



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Mama, the storm is outside

Written and directed by Napo Masheane (see biography below)

Co-director: Micia de Wet

Set design: Spiro Schoeman

Mama The Storm Is Outside was inspired by different testimonies of young people in the Free State, who were asked to put down in their own voices 'a day in their lives'. Napo Masheane's monologue formed part of the four works that were performed by an all star-cast directed by Danny Boyle celebrating five years of *The Children's Monologues*. These performances were presented at The Royal Court Theatre in London last year, where Masheane's monologue was performed by Oscar nominated actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years A Slave*).

The overwhelming success of this venture inspired Masheane to write further monologues and narrative poems, exploring difficult subjects from a women's perspective. She brings together a series of works that look at family structures and dynamics, using everyday household items as metaphors. Often, the works engage with deep family narratives of generational curses, births, deaths and love. At times her poetic voice gives a twist to offer more political views about community outrage, the exploitation caused by outmoded culture and tradition, and about the nightmares that constantly surfaces from women's bodies. According to Prof Marié-Heleen Coetzee, Head of the Drama Department, Masheane's play explores the intersections of race, gender and class that limit the cultural legibility of women. Her play adds gender to the nationalist and racial revisions of South African histories.

The production combines elements of movement, story-telling, poetry, song, dramatic monologue to form a narrative and visual collage - presenting snapshots of experiences and understandings from multiple perspectives in multiple languages, to be considered simultaneously within the temporal limits of the production.

Masheane has directed *Hair & Comb* and *Streetlight with Lips* for the department in previous years. The department is proud to work with this talented artist once again.

Date: 16-20 May 2016

Venue: Masker Theatre

Price: R40 for Adults and R30 for students and learners

Bookings: immogen.visser@up.ac.za or 012-4202558. Payment at the door. Cards only.

Biography



Photograph courtesy of Napo Masheane. Photographer: Moketsie Moticoe.

Napo Masheane was a founding member of the *Feela Sistah Spoken Word Collective* and went on to become one of the nation's leading black women playwrights. With her roots sunk deep in community theatre, she moved to mainstream stages when she wrote, directed and produced plays such as *My Bum Is Genetic*, *Deal With It* and *Fat Black Women Sing*. She further organized women artists between USA and SA in a project called *Colours of the Diaspora* and broadened her interests by entering the Industrial Theatre world. In between internships, directing shows on cruise ships and study opportunities, she also completed two poetry collections, *Caves Speak in Metaphors* and *Fat Songs for my Girlfriends*. She won the inaugural *Mbokodo Award for Women* in the Theatre Category, the *Pan African Language Award* and recently a SAFTA (South African Film and Television Award). She has just completed her Master Degree in Creative Writing from Rhodes University. On the international circuit, one of her stage monologues was chosen to be performed by leading actor, Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years A Slave*). She recently became the first black woman to stage and direct a play *A New Song* mentored by Royal Court London, at the Market Theatre (John Kani main stage). The show travelled to the South African State Theatre and featured UP Drama alumni.