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SOUTH AFRICA'S CELEBRATED ISANGO ENSEMBLE RETURNS TO BOSTON

ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE MAGIC FLUTE
MOZART REIMAGINED AND TRANSFORMED

FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY
NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2019
EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE

Press Performance is Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:30pm

[Boston, MA – October 11, 2019] – ArtsEmerson is honored to welcome back the Isango Ensemble with their re-imagination of Mozart's classic opera, **The Magic Flute**, as the first of five reprise productions in its 10th Anniversary Season. The internationally celebrated group of Cape Town artists and musicians return to take on the beloved and timeless tale with marimbas, oil drums, inventive design, and bold energy, as a young prince tries to win the love of a princess whose mother is the Queen of the Night.

Adapted and directed by Mark Dornford-May, **The Magic Flute** plays five performances only, November 6 -10, 2019, at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre, where the show enjoyed a blockbuster **ArtsEmerson** run in 2014. Tickets may be purchased at www.ArtsEmerson.org, by phone at 617.824.8400 or at the box office.

Tickets may also be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson Season Package, featuring savings up to 40%. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save 20%-30%. For more information, contact the box office at tickets@artsemerson.org or 617.824.8400.



Photographer credit: Keith Pattison

The Magic Flute is a journey toward self-knowledge, and compassion; one that is intended to engage its entire audience. It is undeniably joyful and as *The Boston Globe* declared, “[an] ingenious mix of Mozart’s 1791 opera and contemporary African culture.” Director Mark Dornford-May says “it was created to be performed in a suburban theatre for “ordinary” people, not the aristocracy. It is a world-beating piece of music storytelling, and it has always belonged to Everyman.”

This engagement marks the third time ArtsEmerson is hosting Isango Ensemble at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre. The original October 2014 engagement of **The Magic Flute** marked their first appearance, and based on the overwhelming enthusiasm for the company, they returned the following season in November 2015 with two shows presented in repertory: **uCarmen** and **A Midsummer Night’s Dream**, again captivating local audiences.

Known around the globe for their commitment to creating work that reflects and unites a diverse South African nation, Isango's productions speak across racial, economic and political divides through an experience that can only be described as "pure Isango."

“It is great to be coming back to Boston,” says **The Magic Flute** director Mark Dornford-May. “Our relationship with Arts Emerson is one that is very special to all of us in Isango, in many ways it feels like our American home. To be playing **The Magic Flute** in that wonderful space is a privilege, and hopefully we will see old friends in the audience as well as make some new ones.”

“With our 10th season we wanted to show Boston both where we have come from and where we are going,” says ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower. “So we commissioned five new works and brought back five projects from the first nine years that, taken together, reveal ArtsEmerson’s DNA. Leading off with **The Magic Flute** as the first returning project was a no-brainer. This company has captured the hearts of thousands of Bostonians with their ArtsEmerson performances and **Flute** was their first visit to us. The joy, the virtuosity, the power of 19 people and all those marimbas on stage, the unexpected setting of this classic opera as an African folk tale, all contribute to the surprise and enduring popularity of this show. People fairly float out of the theater at the end. That kind of joy is too rare and right on time.”

About The Magic Flute

Mozart’s classic opera, **The Magic Flute**, has been completely re-imagined, transformed and translated into multiple dialects (including English, Xhosa, Zulu and Tswana) by the Isango Ensemble— but the story remains the same.

Act 1

Tamino, a young traveler who is passing through the realm of the Queen of the Night, is being pursued by a fire-breathing beast. He cries for help and faints with terror. Three Ladies—warriors of the Queen—hear his cries and spear the beast. Seeing how handsome the young man is, they go to tell the Queen what happened. Papageno, a bird catcher, is trying to lure birds into his net using his whistle. As Tamino regains consciousness, the birds are scared away. Papageno is a natural improviser and he claims credit for killing the fire-breathing beast. The Three Ladies reappear and punish Papageno for his lie by locking his mouth with a padlock. They show Tamino a picture of the Queen’s daughter, Pamina, whom they say has been kidnapped by an evil man—Sarastro. Tamino falls in love with the picture and promises to rescue the beautiful girl. The Queen of the Night arrives and urges a very frightened Tamino to keep his promise to rescue Pamina. To help him, he is presented with a Magic Flute. Papageno’s padlock is removed and he is ordered to help Tamino and given a set of magic bells. Both instruments, bells and flute, have the power to help the owners and to change evil into good. Three spirits materialize. They send the Ladies to sleep and offer to guide the men to Sarastro’s camp. Papageno and Tamino are pointed in the right direction but get separated. Papageno by chance happens upon Pamina with her jailer, Monostatos. Rescuing Pamina,

