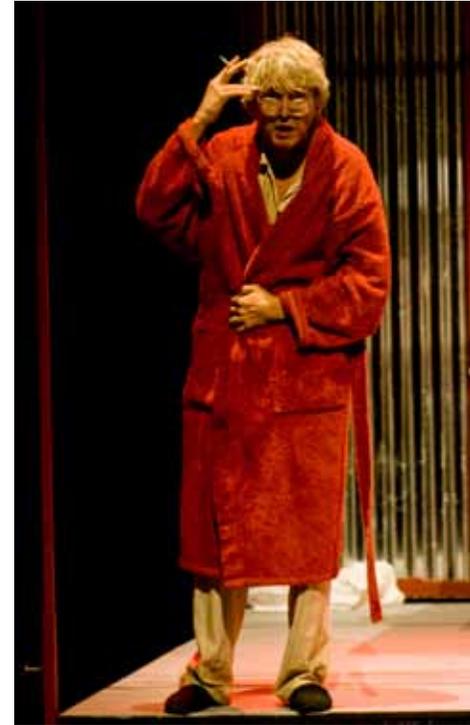
Directed *Die Bannelinge* which performed at the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Rhodes Theatre, Volksbladfees and Aardklop Arts Festival

Winner of the Sanlam Prize for Afrikaans Theatre for Best Director and Best Production for *Die Bannelinge*

Directed *Hex* which performed in the Rhodes Box Theatre as part of the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women and Children Campaign

Facilitator of So you think you can write? (The National Arts Council's Script Reading Festival) at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown

Participated in a two week International Women's Theatre Festival at the Odin Teatret in Holstebro, Denmark



## 2010 in brief

Directed *Hex* which performed at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown

Facilitated So you think you can write? (The National Arts Council's Script Reading Festival) at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown

Speaker at the International Federation of Theatre Research in Munich



# Anton Krueger

## 2009 in brief

Wrote *Living in Strange Lands*, which was directed by Lynne Maree and played at the National Arts Festival, the 969 Festival at Wits, and Proyecto 34, a Festival of South African Theatre in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Wrote and directed *In the Blue Beaker – A comedy about suicide* with Natasha Lech. This Performed at the National Arts Festival

Delivered a paper at the International Federation of Theatre Research Conference in Lisbon, Portugal

*Anzan & the Visitors*, a short film written and directed by Anton in 2008, aired at Cine-Mazing and at the National Arts Festival

Dramaturge for *Standing, Sitting, Lying Down*, for the First Physical Theatre Company

Directed and filmed Lynne Marais in the short film “Days Like These”, which formed part of the *Listening to the Rain* programme



## 2010 in brief

Published Experiments In Freedom: Issues of Identity (Cambridge Scholars Publishg) in *New South African Drama* which won the Rhodes Vice-Chancellor's Book Award for 2011.

Published the novella *Sunnyside Sal* (Deep South)

Was a runner up for the Dalro Poetry Prize for the poem "nine notes on lisbon".

*Shaggy*, co-written with Pravasan Pillay and directed by Roshnee Gupta, was performed at the National Arts Festival.

Performed in *The Baltimore Waltz*, written by Paula Vogel and directed by Debbie Robertson, for Young Directors Season 2010

Presented a paper at the International Federation of Theatre Research Conference "Cultures of Modernity," in Munich, Germany

*Tuesday*, a short film written by Anton in 2009, aired at Panorama de Cine Sudafricano, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and at the Durban International Film Festival.

Anton has been published in *Cross Currents*, *Scrutiny2*, *Literator*, *South African Theatre Journal*, *De Arte*, *New Coin*, *New Contrast*, *A Look Away*, *Incwadi*, *Litnet*, *The Mail and Guardian*, *The Cape Argus*; and contributed a book chapter to *Positions: Contemporary Artists in South Africa*.



# Gary Gordon

## 2009 in brief

Resident artist at Tulane University, Department of Theatre and Dance, New Orleans, USA. Presented classes in dance performance, composition, acting and theatre theory. January to March

Co-ordinated *To watch and be watched*. Physical theatre production at Tulane University. The student performers were given the award for best ensemble production at the annual departmental awards.

“Artistry and generosity and obvious, continuing, impact on our students and faculty” (Prof. Barbara Hayley)

“This type of project is exactly what we need on our journey, as a city, toward new possibilities” (Nick Slie, New Orleans theatre maker)

Choreographed and co-directed *Listening to the Rain | A Tribute to Anthony Minghella* for Rhodes University Drama Department



Choreographed *Standing, sitting, lying down* for Eastern Cape Schools' Festival, Grahamstown.

