



MORO UNTODUN

Rhodes Main Theatre

Wednesday 21st – Saturday 24th April 2010

19:30

written by Femi Osofisan

directed by Andrew Buckland

Tickets on sale at Theatre Cafe

www.ru.ac.za/drama

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

FEMI OSOFISAN enjoys a reputation as the most regularly performed playwright in Nigeria. Professor of Drama since 1985 at the university of Ibadan where he has spent most of his adult career, he was until recently the General Manager and Chief Executive of the National Theatre, Lagos. In addition to his work in the theatre—where he is to be found playing diverse roles as actor, director, song writer, composer and company leader—Osofisan, *aka* Okinba Launko is also an outstanding poet, translator, critic and theorist of literature, and features as one of the regular columnists in Nigeria's leading newspapers.

Osofisan has written over fifty plays, which have been performed in various parts of the world, and some of which were commissioned by theatres in Europe and America.

He is a Fellow of Interweaving Performance Cultures, International Research Center, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany (2009).



From <http://femiosofisan.org/default.aspx>

ABOUT THE SHOW

Morountodun or I have Found a Sweet Thing is an excitingly theatrical text written in 1983 by renowned Nigerian playwright, Femi Osofisan.

Set in 1969 during the Nigerian civil war, it is of particular interest to scholars and students, especially those interested in contemporary African performance and the heritage of the larger African continent.

At the heart of the play lies the legend of Moremi a Yoruba queen who holds a special place in Yoruba mythology. At the time of the birth of that nation, when it was under consistent and unrelenting attack by the Igbos from South Eastern Nigeria, in a celebrated act of heroism, Moremi offered herself to be captured by the Igbos so that she might infiltrate their ranks and discover the secret of their extraordinary power in battle which had so far made them invincible. This she did, and revealed the truth to the Yoruba who were then able to effectively defend themselves.

This forms the mythical background against which the story of Morountodun plays out. It deals with a rebellion of farmers in the west of the country. A young woman from the privileged class, modelling herself on Moremi, allows herself to be captured by the rebels in order to bring their leader to the authorities.

The wonderful parallels and similarities and the inspiring sense of connection and co-sourcing of forms are celebrated in this production. It does not attempt to be religiously accurate to West African visual, aural or performance modes, but rather seeks to find forms combining elements which have immediate emotional and cultural impact for a local audience as well as those unfamiliar. The play takes us into another world in which we may review our own experiences with new eyes and fresh critical faculties.



CAST

Pumelela Nqelenga		Titubi	
Nadine Joseph		Moremi	
Buhle Ngaba		Alhaja Kabirat	
Danielle Bowler		Baba	
Michael von Bardeleben		Bogunde	
Jason Joseph		Kokondi	
Francis Mennigke		Corporal	
Jen Schneeberger		Mama Kayode	
Sifiso Sikhakahn		Marshal	
Amy Green		Molade	
Nonhle Zulu		Mosun	
Chiminae Ball		Niniola	
Rory Appleton		Orinmiyon	
Madele Vermaak		Superintendent	
Khaya Mthembu		The Director	
Lucy Kruger		Wura	
		Erin Cutts	Drummers
		Edward Pepperell	
		Carla Ford	
		Bradley Southin	
		Gino Shelile	
		Mathabo Tlali	Chorus
		Mbasa Tsetsana	
		Mohammad Shabangu	
		Masetshabe Mpete	
		Yolisa Nyoka	

PRODUCTION TEAM

Andrew Buckland	Director	Bianca Binneman	Design team
Dana Bosch	Assistant Director	Samantha Blair	
Karin Reum	Stage Manager	Desiree Rapula	
Melissa Pentz	1st Assistant Stage Manager	Fezi Mthonti	
Tammy Smit	Assistant Stage Manager	Semone Viljoen	
Nomashawekazi Domisane	Assistant Stage Manager	Palesa Moshigo	
Kate Bold	Poster & Programme Design	Alex Farmer	Lighting
Royden Paynter	Production Management	Jade Manicom	
Kate Bold	Theatre Administrator	Lauren Rawlins	Sound
Andrea Kemsley	Front of House Manager	Dohne Damons	
Rita Westbrook	Costumier	Casey Wigmore	Props
Roux Engelbrecht	Designer	Rosa Brandt	
Mavis Tuku	Seamstress and Milliner	Zama Khoza	
Sophie Marcus	Resident Photographer '09	Sharlene Naidoo	Costume/Dressing
Willie Coombs	Set Construction	Rochelle van der Merwe	
Royden Paynter	Lighting Designer	Bantu Bungane	Flies
		Zintle Ngubeni	

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
Messenger & Clerk		Vuyelwa Nonie Hoza
Stage Hand		Welcome Mgqwanci
		Zola Funani

Produced by the Rhodes University Drama Department

Corner Somerset & Prince Alfred Streets | Grahamstown | South Africa

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

dramadept | events 2010

30 April - 1 May | Innovations

Undergraduates showcase their work in an evening of talent and fun.

National Arts Festival | Students, staff and alumni 20 June - 4 July

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

More information to follow.

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 Gary Gordon
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
Drama		Professor Andrew Buckland
Senate		Professor George Euverd
Senate		Dr Anton Krueger
Finance		Mr Mike Olivier
Estates		Mr Cromwell Dyala