Papageno shows her a picture of Tamino, and she falls in love with him. Tamino meanwhile has been led by the Spirits to the outside of the camp. He meets a Comrade of Sarastro who tells him that Sarastro is not evil but good. In his confusion and despair, Tamino plays the Flute and is answered by Papageno's bird whistle. He runs in the direction of the sound but misses the escapees. Monostatos recaptures Papageno and Pamina, but Papageno plays his magic bells and Monostatos is seduced by their enchantment. As they make to escape again, Sarastro's arrival is announced. Pamina tells Sarastro she was escaping from Monostatos, partly because he attempted to rape her. Monostatos, who has managed to capture Tamino, demands that Sarastro put the intruder to death. Sarastro is angered at the behavior of Monostatos towards Pamina and has him imprisoned instead. He then orders that Tamino attempt various trials to prove he is worthy of Pamina's love. Papageno reluctantly accompanies him.

Act 2

At a meeting of the elders, Sarastro proposes that Tamino undergoes initiation into their Brotherhood. If Tamino is successful in the trials, Sarastro proposes that he will hand joint power to both Pamina and Tamino. The elders are at first outraged that a woman should jointly rule over them, but after some hesitation they agree to the plan. The first of the trials undertaken by Tamino and Papageno is a trial of silence. Pamina appears and innocently tries to speak to her lover; he refuses to answer her words of love and she leaves broken-hearted. Papageno, however, cannot manage to keep quiet and he fails the first trial. The Queen of the Night appears and orders Pamina to kill Sarastro, giving her a knife for the task. Sarastro's Comrades try to restrain the Queen but are killed by her soldiers as she escapes. In spite of this, Sarastro still pursues his doctrine of forgiveness and reconciliation and refuses to seek revenge. Heartbroken and depressed at Tamino's rejection, Pamina attempts suicide but is restrained by three Spirits. Having completed the trial of silence, Tamino is reconciled with Pamina, and she undertakes to complete his trials with him. Together they complete the second trial, the trial of fire, and go on to the third trial, the trial of water. At first it appears that they have drowned, but they are revived and Tamino completes his initiation. Papageno, upset at his failure with the trials and disheartened by his failure to find a woman, contemplates suicide but is stopped by the three Spirits who introduce him to the girl of his dreams, Papagena. Guided by the wicked Monostatos, the Queen of the Night makes another attempt on Sarastro's life but fails. Sarastro holds out his hand to her offering reconciliation; she refuses and leaves as the Comrades celebrate the dawn.

About Isango Ensemble

Isango Ensemble is based in Cape Town, South Africa. The core of the company was formed by director Mark Dornford-May and music director and singer Paulina Malefane in 2000 drawing performers from across the townships surrounding the city, embracing artists at all stages of their creative development. Its work to date has focused on reimagining classics from the Western theatre canon, finding a new context for these stories within a South African or township setting, and on creating new work relevant to the heritage of the nation. It is the mixture and clash of its cultures, races and experiences that enables it to create work of the highest calibre.

In 2001 two of the ensemble's first stage productions toured from Spier Festival in Cape Town to Wilton's Music Hall in London. From there *The Mysteries - Yiimimangalisa* transferred to West End and *uCarmen* was performed at many of the world's major arts festivals. Other stage work includes co-productions with the Young Vic of *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, featuring Mozart's score transposed for an orchestra of marimbas, and *A Christmas Carol – Ikrismas Kherol*. These won several awards including *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo* winning an Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival and the Globes de Cristal for Best Opera Production following a sold-out season at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo* also played a season in the West End. In 2009 Isango played a second West End season of *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*. In the summer of 2012, *La Boheme – Abanxaxhi*, a unique partnership with The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,

played at Hackney Empire in London for five weeks. Also In 2012 the company created a new stage version of Shakespeare's *Venus & Adonis* in partnership with Shakespeare's Globe.

In 2016, Isango Ensemble adapted Jonny Steinberg's *book A Man of Good Hope* in co-production with the Young Vic, the Royal Opera , Répons Foundation, BAM and Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg. The show ran for two months at the Young Vic in London in Autumn 2016 and then played at BAM, New York City's most prestigious international house in February 2017, Hong Kong Arts Festival in February 2018 and in Europe in May/June 2018 at Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen in Germany and Bergen International Festival in Norway. In 2019 the production toured Adelaide, Auckland, several cities in France and the United Kingdom at the Royal Opera House.

