

DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



BY JOSIAS DOS MOLEELE

Definition: Webster's dictionary defines *Stereotypes* as a preconceived notion, especially about a group of people. Oxford dictionary describes it as a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

What happens when individuals are stereotyped due to their race, gender or religion?

Synopsis

What happens when individuals portray stereotypes from their own heritage? What happens when individuals switch from the chosen stereotype into new diverse stereotypes? A white farmer becomes a black DJ; a coloured female becomes a white male in an unconventional marriage of cultural diversity.

Format

The explorative piece will be about identifying problems of *connotation* or different ways in which signs convey meaning by stereotypes in a South African landscape.

Director's Note

When I was tasked with devising a new production for the 1st year students, I was excited to explore this formative talent. However I was cognisant of the fact that in the early stages of their careers, they need to work on embodying characters. I therefore followed Stanislavski's technique of building a character. Through this process we managed to identify stock characters otherwise known as stereotypes. As a director there was yet another observation I made, and that was the racial and gender divide amongst the cast. As a process of social cohesion and cultural diversity, I paired the actors and made them swap their characters. Through this process, we drew inspiration from the *performative* and the *semiotics*.

Style

We book-end the production with a "once upon a time..." however the piece is very episodic with pockets of various storylines.

Venue: Masker theatre

Dates: 29 – 31 October 2015

Time: 19:00

Price: R30 for adults, R20 for students and learners.

Tickets at the door. We regret that we do not take cash. Cards only.