

THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT
presents
INTOMBI 'NYAMA and THE NATIVES
in

'ipi zombi?'

written, designed and directed by Brett Bailey

SEE Stark African realism... a fully authentic township saga...
savage dancing... primitive ceremonies... schoolboys track
down vicious killer witches in wildest terrain... all from the
comfort of your theatre seat!

YOU MUST BELIEVE YOUR EYES... INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM!

"Theatre, like the plague, unravels conflicts, liberates powers, releases potentials, and if these and the powers are dark, this is not the fault of plague or of theatre, but of life." Antonin Artaud, 'Theatre and the Plague'.

KOKSTAD, Friday 30/9/95: twelve black school boys die in a kombi crash. Youths hold fifty of Bhongweni Township's women responsible...

"A LOAD OF KAFFIR BULLSHIT." - KOKSTAD FARMER.

An eleven year-old schoolgirl reports that her grandmother - a Mrs Magudu - is holding the mutilated souls of the boys in her cupboard, and zombie-fears erupt...

"YOU KNOW SOMETIMES, MORE ESPECIALLY IN THE EVENINGS, THE WITCHES SEND THEM, IF YOU WALK ALONE IN THE ROAD THE ZOMBIES WILL ATTACK YOU AND KILL YOU. EVERYBODY IS AFRAID." - BHONGWENI YOUTH LEADER.

Friday 13/10/95: first witch - Mrs Magudu - executed by mob...

"MY MOTHER WAS NOT A WITCH; I MEAN I NEVER SAW A SNAKE OR EVEN A BIRD INSIDE HER ROOM - THERE IS NO PROOF." - SON OF MRS MAGUDU.

Sunday 15/10/95: the mass funeral for the boys is aborted after youths claim the bodies have been replaced by 'witchmeat'; second witch - Mrs Giyose - executed; youth leaders arrested...

"PUPILS STATED THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW THE BURIAL TO TAKE PLACE 'UNTIL THE SOULS OF THE DEAD HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR BODIES.'" - KOKSTAD ADVERTISER.

The bodies are kept on ice for six weeks while sangomas try to locate witches, resurrect the boys, neutralize the witchcraft...

"I REMEMBER WAITING ALL DAY ON THE SPORTSFIELD FOR THE BOYS TO COME BACK, BUT THEY NEVER CAME." - MOTHER, KOKSTAD ADVERTISER.

Christians muster to fight a Satanic invasion...

"IF YOU LET THE DEVIL TAKE YOUR HAND YOU'LL NEVER GET TO HALLELUJAH LAND!" - DORIS DAY.

Wednesday 6/12/95: Attempted burial of boys goes awry when axe-wielding mob attacks corpses to extinguish the witchcraft...

" WHEN DARKNESS WELLS UP AROUND THE BLUEGUMS AND SPREADS INTO BHONGWENI'S STREETS, THE TONGUELESS ONES STILL HEAD SLOWLY TOWARDS THE TASKS OF THEIR CRUEL MISTRESSES..." - B.B., SL MAGAZINE.

"It is necessary to strain one's ears, bending down toward the muttering of the world, trying to perceive the many images that have never turned into poetry, so many phantasms that have never reached the colours of wakefulness." Michel Foucault, 'Madness and Civilization'.

THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT - which produced 'iMUMBO JUMBO' last year - plunges to the depths of the South African psyche to make theatre to blast us into the next millenium fuelled by the sparks of the colliding cultures of our Third World land. Rehearsing IPI ZOMBI? the company spent two weeks living with *sangomas* and African mystics in a sacred cave in the hills of the Free State to deeply imbibe the Spirit of Africa, to radiate it with our work. We hope it grips you...

In response to a *Mail and Guardian* article last year lamenting the lack of real cultural development in Rini Township - in spite of the Festival being held here - I approached the Standard Bank National Arts Festival about starting a township-based performance school to change that. The Standard Bank Foundation granted that wish, and **THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT HQ** began its full-time performer-training programme in February. Trainees have also set up drama groups in Rini schools, bringing cultural enrichment to over 120 children twice a week. We have performed at various festivals, and in the streets of the Eastern Cape, and in August are taking Xhosa and English versions of IPI ZOMBI? on an extensive and gruelling tour of urban and rural centres of the province, and up into KwaZulu-Natal.

BRETT BAILEY

THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT is

Andile Bonde

Luyanda Butana

Rhea Cakwebe

Bongani Diko

Ntomboxolo Donyeli

**Nomfundo Dubula
Vuyani Hoboshe
Silulami Lwana
Xola Mda
Thulani Mene
Lucy Nkole
Linda Tina
Boniwe Tyota
Anthony Yafele
and Abey Xakwe as Intombi 'Nyama**

**Production Manager: Barbara Mathers
Choreographer: Luyanda Butana
Music teacher: Geof Tracey
Dance teacher: Thandeka Budasa
Mime teacher: Bevan Cullinan
Yoga teacher: Kathy Holden**

**Special thanks to: all at the Festival Office. Andrew Tracey and all at ILAM.
Shannon Wright of Spiralus Acoustics for bongos. Christian Carver of AMI for
marimba.**

Photographs: Obie Oberholzer

**Funded by: Standard Bank South Africa; Sida; The Anglo American and De Beer's
Chairman's Fund.**

**For those who want the whole experience, and for those who don't have a
vehicle, the HEEBIE JEEBIE SHUTTLE will depart from the Albany History
Museum in Somerset Street at 18h30 to the Power Station, and will return
them after the show. Price: R2 one way.**

DATES TIMES etc.