“An intriguing dance piece about the human body” (Nicola Saner, Grocotts Mail)

“Contemporary, inspiring physical theatre” (Shea Karssing, Oppidan Press)

Performed in *Player 1.1*, a film by Mark Wilby. It was exhibited at Moves Africa! 09 Festival in the United Kingdom

Choreographed *Some steps for Duchamp's nude as she descends the staircase* for Drama III Dance Repertory at Rhodes Drama Department's Theatre in Motion 2009

Compiled *Creative Encounters: Bessies Head* and *Creative Encounters: Red Crushed Velvet*. Both are educational packages with a DVD “a substantial research archive towards the study of dance and performance in South Africa” (Juanita Finestone-Praeg)

Artistic Director for First Physical Theatre Company. Supervised educational and community projects including First Physical Youth Company, Body Forms and various dance education programmes for schools around the Eastern Cape

## 2010 in brief

Choreographed and performed in *Go* at the FNB Dance Umbrella gala concert and in a concert in Grahamstown

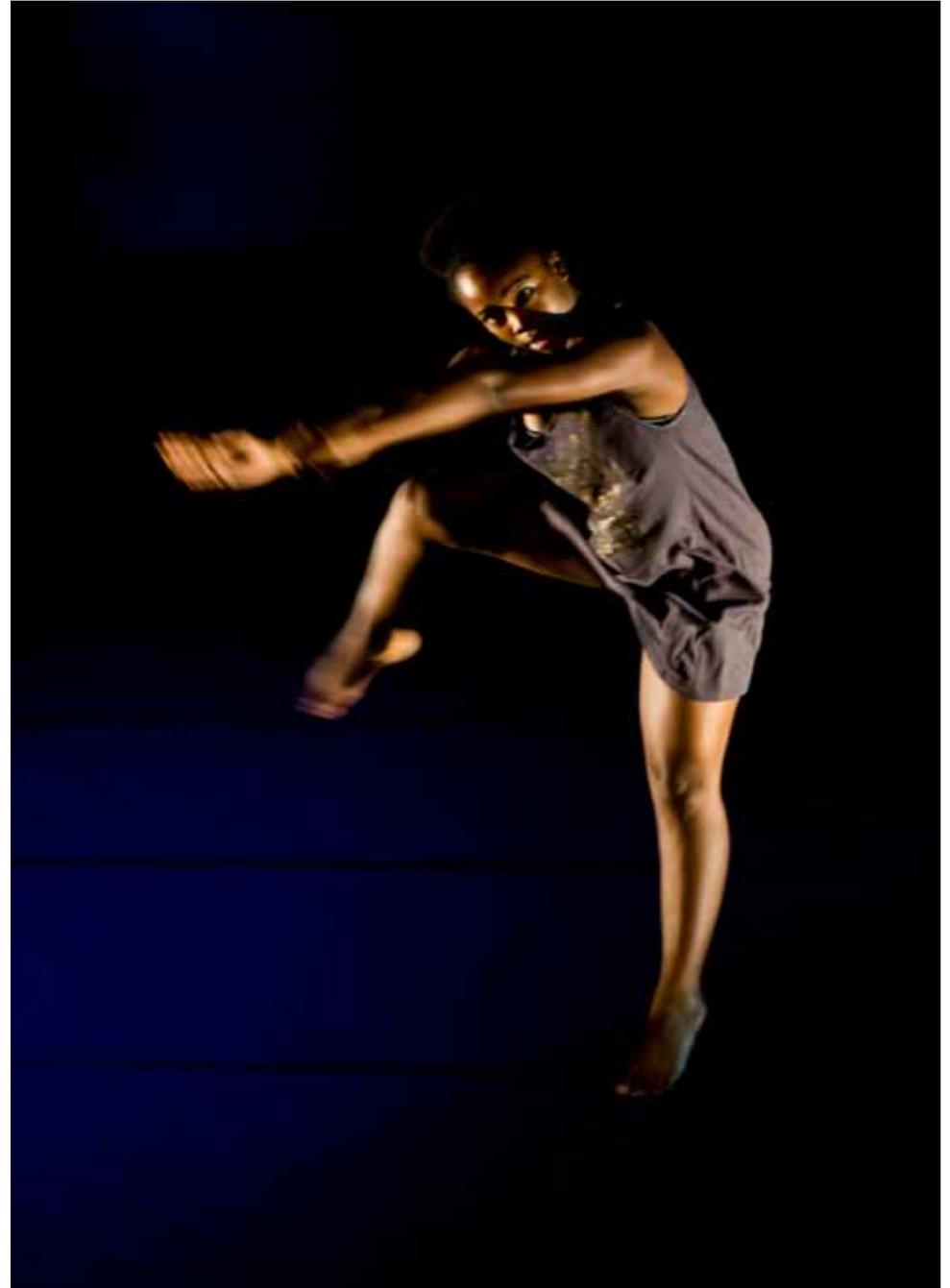
Performed in *Amanogawa*, a butoh production by Frauke at National Arts Festival Fringe programme

