2-10-2011

Walking next to our shoes...

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming
PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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isicathamiya

isicathamiya is a type of a cappella singing specific to South African Zulu culture. Isicathamiya choirs are always all male. The term derives from the Zulu verb meaning “walk softly” or “trample carefully.” As they blend their voices into harmonious tones, the performers also carry out movements on tiptoe in a particular choreographic style. The origins of isicathamiya go back to the early 20th century, when Zulu communities started to migrate into urban areas. For a long time, Zulu travelers were housed in hostels where they were not allowed to make any noise—hence the need to walk on tiptoe. Gospel singing from the churches gradually came to influence isicathamiya. The term derives from the Zulu verb meaning “walk softly” or “trample carefully.”

Swenkas

Swenkas is an instrumental style that features a strong rhythmic beat and energetic dance moves. It originated in the townships and hostels where Zulu people were forced to live during the apartheid era. The swenkas style is characterized by fast-paced music and lively dance routines, often performed by groups of young men who wear distinctive outfits and incorporate traditional Zulu attire into their performances. The term “swenka” can also refer to the traditional musical instrument that forms the foundation of this style, often played on tin cans or other makeshift instruments.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Robyn Orlin

Robyn Orlin, born in 1955 in Johannesburg, South Africa, studied at the London School of Contemporary Dance from 1975–1980. With the help of a fullbright Scholarship, she completed her bachelor’s degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1990 to 1993. Since then, she has been working consistently with her own pieces in South Africa.

Ann Masina

Ann Masina was born in 1978 at Witsbank, Mpumalanga, South Africa. She started singing with a church choir called South African Society in 1994 as a soloist in the choir. She has participated in numerous choir competitions, including the Old Mutual Traditional Choir Competition. In 1999 she became a choral trainee at Nkosi Malan Opera House as part of the Town Opera House, under Professor Angelo Gobbato, and performed in operas including Carmen and Aida. Masina took vocal training at the Pretoria Technikon Opera School. She is a co-founder of JOAT Opera, a self-supporting company that performs exclusively in various social and official events.

Phuphuma Love Minus

Phuphuma Love Minus is a flamboyant Afro-centric music ensemble specializing in isicathamiya and related genres. The group was formed in 2003 by Simon Ngubane in Johannesburg, South Africa. Phuphuma Love Minus originates from rural South Africa, Kwa Ngabayela-Umsinga village in KwaZulu Natal. This powerful ensemble was formed in 2002 by the late Khehaysheki Ngidi with an aim of teaching the important lessons of cultural identity and fostering the legacy of South African music. The group believed that the art of music could be an instrument of change, sustainable development, socioeconomic empowerment, and personal independence in the community of Umsinga and South Africa at large.

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Walking next to our shoes... intoxicated by strawberries and cream, we enter continents without knocking...

A Piece by Robyn Orlin

Co-produced by City Theatre & Dance Group, Festival Banlieues Bleues, Théâtre de Saint Denis, and the Goethe Institute, Johannesburg.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices.

PHUPHUMA LOVE MINUS
Amos Bhengu, Busani Majozi, Mlungiseleni Majozi, S’yabonga Majozi, Siyabonga Manyoni, Jabulani Mccum, Saziso Myelase, Mbuyiseni Myeza, Mboneleni Ngidi, Mqapheleni Ngidi

Costumes Birgit Nepp
Lighting Robyn Orlin, Denis Hutchinson
Video Design Philippe Lainé

Songs composed by Khethayipi Ngidi and Nhlanhla Mahlangu, with additional arrangements by Nhlanhla Mahlangu.

Co-produced by City Theatre & Dance Group, Festival Banlieues Bleues, Théâtre de Saint Denis, and the Goethe Institute, Johannesburg.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices.

Duration: 1 hour, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices.

The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

Office of Arts & Cultural Programming
Executive Director Jebediah Wheeler
Executive Producer Jill Dombrowski
Associate Producer Jessica Wasielski
Production Manager J. Ryan Graves
Cultural Engagement Director Carrie Urbanic

Fringe Manager Marilyn Fogarty
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Production Run Crew William Growney (Lighting Supervisor), Gina Chedin (Wardrobe Supervisor), Chris Santilli (Stage Crew)

Department of Theatre and Dance presents:
SWEET CHARITY
February 16–26, 2011
L. Howard Fox Theatre

John J. Call School of Music presents:
MSU WIND SYMPHONY AND BLOOMFIELD YOUTH BAND
February 22, 2011 • 7:30pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

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The National Endowment for the Arts

Funding provided by Conseil Général de Seine-Saint-Denis and the Goethe Institute

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February 10–20, 2011
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