Isango also adapted Fred Khumalo's *book Dancing the Death Drill* about the sinking of the SS Mendi in 2019 and premiered *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* at the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House in London in May 2019.

Isango has toured Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Martinique, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Turkey, UK and the United States.

Films created by Mark Dornford-May and the ensemble include *u-Carmen eKhayelitsha*, *Son of Man*, *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde* and *Breathe – Umphefumlo*. The films have met with popular and critical acclaim, playing at festivals including The Berlin International Film Festival, LA Pan African Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival and others in Australia, the USA, the UK, Europe and Africa. They have won the Golden Bear at The Berlin International Film Festival as well as several Best Feature Awards.

In Spring 2019 Isango entered into a new partnership with Comic Relief.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. Our mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative season of globe-spanning performances, film, and dialogue invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information, visit ArtsEmerson.org.

About Emerson College

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR THE MAGIC FLUTE

Dates:

November 6 – 10, 2019

Venue:

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019	7:30pm	Press Performance
Thursday, November 7, 2019	7:30pm	
Friday, November 8, 2019	8:00pm	
Saturday, November 9, 2019	8:00pm	
Sunday, November 10, 2019	2:00pm	

Ticket Information:

Online: **ArtsEmerson.org**

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: (Advance): **Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street)** open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

In Person (Within 2 hours of show): **Cutler Majestic Box Office (219 Tremont Street)**

Prices range from \$25-\$105 (subject to change)

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

CREATIVE/CAST LISTINGS & BIOGRAPHIES

Credits – Creative Team

Director - Mark Dornford-May
Music Director – Mandisi Dyantyi
Choreographer – Lungelo Ngamlana
Lighting Designer – Manuel Manim
Speech and Dialogue Coach – Lesley Nott Manim
Company Manager – Maris Sharp
Co-production Manager – Sandile Mgugunyeka
Co-production Manager – Andreas Ayling
Stage Management – Valencia Mgugunyeka
Relighter – Jack Hathaway

Credits - Cast

Thobile Dyasi - Monostatos
Nombongo Fatyi - Pamina
Thandokazi Fumba - Lady I
Zamile Gantana - Pappageno
Nontsusa Louw - Queen
Zimkhitha Mathomane - Spirit I
Zanele Mbatha - Company
Sinethemba Mdena - Spirit III
Zoleka Mpotsha - Spirit II
Thandolwethu Mzembe - Priest
Siyanda Ncobo - Lady III
Sonwabo Ntshata - Priest
Melikhaya Ntshuntshe - Priest
Cikizwa Rolomana - Lady II
Masakana Sotayisi - Tamino
Luvo Tamba - Priest
Ayanda Tikolo - Sorastro
Philani Xhaga - Priest

Creative Biographies

MARK DORNFORD-MAY (Director)

Mark is co-founder and Artistic Director of Isango Ensemble. Born in Yorkshire and brought up in Chester, he has worked in South Africa with members of the company since 2000. Mark has directed all of Isango's stage productions; *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *The Snow Queen*, *Der Silbersee*, *The Beggars Opera- Iballi Loo Tsotsi*, *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – iKrismas Kherol*, *Aesop's Fables*, *La Boheme – Abanxaxhi*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*, *Venus and Adonis*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* and produced and directed all its films; *uCarmen eKhayelitsha*, (winner of the Golden Bear Award at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival) *Son of Man*, *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde* and *Breathe – Umphefumlo*

MANDISI DYANTYIS (Music director)

Mandisi is Associate Director and co-Music Director of Isango Ensemble and has been with the company since 2006. He has been co-Music Director and arranger / composer for all Isango Ensemble productions since 2006, including *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – iKrismas Kherol*, *Venus and Adonis*, *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *Aesop's Fables* and *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*. Mandisi travelled to New York to work with Graduate Acting students of New York University's Tisch School of Acting, as they explored relationships between South African and American theatre methods. In 2012, Mandisi was the musical director and composer for Isango's *Venus & Adonis* which opened the Globe to Globe season at Shakespeare's Globe in London and subsequently returned to the Globe in May 2013. He arranged and directed the music for the films *Unogumbe and Breathe – Umphefumlo*. In 2015 he adapted Bizet's *Carmen* and Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Isango's USA Tour. In 2016 Mandisi composed and conducted the music for *A Man of Good Hope* which ran at London's Young Vic, New York's BAM and London's Royal Opera House. 2017 saw the creation of Isango Ensemble's production of *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, based on Fred Khumalo's book *Dancing the Death Drill*, for which Mandisi created new music as well as incorporating WWI songs. In 2019 Mandisi arranged Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* for marimbas and created new music for the show.