Choreographed *'n Paar komiese en tragiese oomblikke vir 'n ongelukkige volstruis in 4 kort tonele* for KKNK and Eastern Cape Schools Festival

Wrote "Shifting between body and words: Writing and performing the butoh dance *Amanogawa*", a paper to be published in *South Africa Theatre Journal 2010*

Helped to compile *Glimpses into Butoh*, an educational package and DVD, produced by First Physical Theatre Company

Directed *Inscrutable* at the National Arts Festival Main programme. *Inscrutable* has also been made into a DVD as part of First Physical's Choreography-for-Camera series, filmed and edited by Mark Wilby



# Acty Tang

## 2009 in brief

Writer and dramaturg for *To watch and be watched* at Tulane University

Directed *Listening to the Rain* | *A Tribute to Anthony Minghella*

Performed in Gary Gordon's *Standing, sitting, lying down* for Eastern Cape Schools Festival

Choreographed *The Guide to Impulsive Dressing* for First Physical Theatre Company at the Eastern Cape Schools Festival

Performed in Juanita Finestone-Praeg's *Inner Piece* at National Arts Festival Fringe programme

Directed *Breath*, a video dance based on Juanita Finestone-Praeg's choreography

Participated in Dance Film workshop with David Hinton (UK) and Cinedans (Netherlands). Created a video dance piece, *A light heart*, under Hinton's supervision

## 2010 in brief

Performed in Gary Gordon's *Go* at FNB Dance Umbrella gala concert

Choreographed and performed *Male Variations: Let me entertain you 400 times over* at the Rhodes Box Theatre

Choreographed *Child* for FNB Dance Umbrella. Child was performed by Zoey Lapinsky

Participated in a workshop by Nigel Charnock (UK)

Choreographed and performed *Inscrutable* at the Out the Box Festival and National Arts Festival Main programme  
 "extraordinary ... it will take everything you have to resist weeping over the coiled images of love and humour that this choreographer springs into place amidst darkness and fear." - Sasha Anawalt (Los Angeles)

Directed, filmed and edited DVD performance of *Amanogawa*, and DVD documentary of the making of *Amanogawa* and Frauke's methodology



# Die Bannelinge

| written by Bauke Snyman | directed by Heike Gehring

*Die Bannelinge* is a contemporary South African version of the Oedipus story and deals with issues of heritage and land redistribution. Ani is a modern Antigone that has to do an autopsy on her brother.

Family secrets reveal themselves as she tries to come to terms with the curse that is placed upon her and her family.

Winners of the Sanlam Prize for Afrikaans Theatre 2009

*Die Bannelinge* received the following awards at KKNK 2009

Best Production

Best Actor | Shaun Acker

Best Director | Heike Gehring

Best Writer | Bauke Snyman

A certificate for Best Design



# Listening to the Rain | A Tribute to Anthony Minghella

| directed by Acty Tang | choreographed by Gary Gordon  
Anthony Minghella | 6 January 1954 — 18 March 2008

*Listening to the Rain* is a mingling of body and textual language. Minghella's broad artistic vision is given another layer in this piece. Music, dance and text all culminate in a vision of human fragility. The audience will recognise the tiers of emotion; they will see themselves in the gestures of the work. The collaboration of Acty Tang, Gary Gordon and the various members of the cast transport Minghella's ideas into a fresh space.



## Story | National Arts Festival Student Piece

| by Nicola Elliott and the cast

Imagine a room filled with potential stories, a myriad of worlds waiting to be opened and explored. How to begin? How even to attempt one when the others are waiting? This is one of the quandaries raised in *Story*.



## Bent | Masters Directing Piece

| written by Martin Sherman | directed by Robert Haxton

The persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi party's rule in Germany, especially during the holocaust of the Second World War, is an aspect of history that has only come to light in the past 30 years. Martin Sherman was one of the first to explore the happenings of this era in his play *Bent*, first produced in 1979.



*Story* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith  
*Bent* | 2009 | photographer | PJ Waugh

# Young Directors Season 2009

## Withnail and I

| written by Bruce Robinson | directed by Byron Davis

The clown – a helpless victim of fate and character. Ever on the endless search for peace and yet ever the sufferer of hardships to come. *Withnail and I* is a rich, visceral text that makes Sisyphus's hardship look like “a walk in the park”.

