**C.V. & BIO of Brett Bailey, director of THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT**

**BIO – BRETT BAILEY**

Brett Bailey is a South African playwright, designer, director, installation artist, and the artistic director of the performance company THIRD WORLD BUNFIGHT.

His iconoclastic theatrical works, which interrogate the dynamics of the post-colonial world, include the musical dramas BIG DADA, IPI ZOMBI?, iMUMBO JUMBO, ORFEUS and SAMSON; a radical reworking of Verdi’s opera MACBETH; and the performance installations BLOOD DIAMONDS: TERMINAL, EXHIBIT A, EXHIBIT B, and SANCTUARY.

Many of his works have played across Europe, Australia and Africa, and in the USA, Latin America and Asia, and have won several awards, including a gold medal for design at the Prague Quadrennial (2007).

He has a BA in drama and English from the University of Cape Town, and an M.A. in performance studies from Das Arts (now DAS Theatre), Amsterdam (2004).

He directed the opening show at the World Summit on Arts and Culture in Johannesburg (2009), and from 2006-2011 the opening shows at the Harare International Festival of the Arts. From 2008-2011 he was curator of South Africa’s only public arts festival, ‘Infecting the City’, in Cape Town. He was the chairperson of the Curatorial Committee of South Africa’s National Arts Festival from 2016-2020.

In 2014 he wrote the International Theatre Institute’s World Theatre Day message for UNESCO. He headed the jury of the Prague Quadrennial (2011); was a juror on the International Theatre Institute’s Music Theatre Now competition (2012/13), and the chairperson of the jury of the same competition in 2016/16; and a juror of the Tokyo Festival’s World Theatre Competition in 2019.

He has run extended workshop sessions on his methodology in Ireland, Italy, the USA and Athens, and in 2018 he curated a 2-month component of the MA programme at DAS Theatre, Amsterdam.

In 2019 he was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government.

<http://www.thirdworldbunfight.co.za/>

**POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY etc. :**

2022 - Artistic director of performing arts program on the Spier Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2016 – 2020 – Chairperson of Curatorial Committee of South Africa’s National Arts Festival

2018 – curator and student mentor of MA block at DAS Theatre, Amsterdam

2015/16 – Chairperson of jury of the International Theatre Institute’s Music Theatre Now competition

2015/16 – ran weeklong workshops on installation making at La Mama Umbria artist residency, Spoleto, Italy; the Onassis Institute, Athens, Greece; and the Philadelphia Fringe, USA

2014 – wrote official message for the International Theatre Institute’s World Theatre Day for UNESCO

2014 – mentored artists on the weeklong MAKE residency outside Dublin, Ireland

2012/13 – Jury of the International Theatre Institute’s Music Theatre Now competition

2012 – month long residency at the Rockefeller Institute’s Bellagio Centre, Italy

2011 – Chairperson of Jury of Prague Quadrennial – the International Exhibit of Scenography & Theatre Architecture

2008-2011 – Curator of ‘Infecting the City’: the Spier Public Arts Festival in

inner-city Cape Town

**PRODUCTION HISTORY :**

**CONSTELLATIONS: curator**

2022 - SPAC-Shizuoka Performing Arts Center, Japan

2020-23- Spier Estate, Cape Town

**SAMSON: writer/director/designer**

2023 - Nanterre, Paris

- ITFoK, Kerala, India

- Africologne Festival, Cologne, Germany

2021 - Avignon Festival, international program

- GREC Festival, Barcelona

2019 - Woordfees, Stellenbosch

- National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

**SANCTUARY: director/designer/creator**

2018 - Mousonturm, Frankfurt am Main

- Maillon Theatre de Strasbourg

- Teatro Maria Matos, Lisbon

- Porto Camara Municipal, Porto

2017 - Onassis Cultural Centre/Fast Forward Festival, Athens

- Kampnagel, Hamburg

- Festival de Marseille

**MACBETH (adaptation of Verdi’s opera): director/designer**

2017 - PuSh International Arts Festival / Festival for Vancouver Opera

2016 - KVS, Brussels

- TAP, Poitiers

- Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana

- Macao Arts Festival

- Napoli Teatro Festival, Naples

- Festival de Marseilles

- The Athens Festival

- Fairfield University, Connecticut

- Philadelphia Fringe

- Scene Nationale de Quimper

2015 - Asian Culture Complex Arts Theatre Gwangju, South Korea

- Brisbane Festival

- Kampnagel Internationale Kulturfabrik, Hamburg

- FIBA - Buenos Aires

- Santiago a Mil, Santiago

- Auckland Festival

2014 - Artscape Theatre, Cape Town

- Kunsten Festival des Arts / KVS, Brussels

- Operadagen, Rotterdam

- Wiener Festwochen, Vienna

- Theaterformen, Braunschweig

- The Barbican, London

- Temporada Alta, Girona

- Maria Matos Theatro Muncipale, Lisbon

- Le Parvis, Tarbes

- Theatre Garonne, Toulouse

- Le Maillon, Strasbourg

- Festival d’Automne/Montreuil, Paris

- Festival d’Automne/La Ferme du Buisson, Paris

- L’Hippodrome, Douai

**EXHIBIT A / B: director/designer/creator**

2016 - Fast Forward Festival/Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens

- Midwinter Night’s Dream Festival, Tallinn

2015 - Santiago a Mil, Santiago

- Galway International Festival

- Asian Culture Complex Arts Theatre, Gwangju

2014 - Edinburgh International Festival

- Territoria Festival, Moscow

- TAP, Poitiers

- Theatre Gerard Philippe, St Denis

- Le 104, Paris

2013 - Holland Festival, Amsterdam

- Avignon Festival

- Vooruit Centre, Ghent

- Le Maillon, Strasbourg

- Le 104, Paris

2012 - Kunsten Festival des Arts, Brussels

- Berliner Festspiele, Berlin

- National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

2011 - Kiasma Theatre, Helsinki

2010 - Wienner Festwochen, Vienna

- Theaterformen Festival, Braunschweig

**medEia: director/designer (written by Oscar van Woensel)**

2012 - Zurich Theater Spektakel

- Theaterfestival Basel

- Berliner Festspiele

- 7 Dutch cities including Amsterdam and Rotterdam

2005 - Spier Arts Summer Season, Cape Town

2003 - Wits University, Johannesburg

**ORFEUS: writer/director/designer**

2011 - Theaterformen Festival, Hannover

2009 - Wienner Festwochen, Vienna

- Holland Festival, Amsterdam

2007 - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

2006 - Spier Arts Summer Season, Cape Town

**MACBETH (adaptation of Verdi’s opera): director/designer**

2007 - Spier Arts Summer Season, Cape Town

2002 - State Theatre, Pretoria

2001 - Artscape, Cape Town

**2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011 – Creator of opening concert of Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA):**

**2009** - **Director of opening performance at the World Summit on Arts & Culture**, Johannesburg

**2008** - **Wrote and directed biographical performance on Nelson Mandela** for his 90th birthday party in Qunu, Eastern Cape

**HOUSE of the HOLY AFRO: director/designer**

2013 - Le 104 / Festival d’Automne. Paris

2010 - Market Theatre, Johannesburg

2009 - Perth and Adelaide Festivals;

- Linz European cultural capital programme

- Rich Mix, London

2008 - Sidney Festival

- Zurich Theater Spectakel

2007 - Edinburgh Fringe Festival

- HIFA, Harare

- Umea, Sweden

2006 - Commonwealth Games, Melbourne

2005 - Wienner Festwochen, Vienna

- HAU, Berlin

- KFDA, Brussels

- Eye of the Cyclone, Reunion Island

2004 - Slagthaus, Bern

**BIG DADA: the rise and fall of Idi Amin: director/designer/writer**

2005 - Vienna Festival

- KFDA, Brussels

- HAU, Berlin

- Market Theatre, Johannesburg

- Spier Arts Summer Season, Cape Town

2001 - Barbican Theatre, London

- World Music Theatre Festival, Amsterdam

- National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

- Baxter Theatre, Cape Town

**VODOU NATION: made in Haiti, director/designer/writer**

2004 - London and 17 other UK cities

**iMUMBO JUMBO: writer/director/designer**

2003 - Barbican, London

- National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

- Baxter Theatre, Cape Town

1997 - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

- Market Theatre, Johannesburg

**SAFARI: C.G. Jung in Africa: made in Uganda, director/writer/designer**

2003 - Kampala, Uganda

- World Music Theatre Festival, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and 13 other Dutch cities

**THE PROPHET: director/writer/designer**

1999 - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

**IPI ZOMBI?: writer/director/designer**

1998 - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

- Spier Arts Summer Season, Cape Town

- Hilton Festival

- tour of Eastern Cape Province

- Bulawayo

- HIFA, Harare

**ZOMBIE: writer/director/designer**

1996 - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

- Artscape, Cape Town

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:**

2020 - SAMSON: Kyknet Fiesta Awards for best director and best music theatre production; nominated for best design, best costumes and best overall production

2019 - Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters) by French government

2012 - Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Creative Arts Residency (Italy)

2007 - medEia: gold medal, Prague Quadrennial for design

2002 - BIG DADA: Rosalie van der Gught Award for best director;

- Fleur du Cap Awards for best new play and for costume design

2001 - Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year for theatre

2000 - Finalist in Rolex Mentor-Protégé Awards

1997 - iMUMBO JUMBO: Vita Awards for best director, script and design

**EDUCATION:**

1992 - BA Drama/English – UCT

2004 - M.A. in Performance Studies – Das Arts, Amsterdam

**PUBLICATIONS:**

2003 - ‘The Plays of Miracle and Wonder’ – the texts of Third World Bunfight

2009 - Feature on Brett Bailey by Daniel Larlham in the Yale Theatre Quarterly

- Published articles in The Theatre Review (TDR) and the South African Theatre Journal (SATJ)

**FOCUS ON AFRICAN PERFORMANCE:**

Travelled to Performing Arts Festivals in Kinshasa (Congo), Harare (Zimbabwe), Kampala (Uganda), Accra (Ghana) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).