PAULINA MALEFANE (Music director)

Paulina is co-founder and co-Music Director of Isango Ensemble. She has worked with members of the company since 2000. She is also an advocate for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She saw world-wide success playing the role of Carmen, both on stage and in the Golden Bear-winning feature film *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*, for which she won a Golden Thumb from Roger Ebert. She was awarded the Best Actress Award at the South African Film & Television Awards for the film *Son of Man*. She made her Proms debut at London's Albert Hall in 2006 with the songs of Kurt Weill. In the same year, she sang the role of Bess in *Porgy and Bess* at both Umea and Malmo in Sweden. In 2008, she was invited to give a series of master classes to the theatre and music students at UCLA. In 2009, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, she sang a series of concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic, which were broadcast on German television. In 2012, Paulina played the role of Venus in Isango's *Venus & Adonis*, which opened the Globe to Globe season at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Following its success, she and the production returned to the Globe in May 2013. In 2013, she also played Noah in *Unogumbe*, an adaptation of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* and in 2015, the role of Zoleka in *Breathe - Umphefumlo*. On Isango's USA Tour in 2015, she once again played Carmen and sang Titania in the new adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2016 Paulina created and played the roles of Yindy and Sadicya in *A Man of Good Hope* at London's Young Vic and New York's BAM. Paulina performed with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra again in 2017 in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (conducted by Sir Simon Rattle), semi-staged by Peter Sellars and she will be reprising her role in June/July 2019 when the piece is presented by the London Symphony Orchestra.

Paulina is also teaching at the University of Cape Town's College of Music.

LUNGELONGAMLANA (Choreographer)

Lungelo Ngamlana is an associate artist of Isango Ensemble. He joined the company in 2007 and has been the choreographer for all subsequent Isango Ensemble productions. Prior to joining Isango, he was hosted by the Royal Opera House for the International Dance Fellowship in 2007.

His theatre credits include: *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – iKrismas Kherol*, *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *Aesop’s Fables*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*, *Venus and Adonis*, *La Bohème*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Carmen*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion*. Lungelo currently teaches at NYU annually and before joining Isango Ensemble he worked as a teacher, performer, and choreographer with many dance and theatre groups, both at home in South Africa and internationally.

MANNIE MANIM (Lighting designer)

Mannie Manim is co-founder of the Market Theatre, and has been director of Performing Arts Administration at the University of the Witwatersrand and director of the Baxter Theatre Centre. His career in theatre lighting and producing spans over 50 years and he has worked with Isango Ensemble since its first production more than 10 years ago. His accolades include: Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres from the French Government, Naledi Life Achievement Award, Fleur du Cap Lifetime Achievement Award, Arts and Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award, and The National Order of Ikhamanga, Silver.

LESLEY NOTT MANIM (Speech and dialogue)

Lesley Nott Manim has worked in professional theatre, film, and television since 1975 as a performer, director, and vocal, acting, dialogue, text interpretation and accent coach for both South African and international productions. She has designed and taught workshops and master classes in Voice and Acting as well as adjudicating drama festivals. She has been dialogue coach and casting assistant for television, film and commercials. Lesley has taught text interpretation at the Market Theatre Laboratory, voice classes and tutorials at the University of Witwatersrand, and text interpretation, accent, and performance skills at AFDA Cape Town. She has a private practice teaching individuals communication skills. She has worked with Isango Ensemble since 2007 as speech, dialogue, and text interpretation coach.

Cast Biographies

THOBILE DYASI

Thobile Dyasi was born Pampierstad, Northern Cape, and joined Isango Ensemble in 2011. His theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop’s Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *Carmen*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble) and *L’elisir d’amore*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Il viaggio a Reims*, *Adriana Lecouvreur* and *La rondine* (University of Cape Town, where he took a performer’s diploma in opera).

NOMBONGO FATYI

Nombongo Fatyi was born In Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2013. Her theatre and opera credits include *Aesop’s Fables*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Man of Good Hope* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble).

THANDOKAZI FUMBA

Thandokazi was born in Cape Town, Western Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2016. Her theatre and opera credits include: For Isango Ensemble *Aesop’s Fables* and *A Man of Good Hope*.