## The Love of the Nightingale

| written by Timberlake Wertenbaker | directed by Roshnee Guptar

*The Love of a Nightingale* is about asking questions. It is about interrogating the past to try and gain an understanding of the present. It is about sex, guilt, shame, vengeance, gender roles and how those roles influence how we think as men, and as women. It is about the impact of those thoughts and how they transmit into actions and how those actions affect our lives.

## Closer

| written by Patrick Marber | directed by Saint-Francis Tohlang

*Closer* is just one of those rare raw gems. It speaks with such honesty about the nature of love and sex, that it reveals how intricate and skewed these facets can be. It maps out the complicated web of characters caught in the matrix of attraction, sex and love.

## Revolutionary Road

| written by Justin Haythe | directed by Natasha Lech

“Hopeless emptiness... Plenty of people are onto the emptiness, but it takes real guts to see the hopelessness” - *Revolutionary Road*  
Screenplay





*Withnail and I* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith



*The Love of the Nightingale* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith





*Revolutionary Road* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith

## Theatre in Motion 2009

Theatre in Motion presents an exciting mixture of student pieces. With this production the Drama Department brings you choreography, dance and contemporary performance to intrigue and stimulate your imagination.

Professor Gary Gordon dedicated this year's programme to choreographer Merce Cunningham [April 16 1919 – July 26 2009]. Merce Cunningham was a pioneer of contemporary dance and the belief that movement is everywhere one looks. Theatre in Motion '09 was a chance to experience creative encounters with some of Cunningham's beliefs and practices.

### Honours Choreography

| *They Stopped at 4.48* | choreographed by Nadine Joseph

| *The Annunciation* | choreographed by Gavin Krastin

| *Fracture Frappé* | choreographed by Alex Richardson

| *Flower and Sheep* | choreographed by Hanna Richter

| *Some Steps for Duchamp's nude as she descends the staircase* |  
Drama III Dance Performance | choreographed by Gary Gordon

| *Study for a Crying Girl* | Honours Physical Theatre |  
choreographed by Juanita Finestone-Praeg

| Honours Contemporary Performance | solo pieces



*Some Steps for Duchamp's Nude as She Descends the Staircase* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith





*Fracture Frappé* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith



*The Annunciation* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith



*tHEy STOPped at 4.48* | 2009 | photographer | Sophie Smith

## Morountodun

| written by Femi Osofisan | directed by Andrew Buckland

A young woman from the privileged class, modelling herself on the mythic figure of Moremi, allows herself to be captured by the rebels to bring their leader to the authorities.

During her time with the rebels she discovers that these are not bloodthirsty violent revolutionaries but simple farmers. Men and women who are driven by the most powerful motivation and hunger, and who justifiably fight for their rights and against the exploitation of their situation by the ruling classes. She is converted to their cause and joins the rebel forces.



## Rubber | National Arts Festival Student Piece

| created by Robert Haxton and the cast

A “murder” of people flock together and ravish an emotional and physical landscape in this pert tale of brutality, seduction and chance. An isolated family in the middle of the Karoo manufactures carcinogenic fumes that intoxicate livestock, relationships and themselves. Something alien exists among them.

The exposing of secrets, thought to be dead, unfold in a shocking revelation of what people will do to protect their children as well as keep the darkest parts of their histories in the past. They’re funny, they’re vicious and they will eat practically anything to get their way.



*Morountodun* | 2010 | photographer | Sophie Smith  
*Rubber* | 2010 | photographer | Ruth and Russ

# Young Directors Season 2010

## The Baltimore Waltz

| written by Paula Vogel | directed by Debbie Robertson

In 1989, in Baltimore, Maryland, a young woman, Anna, is diagnosed with a terminal illness, and given mere months to live. Faced with mortality, and trying to cope with grief and despair, she and her brother Carl embark on a trip around Europe to rediscover and reinvent themselves. As things become increasingly more surreal, we soon realize that all is not as it seems.

## Yellowman

| written by Dael Orlander-Smith | directed by Jaletta De Jager

Set in South Carolina, *Yellowman* follows Alma and Eugene as they relive their lives. They take the audience through their journey of love, hate and rejection. It is a love story about two innocent individuals that lose all sense of themselves as the world of racism and abuse sweep them up. *Yellowman* is a truly riveting story, one which a South African audience will strongly relate to.

## Hard Candy

| written by Brian Nelson | directed by Madelé Vermaak

Strangers should never talk to little girls. A 32-year-old man takes home a 14-year-old girl he meets on the Internet. One of them is being groomed; the other is a predator. Which is which? *Hard Candy* is a psychotic thriller presented in the form of a revenge drama with surprising consequences.

