



UHAMBO MATSURI

ROAD TO FESTIVAL
MASTERS SHOWCASE 2012
SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER



HANAMICHI

Directed by Tristan Jacobs

Rhodes Box Theatre

This piece is a hybrid, a blend of Tadashi Suzuki's actor training style and Ted Hughes poetics.

Hanamichi is the name for the ramp used in traditional Japanese Noh Theatre for the performers' entrances and exits - directly translated as flower-path. The play fuses this ideal with that of Ted Hughes, specifically in his poem *The Thought Fox*, which charts the arrival of inspiration in eventually writing something. I was also interested in exploring the isolation, boredom and imagination in that place of inspiration-less-ness...

"I know you've got something inside you that you need to write about, but you can't get it to come out. It's like a frightened little animal hiding way back in a cave - you know it's in there, but there's no way to catch it until it comes out." - Haruki Murakami (1Q84)

CAST

Zintle Ngubeni
Keegan van Zyl
Rita Hlaluka
Michelle Howarth
Kamogelo Molobye
Sandi Dlangalala
Megan Knowels

Stage Manager: Jessica Kilian
Assistant Stage Manager: Jemma Bridgens
Lighting Designer: Jade Manicom
Lighting Operator: PJ Urban
Mask Design: Bianca Binneman
Set design and artwork: Gavin Krastin and Bianca Binneman
Costume designer: Caroline Rex
Make-up: Gaby Field
Costume Manager: Mbali Msiza

Stage feet

Alastair Kingon
Geoff Smuts
Jessica Kidd
Simoné Jones
Thando Maurice
iPad supplied by Michaela Weiffenbach

THANK YOU

Merryn Carver for puppetry assistance, Andrew Buckland for insight and encouragement and HL for stepping in and stomping away angst.

MOIRA LISTER



Actress: born Cape Town, South Africa 6 August 1923; married 1951 Vicomte d'Orthez (died 1989; two daughters); died Cape Town 27 October 2007.

"I conceptualised the 'Moira Lister Theatre Award' after the death of my mother in 2007 as a means of keeping her memory and her lifetime of theatrical achievements alive - with particular focus on today's young generation of South African theatre students. She was always an enthusiastic supporter of the innovative and exciting talent this country has to offer, and as such I felt a theatre award in her honour was a fitting tribute".

- Chantal d'Orzeth

"Moira Lister was an accomplished actress whose regal bearing found her often cast in patrician roles, though she also had a splendid sense of humour - she was a regular on the first radio series of Hancock's Half Hour - and a versatility that ranged from acclaimed performances in Shakespearean tragedy to her award-winning display of farcical expertise in *Move Over, Mrs Markham*.

Lister performed until 2004, touring with her highly successful one-woman show about Noël Coward, and was subsequently given the Naledi Award, a lifetime achievement award for her services to the theatre in South Africa".

- Exert from *Moira Lister: Actress often cast in glacial roles* | The Independent by Tom Vallance

THE MOIRA LISTER THEATRE AWARD

Tonight a Rhodes Student will be presented with the extremely prestigious Moira Lister Theatre Award. This will be the first time one of our own exceptionally talented students will be receiving this honour! This is an incredibly great honour for the Drama Department and Rhodes University as a whole.

The award will be presented by award winning actor:

JEREMY CRUTCHLEY

Jeremy Crutchley is known for his diverse and unique roles in theatre as well as on film. He was most recently seen onstage in the internationally acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning *I Am My Own Wife* for which he won two Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards in 2010 for Best Actor and for Best Solo Performance. He also won the Fleur for best actor for his role as Shylock in the 2009 production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

He continues to appear in various film roles which includes *LORD OF WAR* (USA|2004), *SKIN* (UK/RSA|2009) and his SAFTA award nominated performance in *RETRIBUTION* (2010) among many other projects. *Sacred Elephant* is his latest theatrical challenge which sees Crutchley perform with Geoffrey Hyland.

THANK YOU

A special thanks must be extended to Chantal d'Orzeth for making all of this possible as well as Jeremy Crutchley. Thank you both for taking the time to visit Grahamstown to present this honour on one of students.

IMPETHUKO!

Directed by Themba Mchunu

Site Work: Rhodes Theatre Foyer

Through the Nguni lens we look at how far our Nguni cultures and religion have changed and evolved over the centuries. Different influences have swayed these two humanistic ways of life into different directions, and today we embrace what begun and intended to serve the Nguni's of yesteryears in one way and today has undergone metamorphosis to suit the people in existence today.

Impethuko! looks at the dilutions and influences that other cultures and religions have played it transforming the Nguni culture and religion to what it is today. The change has led to an inevitable growth and adaptation and as such our definition of self and the perceptions of one another from an individual level is different.

Through all these influences our cultures have kept true to their primary attribute that is common to all, that is; being dynamic.

