



Photographer | [Sophie Marcus](#)

Rhodes University Drama Department Presents

# Listening to the Rain

A tribute to Anthony Minghella

21 May - 23 May

Main Theatre

7:30pm

## Compiled by Acty Tang

Acty Tang takes on overall direction, with Gary Gordon choreographing. The cast consists of staff, graduates and undergrads at the Drama department. Highlights:

- | Alex Sutherland, performing.
- | Masters student Shaun Acker, winner of the Sanlam Prize for Best Actor at KKNK, performing.
- | Wayne Greenberg and Cathy Hodgson from the Music department.
- | Lynette Marais of the National Arts Festival, who received an Honorary Doctorate from Rhodes this year, will give an on-screen performance.

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, 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.

**Age recommendation** | PG language

**Duration** | two hours | including interval

**Tickets** | Theatre Café | Theatre Foyer | 09:00 – 16:00 weekdays

**Ticket price** | R25 & R20

**Further Information** | [www.ru.ac.za/drama](http://www.ru.ac.za/drama)

## Minghella in the Work

Minghella was most well known for his Oscar-winning films, but also had a long career writing plays, radio plays, dance texts and for television. This production celebrates his theatre, dance and earlier film work.

The production features segments from five works, so as to celebrate the diversity of Minghella's work. The individual titles are as follows

| Truly, Madly, Deeply

| Hang Up

| Whale Music

| Mosaic

| Days Like These

### A note from Acty Tang

For me, Minghella's theatre is captivating, because he shows how we evade each other with our words; he understands that to speak exactly what we want to say is very hard, even painful. And so we dance around it with words. Minghella captures that jumbled chaos of our everyday language. Sometimes it is hurtful and volatile, but sometimes it's also gentle, rather funny, light as drizzle.

## More on Acty Tang

Acty Tang is a performer and choreographer, and lectures part time at Rhodes Drama. He was the winner of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for dance in 2007. While his work is primarily in physical theatre, his postgraduate studies at Rhodes Drama also included directing, acting, design, and dramatic literature.

He has choreographed, written, designed and performed solo pieces, many of them in non-theatre spaces, such as *Inscrutable* (2008) for the Rhodes China Week; *Male variations: Let me entertain you 400 times over* (2007), for which he was nominated for a Gauteng MEC Award for Best Male Performer; *Protect* (2007); and *The Silent Wail of Melisande* (2006) on the side of Lucas Avenue.

In recent years Acty has undertaken dramaturgical work with the First Physical Theatre Company, in productions such as *Bessie's Head* (2006), *Ozymandias* (2008), and *To Watch and be Watched* (2009) in New Orleans, USA.

## More About Anthony Minghella

Minghella was born on the Isle of Wight at Ryde. He attended Sandown Grammar School and St John's College (Portsmouth). He was a graduate of the University of Hull, where he completed undergraduate and postgraduate courses, but eventually abandoned his doctoral thesis.

His first piece of produced work was a 1975 stage adaptation of Gabriel Josipovici's *Mobius the Stripper* and it was his 1985 piece *Whale Music* that kick-started his career. Minghella's 1990 feature *Truly, Madly, Deeply*, a drama he had written and directed for the BBC's *Screen Two* anthology strand, bypassed its expected TV broadcast and received a cinema release.

In 1996, he won the Academy Award for Directing for *The English Patient*. He was nominated for the Academy Award for Adapted Screenplay for 1999's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

He directed *Cold Mountain* and *Breaking and Entering*, and he produced *Iris*, *The Quiet American*, *Heaven*, *The Interpreter*, *Michael Clayton*, some of the more internationally known works in his repertoire.

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony\\_Minghella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Minghella)