## Girl, Interrupted

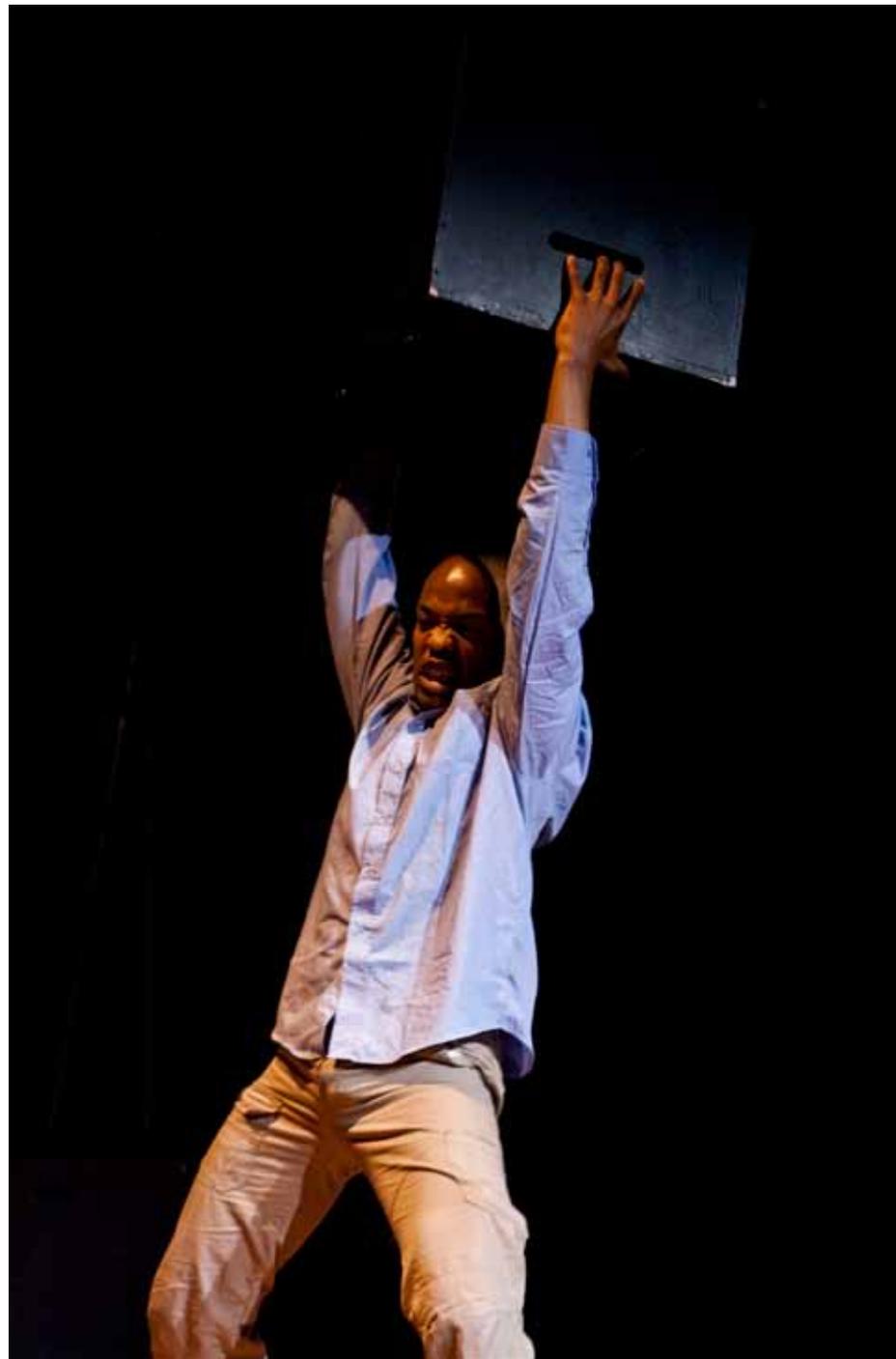
| written by James Mangold based on Susanna Kaysen's novel | directed by Dana Bosch

“Crazy isn't being broken or swallowing a dark secret. It's you or me, amplified.”

*Girl, Interrupted* is the tumultuous coming of age story of a young woman who is admitted into a mental health facility after a suicide attempt. Question with her, her flaws, human nature, the craziness of the world around her and stand amongst the sociopaths, anorexics and pathological liars that help her figure it all out.



