

CAPE TOWN
JUNE - JULY 2010

THE
FUGARD
THEATRE · CAPE TOWN

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AESOP'S FABLES

JUNE - JULY 2010

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WORDSEARCH



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COLOUR IN THE HARE



SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES



ERIC ABRAHAM – PRODUCER



Eric Abraham is a film, television and theatre producer, best known for producing the Academy Award-winning film *Kolya* (Best Foreign Language Film, 1996). A South African-born former foreign correspondent and anti-apartheid activist, banned and house-arrested in 1976 and exiled for sixteen years, he became a producer of BBC TV's *Panorama* before going on to form his own production company, Portobello.

He produced many acclaimed television dramas including John le Carré's *A Murder Of Quality* and the BBC TV crime series *Dalziel & Pascoe*. He produced a number of films including Roald Dahl's *Danny The Champion Of The World*, Jan Sverák's *Dark Blue World, Empties* and *Kooky*, Tim Roth's *The War Zone*, Jez Butterworth's *Mojo* and *Birthday Girl*, Jiri Menzel's *The Life And Extraordinary Adventures Of Private Ivan Chonkin* and *Quiet Chaos* starring Nanni Moretti.

With his wife, publisher and philanthropist Sigrid Rausing, Eric Abraham co-founded Portobello Books in 2005, and later that year they acquired the highly regarded literary journal *Granta* and *Granta Books*.

As a theatre producer, his credits include Hugh Whitmore's adaptation of Pirandello's *As You Desire Me*, starring Bob Hoskins and Kristin Scott-Thomas; Christopher Hampton's stage version of Sandor Marai's *Embers* directed by Michael Blakemore, which marked Jeremy Irons' return to the stage after twenty years; and Polly Stenham's multi-award winning *That Face*. He has commissioned new plays from, amongst others, Nicholas Wright, Hugh Whitmore, Frank McGuinness and Rebecca Lenkiewicz.

In 2006 he set up Isango Portobello, a new collaboration with award-winning director Mark Dornford-May. Their first productions together were *A Christmas Carol – Ikrimas Kherol* and *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*. They premiered in Cape Town and in London to major acclaim.

Eric Abraham is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), and the European and Czech Film Academies.

THE STORY SO FAR



Over thirty five years ago, as a Cape Town-born foreign correspondent, I helped give voices within the disenfranchised black majority an opportunity to be heard abroad. Now, as a film and theatre producer, I would like to do the same for some of this country's extraordinary creative talent.

Isango Portobello and The Fugard Theatre had their genesis in Cape Town in early 2006 when actress Janet Suzman arranged for me to have dinner with the British, but South African-based, director Mark Dornford-May.

The notion of a Cape Town-based company of black South African actors, a kind of embryonic Black South African National Theatre, was floated. Since I have always believed in the power of theatre to transform people's lives and provide narratives of inspiration and awareness I agreed to underwrite the development of a new company, Isango Portobello, and produce its productions in South Africa and abroad.

We decided to workshop a few universal classics so that we could perform two in repertory. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* were decided on and the productions were rapturously received at Cape Town's Baxter Theatre and London's Young Vic.

In February 2008 *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo* transferred to the Duke of York's theatre for an acclaimed West End season and won the Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival (2008). The Company then embarked on a world tour of the production which included performances in Dublin, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and France, where it played at the iconic Chatelet theatre.

The trajectory of the Company has been extraordinary and inspiring. From Khayelitsha to the world! *The Magic Flute* also played to packed houses at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, where we made the entire run free to acknowledge the fact that most South Africans are extremely poor.

Last year, Minister Trevor Manuel accepted our invitation to be the Company's Patron and we returned to London's West End with *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, again achieving considerable critical acclaim.

I felt that the time had come for the Company to have a permanent rehearsal and performance space in Cape Town. District Six's Sacks Futeran Building seemed the perfect venue within which to create a purpose-built theatre and rehearsal room. I decided to underwrite the undertaking myself. There was never any doubt in my mind as to what we should call it. South African drama has only one 'man of magnitude' – Athol Fugard. He not only consented but also wrote a new and intensely powerful play, *The Train Driver*, which he directed for our opening season.

Work on The Fugard began in August 2009 and the theatre was handed over six months later. We are now delighted to present *Aesop's Fables*, the first worldwide premiere that Isango Portobello have performed at The Fugard Theatre.

