Contemporary Plays by African Women brought to the stage
A week of performances | readings | conversations | workshops
25th to 31st March 2019
Theatre Arts Admin Collective, Methodist Church Hall, cnr Milton Road and Wesley Street, Observatory

PROGRAMME

Tickets can be bought as a package for the week at R120 giving you access to all performances, readings and workshops. Alternatively, individual tickets can be bought at R50/performance. Bookings for the package must be made on artsadmin@mweb.co.za.

All performances are followed by post show conversations.

Workshops on the 30th and 31st March from 10am – 1pm are for women playwrights and theatre makers only.

Books for Sale: Copies of Contemporary Plays by African Women will be on sale for R630. A variety of different plays by South African women published by Junkets Press and Modjaji Books will also be on sale. The average price of these scripts is between R100 – R190.

MONDAY 25TH MARCH AT 7PM

Niqabi Ninja by Sara Shaarawi (Egypt)
a staged reading directed by Megan Furniss with Biana Flanders and Loren Loubser
Sara Shaarawi’s Niqabi Ninja addresses Egyptian women’s sense of shame regarding their bodies. This play fantasises about how the protagonist’s sense of agency evolves through a comic superhero role model, from fearful defence to defiant offence.
Suitable for teenagers 14+

A post show conversation on gender education in schools and how PanAfrican plays can become a road map for the conversation will be chaired by Marie Sachet

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH AT 7PM

Not That Woman by Tosin Jobi-Tume (Nigeria)
a staged reading by AFDA final year students directed by Thembela Madliki
Tosin Jobi-Tume’s Not That Woman considers the role of women in abuse, female solidarity and agency from a Nigerian perspective.

Board – Caroline Calburn, Vanessa Doble, Khayelihle Dom Gumede, Gilly Hemphill, Tracey Saunders
Wednesday 27th March at 7pm

I Want to Fly by Thembelihle Moyo (Zimbabwe)
A reading directed by Tshegofatsa Mabutla
Thembelihle Moyo’s I Want to Fly (Zimbabwe) tells the story of an African girl who wants to be a pilot. It looks at how patriarchal society can limit female aspirations and shapes the thinking of men regarding lobola (bride price), how women are viewed as domestic or sexual commodities, why women endure abusive men, and the role society at large plays in these issues.

Thursday 28th March at 7pm | Friday 29th March at 2pm and 7pm

Silent Voices by Adong Judith (Uganda)
a performance by City Varsity final year students directed by Nwabisa Plaatjie
Adong Judith’s memory play, Silent Voices, is based on interviews she conducted with the LRA Rebel Victims of Northern Uganda and how this conflict continues to affect Ugandans in the present.

Post show conversation will take place after the 7pm performance on the 28th and the 2pm performance on the 29th.

The 7pm performance on Friday 29th March will be followed by the formal launch of Contemporary Plays by African Women.

Saturday 30th March at 2pm

Bonganyi by Sophia Mempuh-Kwachuh (Cameroon)
a staged reading directed by Raezeen Wentworth
Sophia Mempuh Kwachuh’s Bonganyi draws on an old Cameroonian myth to suggest how the history of slavery continues to affect perceptions of women in their societies today. This play goes beyond the ghosts that haunt Mbuzeni, as it is told by a ghost at her funeral, on the eve of a dance competition she had hoped to win to free herself and her family from slavery, and thus achieve full personhood.

Post show conversation will take place.

Saturday 30th March at 7pm

Unsettled by JC Niala (Kenya)
a reading by UCT students directed by Lesego Chauke
JC Niala’s Unsettled explores gender violence across races, post-colonial issues and relationships between black and white Kenyans living in and out of the country.

A post show conversation will take place.

Exhibition

Mbuzeni by Koleka Putuma (South Africa) will take the form of a photographic exhibition of the production and its history and will be open all week. A conversation with Koleka will take place on Saturday 30th March at 4.30pm.