

## E X H I B I T S A , B & C

*a series of human installations on imperialism in Africa and racism*

These three deeply moving Exhibits – researched and created by South African artist, Brett Bailey – gaze into the hidden Curiosity Cabinets of European racism. They focus on the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, when Europe's powers scrambled for African colonies, and her scientists formulated the pseudo-scientific racial theories that continue to warp perceptions with horrific consequences.

Drawing on the 'human zoos' and ethnographic displays so popular during this period, each of these site-specific Exhibits places Africans and African asylum seekers in display cases, unpacking the histories, and turning the gaze back on Europeans.



**EXHIBIT A: Deutsch-Südwestafrika** (Vienna Festival and Teaterformen Festival, 2010; Helsinki, 2011) draws together several threads concerning European racism towards Africans from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. It opens the wounds of ethnographic exhibitions, social Darwinism, and the increasingly xenophobic policies of the EU. Made for festivals in Austria and Germany, it focuses on the imperial moment in German South West Africa (Namibia), and the atrocities committed by German colonial forces.

**EXHIBIT B: paradis perdu** (Kunstenfestivaldesarts, 2012), made for Belgium and France (for presentation in 2012/13), widens the lens to take in both the Belgian Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo ('Congo Brazzaville'). Much the same brutal scenario of exploitation of resources (ivory, rubber and timber) and people occurred in both these neighbouring Congo territories during the imperial period that followed the Scramble for Africa.

**EXHIBIT C:** (2014) will include territories colonised by the British Empire and Portugal, and look at the policies towards immigrants in these countries.

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