*The Baltimore Waltz* | 2010 | photographer | Carileigh Hansen



*Yellowman* | 2010 | photographer | Nicola van Rensburg





*Girl, Interrupted* | 2010 | photographer | Nicola van Rensburg

# Theatre in Motion 2010

Theatre in Motion showcases exam pieces from young and talented performers in the Rhodes Drama Department. Physical Theatre, Contemporary Performance, Dance Performance and Choreography all create superior theatre pieces from their extensive study over the year. The work is original and inspiring, intelligent and delightful.

## Masters Choreography

| *swArm of birdings* | choreographed by Nadine Joseph  
| *Triptych* | choreographed by Gavin Krastin

## Masters Contemporary Performance

| *Antigone* | directed by Jen Schneeberger

## Honours Choreography

| *It Echoes* | choreographed Nicole Theunissen  
| *A Tale of two Cities* | choreographed Danielle Bowler  
| *5 Sights* | choreographed by Jessie Stidworthy

| *The shortest distance between two points...* | Drama III Dance Performance | choreographed by Athena Mazarakis  
| *Moment[um]* | Honours Physical Theatre  
| *Chew on That* | Honours Contemporary Performance



*The Shortest Distance Between 2 Points...* | 2010 | photographer | Sophie Smith





*A Tale of 2 Cities* | 2010 | photographer | Sophie Smith



*It Echoes* | 2010 | photographer | Sophie Smith

# Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company | 2009

## **Zina and the Songbird | directed by Brink Scholtz**

Zina is an average princess who has to rescue the beautiful but lonely and frightened songbird from the beastly, scary jailer who imprisoned him. An amazingly adventurous journey begins to deliver the only creature who can save the land from a fatal drought. Cleverly woven into the play is the important message about conserving our beautiful land and its array of wonderful creatures. This children's production played at Rhodes University, the National Arts Festival and toured throughout the Eastern Cape.

## **Living Here | directed by Brink Scholtz**

Living Here is a kaleidoscope of African and South African poems, songs and stories, and is unlike anything that you have ever seen. Living Here takes a sensitive, honest and often brutal look at South African youth, and the challenges they face. It focuses on 'those' issues that no one wants to talk about, the ones that we manage to skilfully sweep under the carpet - issues of covert racism, fractured identities and assumed cultural superiority in the midst of a multi-cultural society. Laughter and comedy act as catalysts for this explosive theatre event which has a truly unique, funky South African flavour - it dances, it shouts, it sings, and it wants to be heard.

## **Red Earth | directed by Jen Schneeberger**

Ubom!'s Youth Company presented an exciting workshopped street theatre show at the National Arts Festival. Red Earth is a great story about Grahamstown, for Grahamstown and by Grahamstown people. Jen Schneeberger directs 5 local youths after an intensive 8 week workshop programme, developing acting and performance skills. The street theatre event attracted a good following with its visually impactful and touching story about making the right decisions in life. Told from the point of view of a young township girl who is forced to join a gang to support her family, audiences were moved and entertained by this slice of contemporary South Africa.



## **Risky Business (2009) | directed by Brink Scholtz**

With a raw look at the unpalatable truth, *Risky Business* constructs a painfully honest and bitterly funny picture of the realities of prejudice and fear that young South Africans of all demographics are confronted with amidst the escalating HIV/AIDS epidemic. Unique in its ability to avoid patronising or pulling any punches, this is a piece of theatre that nails the audience to its seat. From its irreverent opening to its unsettling end, it hardly allows you to catch your breath. Surprising, fast-paced and extremely funny, it is a high intensity roller coaster ride of dialogue, song and dance that rushes through the dangerous terrain of stigma, anxiety and judgment surrounding HIV/AIDS in South Africa today.

## **The Swimming Lesson | directed by Andrew Buckland and Brink Scholtz**

Co-directed between Andrew Buckland and Brink Scholtz, *The Swimming Lesson* traces the story of Phyllis, a domestic worker who spends her days serving the slightly demented “Madam” whose weaknesses reveal to Phyllis her need to take control of her own life. Guilt and painful revelations expose Phyllis’s life to herself and when she journeys to the sea to try escape, she finds herself brazenly confronted with the truth. She meets a young troubled girl looking to escape her monotonous life and a trapped local who needs new friends. This unusual trio begin a bizarre friendship which will change their lives in strange, poignant yet tumultuous ways. This is an unsentimental, extremely funny and powerfully conceived story. Unveiling a vivid testament to the power of personal encounter, *The Swimming Lesson* reveals how people at the opposite edges of existence find hope and courage in each other.



## **Bhuti, the Bokkie, and the Christmas Beetle | directed by Cassandra**

### **Hendricks**

Ubom! annual Christmas show is an exciting event in the Grahamstown calendar. The show combines the professional actors with local community artists and gifted young stars from the Amaphiko Township Dance Project, to create a powerful cast of eRhini's best talent. This year, the little boy Bhuti must rescue his best friend Bokkie, who has been captured by the evil Bruella who plans to make Xmas steaks out of him! Heart-warming and endearing, the Xmas show is always fun-filled and spreads the message of the value of friendship and kindness.