The future success of the Company and this Theatre depends on the people of Cape Town and South Africa opening their minds, hearts and pockets. Let's hope they will have a long and exciting history.

Eric Abraham, founding producer of the Isango Portobello Company and The Fugard Theatre

AESOP'S FABLES



Photo: Timmy Henny

Aesop's Fables have survived and been passed down from generation to generation for over two thousand years. They survive because of their humanity and intrinsic morality.

What is remarkable is that Aesop was not free born but a slave, and yet he managed to remain open and aware of the world around him. In the tales the animal kingdom mirrors the human world both in its absurdity and complexity.

Peter Terson's wonderful version draws out both the humour and strong humanity of the stories. Aesop's journey for freedom becomes a series of 'chain breaking' episodes as he learns from the animals. Although originally from a culture and place very far from South Africa the fables speak to us all – we should listen!

ISANGO PORTOBELLO AND THE FUGARD THEATRE



Patron	Minister Trevor Manuel
Founding Producer	Eric Abraham
Artistic Director	Mark Dornford-May
Executive Director	Mannie Manim
General Manager	Georgina Rae
Production Associate	Hlumela Matika
Press Representation	The Famous Idea Trading Company
Artwork & Design	Signature Design
Accountants	Stephen & Vanessa Sacks
Legal & Financial Executive	Christian Husum
Production & Development Assistants	Ben Coren & Kristin Irving
Theatre Manager	Mark Wilson
Production Manager	John Page
Front of House Manager	Iris Bolton
Box Office Manager	Ingrid Stemmert
Building Care Team	Lupho Mjayezi
	Gloria Mkumbuzi
	Nokulunga Ndidi
	Amos Lwaiphi Skoko
Assistant Duty Managers	Thandiwe Magqaza
	Tabisa Mfikili
Bar Staff	Ndzuzo Manona
	Thembinkosi Masimini
	Thabisa Vena
	Wandile Congani
Ushers	Yolanda Cikozani
	Thabisa Makana
	Ziyanda Matiwane
	Given Mkrola
	Yolanda Mlondleni
	Vuyokazi Charity Mosielang
	Nozuko Mpondo
	Adele Thembisa Sanda
	Malibongwe Tabayi
	Akona Tshetsha

Visit www.thefugard.com to join the Friends of the Fugard and keep up-to-date with all our news!



THAMSANQA NTONINJI - Cock
Joined Isango 2008



SONWABO NTSHATA - Frog
Joined Isango 2007



LUVO RASEMENI - Frog
Joined Isango 2007



POSELETSO SEJOSINGOE - Hare
Joined Isango 2007



PORTIA SHWANA - Oracle
Joined Isango 2009



NOLUTHANDO SIGONYA - Snail
Joined Isango 2009



NOLUTHADO SISHUBA - Ant
Joined Isango 2009



SIFUNDO SOJI - Frog
Joined Isango 2008



LIZO LESLEY TSHAKA - Frog
Joined Isango 2008

Isango Portobello productions:

The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo
(South Africa, UK, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, France, Holland)

A Christmas Carol – Ikrismas Kherol
(South Africa, UK)

The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso
(South Africa, UK, USA, Ireland, Turkey, Australia)

THE CREATIVE TEAM



PETER TERSON Author

Peter Terson is a British playwright, born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Since the 1960s, Peter has written more than 50 stage plays and over 15 radio and television plays. He was writer-in-residence at The Victoria Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from 1966 where many of his stage plays, including *Aesop's Fables*, premiered. He has written a number of plays for the National Youth Theatre, including *Zigger Zaggar*, *The Apprentices* and *Fuzz*. His 1984 production, *Strippers*, successfully transferred to London's West End.

Other plays include *The Night John; But Fred, Freud is Dead; Good Lads at Heart; Mooney and his Caravans; The Mighty Reservoir* and *A Night to Make the Angels Weep*.

Peter has been awarded John Whiting and the Writers Guild of Great Britain Awards.

MARK DORNFORD-MAY Director

Mark has worked in South Africa since 2000 and was co-founder of Isango Portobello in 2006.

Before Isango Portobello he was founding director of the company Dimpho Di Kopane and directed all their stage productions and films. His productions toured the world and his first feature film *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha* won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival.

As Director of Isango Portobello, Mark has directed all of their stage productions. The first productions, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo* and *A Christmas Carol – Ikrismas Kherol*, won the Whatsonstage Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Off-West End Production. *The Magic Flute* has since toured the world and won numerous awards including the 2008 Olivier Awards for Best Musical Revival & the Globes de Cristal for Best Opera in Paris.