Played Paulina in the Siyaya Traditional Group.

ZAMILE GANTANA

Zamile Gantana was born in Kimberley, Northern Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2000. His theatre and opera credits include: *La Bohème – Abanxaxhi*, *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – ikrismas Kherol*, *Aesop's Fables*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*, *The Silver Lake*, *The Beggar's Opera – Ibali Loo Tsotsi*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion*(Isango Ensemble). His film credits include: *uCarmen eKhayelitsha*, *Son of Man*, *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde* and *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

NONTSUSA LOUW

Nontsusa Louw was born in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, and joined Isango Ensemble in 2011. Her theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion*(Isango Ensemble).

ZIMKHITHA MATHOMANE

Zimkhitha Mathomane was born in Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2017. Her theatre and opera credits include *A Man of Good Hope* and *Aesop's Fables* (Isango Ensemble).

ZANELE MBATHA

Zanele Mbatha was born in Daveyton, Johannesburg, and joined Isango Ensemble in 2000. Her theatre and opera credits include: *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – ikrismas Kherol*, *Aesop's Fables*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*, *The Beggar's Opera – Ibali Lotsosi*, *West Side Story*, *The Rocky Horror Show* *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope* and *Dancing the Death Drill-SS Mendi* (Isango Ensemble); and *Qhamka Man of Men*, *Five Past Two* and *Women Abuse* (Sibikwa Theatre). Her film credits include: *uCarmen eKhayelitsha*, *Son of Man*, *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde* and *Breathe - Umphefumlo*.

SINETHEMBA MDENA

Sinethemba Mdena was born in Bisho, Eastern Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2011. His theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute*, *La Bohème – Abanxhaxi*, *Carmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, *A Man of Good Hope* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble). His film credits include: *Unogumbe* and *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

ZOLEKA MPOTSHA

Zoleka Mpotsha was born in Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2009. Her theatre and opera credits include: *The Mysteries – Yiimimangaliso*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *Aesop's Fables* and *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili Ezidlakazelayo*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble). Her film credits include: *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde* and *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

THANDOLWETHU MZEMBE

Thandolwethu Mzembe was born in Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2017. His theatre and opera credits include *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, *St. Matthew Passion* and *Aesop's Fables* (Isango Ensemble).

SIYANDA NCOBO

Siyanda was born in Willowvale, Eastern Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2013. Her theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble). Her film credits include: *Breathe –*

Umphefumlo.

SONWABO NTSHATA

Sonwabo Ntshata was born in Umtata, Eastern Cape, and joined Isango Ensemble in 2007. His theatre and opera credits include: *The Mysteries – Yimimangaliso*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *A Christmas Carol – iKrismas Kherol*, *Aesop's Fables*, and *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – Izigwili ezidlakazelayo*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble).

MELIKHAYA NTSHUNTSHE

Melikhaya was born in Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2017. His theatre and opera credits include *A Man of Good Hope* and *Aesop's Fables* (Isango Ensemble).

CIKIZWA ROLOMANA

Cikizwa Rolomana was born in Umtata, Eastern Cape, and joined Isango Ensemble in 2011. Her theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *La Bohème – Abanxaxhi*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble), and a concert for Bryn Terfel (Cape Town Opera). Her film credits include: *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

MASAKANE SOTAYISI

Masakane Sotayisi was born in Cape Town, Western Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2013. His theatre and opera credits include *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *La Bohème – Abanxaxhi*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill*, *Venus and Adonis*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble). His film credits include: *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

LUVU TAMBA

Luvo Tamba was born in Cape Town, Western Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2011. His theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *La Bohème – Abanxaxhi*, *Venus and Adonis*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Man of Good Hope*, (Isango Ensemble). His film credits include *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

AYANDA TIKOLO

Ayanda Tikolo was born in King William's Town, Eastern Cape and joined Isango Ensemble in 2013. His theatre and opera credits include: *Aesop's Fables*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *La Bohème – Abanxaxhi*, *Venus and Adonis*, *uCarmen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man of Good Hope*, *SS Mendi – Dancing the Death Drill* and *St. Matthew Passion* (Isango Ensemble), *Porgy and Bess*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Beethoven*, *Opera Extravaganza* and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. His film credits include *Breathe – Umphefumlo*.

PHILANI XHAGA

Philani was born in Cape Town and joined Isango Ensemble in 2017. His theatre and opera credits include *Aesop's Fables* and *A Man of Good Hope* (Isango Ensemble).

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