



HUMAN4HUMAN

INFORMATION PACKAGE

When you tell a story of a genuine human experience truthfully, all that is human will respond to it, somehow – Keorapetse Kgositsile, South African Poet Laureate

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ABOUT HUMAN4HUMAN

Inspired by South African Poet Laureate Professor Keorapetse Kgositsile's *sentiment: When you tell a story of a genuine human experience, truthfully, all that is human will respond to it, somehow*; four young South African women from different backgrounds journey into a conversation about legacy, sisterhood, country and self against a post '94 backdrop using powerful imagery, spoken word, music and bones.

Human4Human is performed in English and isiXhosa, blending stories of rural and urban worlds together through poetry, chanting, folk songs and contemporary original compositions by Hannah Forster. A strong sense of interconnectedness is created through a multi-sensory experience. The use of candles, impepho, bones, strong lighting and sharp sounds allows the audience to do more than merely observe the stories being told; they are able to become a part of the journey.

This now theatrical conversation began as a poetry and music ensemble presented at the Afrikan Freedom Station, with poets Vangi Gantsho, Sarah Godsell and Mthunzikazi Mbungwana alongside singer/song-writer, Hannah Forster. These four women set out to share their own genuine human stories with an intimate audience, hoping to inspire (if only) their immediate communities to look beyond age, gender, race; and just connect with each other as human beings.

The ensemble has since workshopped the conversation into a theatre piece, under the masterful guidance of director-dramaturge, Monageng "Vice" Motshabi and the generous support of Sibongile Bax Dale Incubation Centre's Pamela Nomvete.

THE INTENTION

BEHIND

HUMAN4HUMAN

Human4Human aims to tell stories of genuine human experiences, truthfully, as the first step in a worldwide movement that will include workshops and multi-genre discussions so as to allow different communities to share their own stories.

Without necessarily liking one another, the first step towards a more humane society is awarding one another the respect of *human*.

ABOUT THE TEAM BEHIND HUMAN4HUMAN

Cast (all poems and music performed in *Human4Human* are the original work of the cast members)

Vangi Gantsho

Vangi is the brainchild behind *Human4Human* and has performed at poetry festivals such as Poetry Africa (2014), Arts Alive (2013), Melville Street Poetry Festival (2013) and the Word n Sound Spoken Freedom Festival (2014). She has also performed at the Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture (2012) and headlined the State Theatre Night of the Poets (a series she also produced in 2013-2014). She has been a part of the poetry plays *I Miss you Today* (2010) and *Secrets with the Moon* (2013); as well as poetry and music conversation called *Katz Cum Out to Play* (a show she co-produced in 2009). Vangi's work has been published in various literary publications, including *Sabel* (UK, 2010), *Wits Press* (2011), *Baobab* (2013) and *Botsotso* (2014).

Sarah Godsell

Sarah has performed at the Grahamstown Arts Festival (2009), *Kats Cum out to Play* (2009), Jozi House of Poetry, Sanaa Africa (2013), 1000 People Boogy (2013) and Capital Letters Poetry Marathon (2014). She has been featured in SA FM's Poetry in the Air in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and published in *Marikana: A Moment in Time* (Geko 2013). Sarah assisted to co-ordinate and performed in the poetry plays: *I Miss you Today* (2010) and *Secrets with the Moon* (2013).

Mthunzikazi Mbungwana

Mthunzikazi has headlined State Theatre's Night of the Poets (2013) and has performed at One Billion Rising – Constitutional Hill (2013), Times Live Poetry Showcase, Mo Faya Poetry Movement, Jozi House of Poetry, South African Literary Awards (2011) and the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute International Women's Day Celebration (2012). Her work has been published in publications *Baobab* (2013) and *Home is where the mic is* (Botsotso, 2014). She has appeared on *The Big Debate*, *Shift* and was recently profiled in the *Sunday World's: Holla Mzansi*.

Hannah Foster

Hannah has been performing her music all around the country for the last 4 years at venues such as Splashy Fen Festival, Nikkis Oasis, State Theatre, FNB Stadium and Vilakazi Restaurant. She has shared stages with many local music icons such as Lira, Judith Sepuma and Jesse Clegg. Hannah has recently released her debut EP called "*Ode TO Time*" which is available on iTunes. She currently works as a professional vocalist and vocal coach in Johannesburg.