## **Float | directed by Daniel Buckland**

Workshopped with Alex Sutherland and Cassandra Hendricks Float was born out of the idea of creative and cultural exchange between different contexts. Barefeet Theatre in Lusaka and Ubom! Youth Company in Grahamstown were both selected to participate in the Contacting the World Festival in Manchester, UK. Barefeet participated in 2008, and Ubom! in 2006. This festival brings together youth theatre companies from all over the world in a parallel devising process, which was built on for this production. Both Ubom! and Barefeet are built on similar ideals of using theatre to transform young people's lives – and in particular, young people who are often denied access to the arts. Both companies are made up of young people who have at one time in their lives, been forced to live or beg on the streets. Aylwyn Walsh, a facilitator for Contacting the World, saw the synergy in the approach to a bold, physical style of theatre making. And so Float was born, via the UK, to South Africa, from a unique collaboration between two of Southern Africa's most dynamic theatre companies.



## | 2010

### **The Adventures of a Little Nobody | directed by Brink Scholtz**

*Nobody* was nominated for three Handspring Puppet Company awards at the Out The Box Festival in Cape Town, and won one. The story follows Little Nobody on a fantastical journey of self-discovery through a world of kooky characters. Applauded for its “inventiveness and sheer theatricality” (Yvette Hardie, Curator: Out the Box Family Festival, March 2010) Ubom! was very proud to begin the year winning awards.



### **Hush | directed by Brink Scholtz**

Bitingly satirical and sickeningly honest, the audience is confronted with a raw look at our South African reality. Audiences are exposed to a theatre work unlike any other they’ve seen before. A highly controversial play dealing with stigmas of all labels, no person who has seen this work has left unaffected. Topics that are overlooked in polite conversation are thrown high in the air and left to smash open upon the stage. *Hush* is funny, hard-hitting and sure to fire up everyone that witnesses it. Watch at your own risk!



### **BREED | directed by Janet Buckland**

Featuring Andrew Buckland and directed by Janet Buckland, this piece has “award-winner written all over it” (Gillian McAinsh, The Herald, June 2010). “What the hell is a township kid going to do with Bach?” Desmond asks his idealist daughter, a violin teacher. *BREED* is an original South African story which deals with the longing for reconciliation, born out of personal loss and grief. It is a tale deeply embedded in the landscape of the Eastern Cape which will resonate with South Africans everywhere.

Humour, devastating animal rage, playfulness and pain delicately weave an intriguing narrative. A skilled cast, who co-created the work, present finely crafted characters, compelling ensemble, and a unique theatre experience. *BREED* won a Standard Bank Silver Ovation Award at the National Arts Festival 2010.

## Sink or Swim | directed by Cassandra Hendricks

With a 2x2 metre planet earth that spins on her axis and wows the audience into listening to her moving story, there isn't one moment of sob-story style theatre making that bores children into thinking "another global warming show". They're too busy being wildly entertained by the fast-paced action, the mesmerising vision of a real 'Mother Earth', and the jiving, funky songs inspired by 5FM hits – guaranteed to grab the youth's attention! This show was an absolute hit, with witty commentary about the state of the planet.



## uHansie noGrietjie eRhini | A Xmas Adventure: directed by Brink Scholtz

Ubom's annual Xmas show plays to Rhodes Main Theatre audiences but also travels to Grahamstown's old age homes, hospitals, and the prison. Hansie and Grietjie go on their own adventure trying to find their way home, encountering many freaky and funky characters along the way. Heart-warming and moving, *uHansie noGrietjie eRhini* is jam-packed with Xmas adventure fun at its best.



# First Physical Theatre Company

## 2009

### *Major/Minor*

Presented at the FNB Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg.

Choreographed by Alan Parker

“Exciting experimentation” (The Star)

### *Inner Piece*

A site Specific work presented at the National Arts Festival.

Choreographed by Juanita Finestone-Praeg, Directed by Dion van Niekerk.

“Inner Piece resonates with invention and intellectual vigour” (The Star)

### *Stilted*

Presented at the National Arts Festival. Created by Richard Antrobus and directed by Andrew Buckland. The top selling physical theatre production on the Fringe.

“A stellar slice of physical theatre” (The Mercury)

### *New Voices 2009*

Performed at the National Arts Festival and the Best of Fest in Grahamstown. With works by Rhodes postgraduate choreographers Joni Barnard, Kyle de Boer, Sonja Smit well as the First Physical Youth Company, choreographed by Tshogofatso Tlholoe.