The entire cast portrays a single character, detailing every facet of life. In a state of confusion while wondering if he is losing what his forefathers taught him as being a true Nguni, our character flounders between multiple religions' cultures and identities until finally we are left celebrating his multiplicity. *Impethuko* aims to celebrate all these additions and subtractions to our way of life; because celebration is in our gene code.

CAST

Andile Jaha
Desmonia Botha
Manezi Welcome Nkayi
Zola Mqwebedu
Portia Athule Memani
Sinesipho Skoti
Mathews Montyi
Zwelinzima Somyali
Elihle Yini
Thembelani Leon Budaza
Ayanda Nondlwana
Linda Saki
Xolela Fatyi

THANK YOU

A special thank you to my key and relevant supervisor Alex "Boss" Sutherland, Andrew "Profisorr" Buckland, Janet "MamaJ" Buckland, Jacques "Chief" de Cock, Uncle Willie Coombs and Mr. Haxton. And a big thank you to the cast Ubom! Obutsha and Ubom Headquarters: Sifiso, Sonwabo and Nosi for everything!

uSizo

Directed by Jess Harrison

Devised by Jess Harrison & the Cast

Rhodes Main Theatre

I vividly remember Doris, a quiet, gentle isiZulu woman, who was hired as a domestic worker by my mother some 28 years ago while my mother was pregnant with me. When I was born, my then newly divorced mother left me in the care of umam'Doris while she worked two jobs. There are photographs of me strapped to her back with a blanket, while she hung up washing and swept the floors of our house. She was obese and moved with colossal effort. Later I discovered this was due to her having type 1 diabetes, which went undiagnosed for many years, and which eventually led to her death in 1995. Even though she had 4 children of her own, she lived on my parents' property and looked after my younger sister and I, and all her children except one lived on a farm in Impendle in the midlands of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Her youngest son, Jerome, was raised alongside my sister and I. And even though we played together daily, the strangeness of his retreat into his families one room *khaya* every night, jarred with the opulence of the large house my family lived in, was always felt. The inception for the devising of *uSizo* was an attempt to rectify the complex and unresolved nature of my relationship with umam'Doris, which led me to an interest in the wider subject of domestic workers in South Africa, and the socio-political conditions that inform their lives. Through interviews conducted with women in and around Grahamstown, and in collaboration with the cast and their own personal stories, we have created a piece which attempts a glimpse into the highly compound and multifarious situations of maid and madame, the nannying of employers children, and the politicians who claim to speak for these workers.

CAST

Doris: Pumelela Nqelenga

Gill: Candace Gawler

Mildred: Fezi Mthonti

Sizwe Mtwalo: Themba Mchunu

CHORUS

Amy Nicol

Dumisa Lengwati

Bongeka Masango

Akhona Namba

Yolisa Nyoka

Size Ntlabezo

Nica Cornell

Roberto Queiroz

Stage Manager: Maipelo "Maps" Gabang

Assistant Stage Manager: Adriana de Kock

Lighting Operator and Design: Alexander Farmer

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the following people. Push, my star and collaborator-in-chief. Dr Croc for saving the show. Candle and Alex for the love. The cast. Hannah Lax, Madele Vermaak, Sara Slabbert, Jaques de Kok, Jade Manicom and Robert Haxton. My supervisors Ms. Alex Sutherland and Professor Andrew Buckland. And most special thanks to these women for sharing their stories: Doris Bonani Taylor, Margaret Khumalo, mam'Lulama, mam'Zoliswa and the others who wished to remain anonymous- your resilience and grace has inspired us all.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Jacques de Kock
Assistant Production Manager	Matshawandile Kesheni
Finance & Administration	Robert Haxton
Set Construction	Willie Coombs
Costume Manager & Supervisor	Sara Slabbert
FOH Manager	Maude Sandham

DRAMA DEPT & THEATRE COMPLEX

Production Manager	Jacques de Kock
Theatre Administrator	Robert Haxton
Chief Technical Officer	Oliver Cartwright
Head of Wardrobe	Rita Westbrook
Design & Technical Supervisor	Roux Englebrecht
Secretary	Vusiwe Mnyobe
Workshop Manager	Willie Coombs
Stage Hand	Welcome Mqgwanci
Resident Photographer	Cat Pennels

THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Tim Huisamen
HOD Drama	Professor Andrew Buckland
HOD English	Professor Dirk Klopper
HOD Music	Professor Mark Duby
HOD School of Languages	Professor Russell Kaschula
Theatre Director	Ms Heike Gehring
Theatre Administrator	Mr Robert Haxton
Production Manager	Mr Jacques de Kock
Senate	Dr Anton Krueger
Senate	Professor George Euvrard
Finance	Mr Mike Oliver
Estates	Mr Cromwell Dyala