From July 2009 to February 2010, Mark oversaw the building of the Fugard Theatre, now home to Isango Portobello. *The Magic Flute* and *The Mysteries* formed the opening season of the Fugard Theatre, which officially opened on 12th February 2010.

In March 2007, following a traditional ceremony, he was officially included in the Sotho Clan.



PAULINE MALEFANE
Music Director and Performer

Pauline is co-founder and co-Music Director of Isango Portobello.

Prior to Isango Portobello she worked with the Lyric Theatre Company Dimpho Di Kopane where she saw world-wide success playing the role of Carmen, both on stage and in the Golden Bear-winning feature film *U-Carmen eKhayelithsa* for which she won a Golden Thumb from Roger Ebert. She was awarded the Best Actress Award at the South African Film & Television Awards for the film *Son of Man*.

For Isango Portobello, as well as being Music Director, she has played the roles of Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo*, God and Jesus in *The Mysteries - Yiimimangaliso* and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol - Ikrismas Kherol*. *The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo* and *Christmas Carol - Ikrismas Kherol* won the Whatsonstage Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Off-West End Production. *The Magic Flute* has since toured the world and won numerous awards including an Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival & the Globes de Cristal for Best Opera in Paris. *The Magic Flute* and *The Mysteries* formed the opening season of the Fugard Theatre.



MANDISI DYANTYIS
Music Director and Performer

Mandisi has been co-Music Director for all Isango Portobello productions.

The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo and *A Christmas Carol* won the Whatsonstage Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Off-West End Production. *The Magic Flute* has since toured the world and won numerous awards including the 2008 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival & the Globes de Cristal for Best Opera in Paris. *The Magic Flute* and *The Mysteries* formed the opening season of the Fugard Theatre.



NOLUTHANDO MILI - Mama Stork
Joined Isango 2009



NOBULUMKO MNGXEKEZA - Dove
Joined Isango 2008



MHLEKAZI ANDY MOSIEA - Aesop
Joined Isango 2007



LUTHANDO MTHI - Deer
Joined Isango 2007



ZOLINA NGEJANE - Hermes
Joined Isango 2008



TEMBISA MLANJENI - Ant
Joined Isango 2006



XOLANI MOMO - Woodpecker
Joined Isango 2007



ZOLEKA MPOTSHA - Ant
Joined Isango 2009



ASANDA NDLWANA - Oracle
Joined Isango 2007



MLUNGISELELI NQADINI - Wolf
Joined Isango 2008

COMPANY IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



MALUNGISA BALINTULO - Frog
Joined Isango 2007



NOLUTHANDO BOQWANA - Tortoise
Joined Isango 2006



ZAMILE GANTANA - Ass
Joined Isango 2006



UNATHI HABE - Snail
Joined Isango 2008



BULELANI MADONDILE - Frog
Joined Isango 2009



BONGIVE MAPASSA - Ant
Joined Isango 2007



SIMPHIWE MAYEKI - Escallywags
Joined Isango 2006



ZANELE MBATHA - Swift
Joined Isango 2006



LUNGELWA MDEKAZI - Hen
Joined Isango 2007



THOZAMO MDLIVA - Oracle
Joined Isango 2006

LUNGELO NGAMLANA Choreographer & Assistant Director

Lungelo has been the Choreographer for all Isango Portobello productions. Before joining the company he worked as teacher, performer and choreographer with many dance and theatre groups, both at home in South Africa and internationally. With Isango Portobello, he has worked with the company on *The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol - Ikrismas Kherol*, *The Mysteries - Yiimimangaliso* and now Aesop's Fables. *The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo* and *A Christmas Carol - Ikrismas Kherol* won the Whatsonstage Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Off-West End Production. *The Magic Flute* has since toured the world and won numerous awards including an Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival & the Globes de Cristal for Best Opera in Paris. *The Magic Flute* and *The Mysteries* formed the opening season of the Fugard Theatre.

AJA MARNEWECK Co-Designer

Aja has previously worked with Isango Portobello on *The Mysteries - Yiimimangaliso* where she headed up the development and design of the puppets at the Baxter Theatre and The Garrick Theatre, London.