### *Collections ii*

Performed in the Box Theatre, Grahamstown, this concert programme featured new works by Durban’s Sifiso Kweyama and Sifiso Majola, as well as Gary Gordon, Alan Parker and a dance film Breath by Acty Tang



## 2010

### *Go*

Presented at the FNB Dance Umbrella Gala in Johannesburg. Choreographed by Gary Gordon.

### *So loop 'n Volstruis*

Commissioned by the ABSA KKNK and performed at the festival in Oudtshoorn and at the Eastern Cape Schools Festival in Grahamstown. A concert programme of works inspired by the habits and characteristics of the ostrich. Works choreographed by Gary Gordon, Juanita Finestone-Praeg, Alan Parker, Sonja Smit and Nicola Elliott

### *Amanogawa – The Heavenly River*

Performed at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. An international collaboration with Swedish Butoh practitioner, Frauke, with design by Vincent Truter and music composed by Hendrik Astrom (Sweden).

### *New Voices 2010*

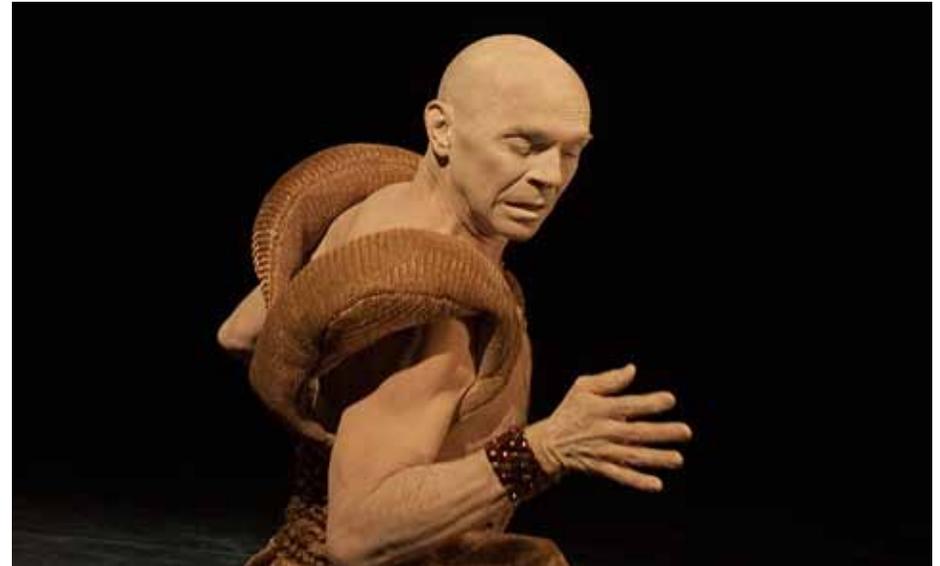
Performed at the National Arts Festival and the Best of Fest in Grahamstown. First Physical's annual showcase (now in its 17th year) for experimental and innovative choreography by young and emerging choreographers. Included works by Rhodes postgraduate choreographers Gavin Krastin, Nadine Joseph, Danielle Bowler, Nicole Theunissen as well as the First Physical Youth Company, choreographed by Levern Botha.

### *Everyday Falling*

Choreographed by Athena Mazarakis, commissioned by the First Physical Theatre Company. Performed at the First Physical Youth Company end of year concert.

### *Farewell Concert for Gary and Acty*

A farewell tribute concert to Gary Gordon and Acty Tang, performed in the Box Theatre.



# Studying Drama at Rhodes

The best of professional artistic, technical, educational, administrative and community-based practices can be found at Rhodes Drama, with opportunities for hands-on experience as well as rigours academic studies of theatre.

Students also choose to study at Rhodes Drama for the wider education that can be gained through a BA degree. The different fields of knowledge and critical faculties developed in a humanities degree nurture an intelligent, informed approach to creating theatre.

Honours and Masters degrees offer specialisations and intensive training that prepare the student for the demands of the industry. Graduates from Rhodes Drama work as performing artists, teachers, theatre administrators, choreographers, lecturers, performer-creators, stage managers and workshop leaders; others work in film, television, creative arts therapy, industrial theatre, advertising, community development and arts journalism.

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# Credits

Compilation and editing | Deon Van Niekerk and Kate Bold

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Thank you to Heike Gehring for her brilliant work with Post Graduate Contemporary Performers, and to Gary Gordon and Juanita Finestone-Praeg for their wonderful work with the Post Graduate Choreographers. Lastly, thank you to all the staff and students of Rhodes University Drama Department for their beauty and creativity.