Production

Direction and Dramaturgy

Monageng “Vice” Motshabi

Since studying at the Market Theatre Lab in 2002, Monageng has written, the award-winning play, *Echoes* (**Naledi Award** 2006), and worked as the dramaturge on *Next Sunday* (**Zwakala Festival** winner 2011) and *The Playroom* (**Zwakala Festival** winner 2013).

He has also written plays such as: *O bone eng?* (Performed at the Windybrow Theatre’s **Writers on Stage Festival**), *Chasing Laughter* (Mmabana Mafikeng March 2014), *Book of Rebellations* (Soweto Theatre 2014) and *The Dead Politician* (which he co-wrote and directed for the **Macufe Festival** 2008). Motshabi directed Omphile Molusi’s *The Promised Land of Balatlatladi* (The Kennedy Center’s **New Visions New Voices**), *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* (Windybrow Theatre 2010, Market Theatre 2011 and Pacofs 2012), as well as *Modus Vivendi* by Pepi Kambule (in which he worked as both dramaturge and director, Windybrow 2010).

As a practitioner, facilitator and mentor, Motshabi has worked with the Department of Arts and Culture Gauteng Theatre Practitioners’ Ishashalazi, Twist Theatre Projects in KZN, Savannah Trust in Harare (**Harare International Festival of Arts** 2013) and the Goethe Institute’s X-Homes Project (which he co-directed and facilitated alongside Paul Grootboom).

SNIPPETS FROM HUMAN4HUMAN

quilted

we are stories

stitched with scars and love

draped into breaths of fabric

coloured. patched. hemmed.

cloths of moments

quilted into human

Hold

This country of blood
Where if I spit
Your blood comes out my mouth
This blood that not even the mountains can hold
This country made of singing

Abantwana

Ababuyanga abantwana,
namhl' ilanga litshone emini,
inja nganye izikhotha amanxeba

Ababuyanga abantwana,
Akukho mntu uyinokozayo,
Yindaba yakwamkhozi

Abafazi bayagixa emva kocango
Amadoda ayangqokuleka enkudleni
Imandlalwana yabo ilalelwe livukazi,
phaya ngasegoqweni

Abatshakazi bawuphekile,bawuphothula,
bawuphaka umqa kungoku nje,
ugcwele iintanda

Akabuyanga amadodana entabeni,

*You see in my culture women are not allowed to talk about these things,
It has been thirty nine days since my brother went up the mountain.*

(Translation by Thmbelani Ngenelwa)

The sun sets at noon
Dogs lift their legs and lick their wounds
The Children have not returned from the mountain.

Fathers gather around shaking heads
No one shall say a word,
But the little bundles of dirtied blankets say it all
A dried blood stain says a thousand painful words

The maidens have prepared a feast
Only to throw the calabashes to dogs and pigs
There will be no feast and there will be no funeral
There will be no coming-home celebratory ululations
But moans and sobs of grief as we silently mourn
The non-return of boys that were nearly men

Menfolk will not talk about it; mothers dare not mention their names
In hushed tones they give cold condolences
“It’s culture” they say, and look away

The children will not come back from the mountain
They lay in shallow graves, unmarked
We shall never see them, or their graves.

Rain

Listen to the recorded version on <https://m.soundcloud.com/hanbanan-foster>

My subjects are Africans because they are my people but my message, the idea I am trying to put across, has nothing to do with racialism – I am not interested in politics. My situations are human ones. That is all.

Dumile Feni

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in bringing *Human4Human* to an audience near you, or would like to contribute to the growth of this movement in any way, please contact:

Vangile Gantsho on +27 72 474 8120

Or email human4human.14@gmail.com



“Human4Human was an experience of exploration and sharing. Four women, poets and a musician, black and white, speaking English and isiXhosa, gave the audience a taste of their lives through sharing a range of emotions – shame, guilt, hope, pain, caring, fear, anger, daughters, mothers, sisterhood. By the end of the evening, I felt thoroughly alive, in harmony, connected and yes, more like that human each woman so exquisitely painted during the evening.”

Myesha Jenkins is an award-winning, American-South African poet and activist.