Aja is a visual performance artist and director. She is director of The Paper Body Collective whose work focuses primarily on the performance of gender and 'difference' through the mediums of puppetry, multimedia and movement - she has performed throughout the world with the company. In 2005-2009 she was co-director of UMIMA SA and Out the Box - the International Festival of Puppetry & Visual Performance. She is currently developing her latest production, *Plot 99*, and is completing her Phd by practice in the Drama Department of the University of Cape Town.

LEOPOLD SENEKAL Designer

Leopold received his BDram Hons from the University of Stellenbosch. He worked as a freelance designer in South Africa before becoming resident designer at the Robert Ludlum Theatre, St. Benedicts Performing Arts College, Derbyshire, UK. While in UK he designed a number of productions including *The Beggar's Opera*, *The Maids*, *Sweeny Todd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Anne Frank*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cinderella* and the Edinburgh Festival production of *ROAD*. In 2008 he moved back to South Africa, launching his own company - Good Call Production Design House. Recent designs include *Under the Fig Tree*, *Second Time Round*, *Kap Aan*, *Disco Nights*, *New Boy* and the set and costume design for Rossini's *Viaggio a Reims*. Future projects include Cape Town Opera/UCT's collaboration of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and *Dessert Rose* for the Baxter Theatre.

MANNIE MANIM Lighting Designer

Mannie became Executive Director of The Fugard Theatre on January 2nd 2010.

Mannie's career has included the founding of The Market Theatre in Johannesburg and 10 years as CEO of the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town. As lighting designer, Mannie has lit productions across South Africa and the world, garnering numerous awards for his designs.

At The Fugard he lit the opening season of *The Magic Flute - Impempe Yomlingo*, *The Mysteries - Yiimimangaliso* and Athol Fugard's *The Train Driver*.

With Isango Portobello he has also lit *The Magic Flute* and *A Christmas Carol* at the Baxter Theatre and The Young Vic, London. Also *The Mysteries* at The Garrick Theatre and *The Magic Flute* at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris.

Eric Abraham presents
an Isango Portobello production
at The Fugard Theatre

AESOP'S FABLES

By Peter Terson

Adapted & Directed by
Music Directors

Mark Dornford-May
Pauline Malefane
Mandisi Dyantyis
Lungelo Ngamlana
Leopold Senekal
Aja Marneweck
Mannie Manim
Lesley Nott Manim

Choreographer & Assistant Director
Designer
Co-Designer
Lighting Designer
Voice Coach & Text Interpretation

Production Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Wesley France
Zoleka Chithutywala
Queen Jacob
Patience Jakavu
Valencia Mgugunyeka

Costume Co-ordinator
Wardrobe Mistress
Wardrobe Assistant
Costume Makers

Mareleen Smit
Shauner Moletsane
Malusi Malefane
Elrina Marais
Anel Joubert
Vionne Schmidt
Kaylee Abrahamse
Catherine Channing

Costume Buyer

Lighting Operator
Stage Technician
Electrician
Lighting Programmer

Clynton Sibusiso
Sandile Mgugunyeka
Moegamat Cloete
Peter Samuelsson

Props Assistants

Marsi van de Heuvel
Jade Waller

Set Construction

Good Call Production Design House
Fred Wall at Abelia Metal
Arranged by Shelflife
Falko
Toe
Seth
Unik

Graffiti Artwork
Graffiti Artists

CAST



Escallywags	Simphiwe Mayeki
Aesop	Mhlelazi Andy Mosiea
Oracle	Thozamo Mdliva
Oracle	Asanda Ndlwana
Oracle	Portia Shwana
Hermes	Zolina Ngejane
Ant	Zoleka Mpotsha
Ant	Bongiwe Mapassa
Ant	Tembisa Mlanjeni
Ant	Noluthando Domza Sishuba
Tortoise	Noluthando Boqwana
Frog	Luvo Rasemeni
Frog	Bulelani Madondile
Cock	Thamsanqa Ntoninji
Goat	Lizo Lesly Tshaka
Frog	Sifundo Soji
Snail	Noluthando Sigonya
Snail	Unathi Habe
Hare	Poseletso Sejosingoe
Dove	Nobulumko Mngxekeza
Deer	Luthando Mthi
Frog	Malungisa Balintulo
Frog	Sonwabo Ntshata
Mama Stork	Noluthando Mili
Wolf	Mlungiseleli Nqadini
Swift	Zanele Mbatha
Ass	Zamile Gantana
Hen	Lungelwa Mdekazi
Woodpecker	Mandisi Dyantyis
Woodpecker	Pauline Malefane
Woodpecker	Xolani Momo