



GREGORY MAQOMA/VUYANI DANCE
THEATRE: *EXIT/EXIST*

NOVEMBER 7–9, 2013 8:30 PM

NOVEMBER 10, 2013 7:00 PM

presented by

REDCAT

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California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

GREGORY MAQOMA/VUYANI DANCE

THEATRE: *EXIT/EXIST*

Concept, Choreography & Performance:	Gregory Maqoma
Music Composition:	Simphiwe Dana
Director:	James Ngcobo
Video Animation:	Mileta Postic
Guitar Composition, Arrangements & Performance:	Giuliano Modarelli
Vocal Arrangement, Additional Composition & Performance:	Complete Quartet (Happy Motha, Bubele Mgele, Bonginkosi Zulu, Linda Thobela)
Rehearsal Director:	Shanell Winlock
Recorded Text Voice:	Sbulele Gcilitshana
Sound Designer:	Andile Mpahlwa
Costume:	David Tlale
Lighting Design:	Ralf Nonn
Sound Engineer:	Steven Lorie
Set Design:	Oliver Hauser

EXIT/EXIST at REDCAT is funded in part with generous support from the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

EXIT/EXIST is a co-production of Theatre de la Ville (France), Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg (KVS, Belgium), Dance Umbrella (South Africa), Vuyani Dance Theatre. Vuyani Dance Theatre is supported by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

The North American Tour of EXIT/EXIST is produced by MAPP International Productions in partnership with The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium. Presentations of EXIT/EXIST were made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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PROGRAM NOTE:

The core of this piece is memory; rephrasing the notion of existence and the notion of simply existing in order to exist. Exit/Exist takes a moment to pause; to look back; to rewind the tape to the days when the tapestry of South Africa was about the collision of biographies. Maqoma, a renowned chief of the Xhosa nation is at odds with the English over the possession of cattle. The animosity that was brewing at the time left us with a body of work that we've used in putting together Exit/Exist.

With the deliberate choice of less exposition and an emphasis on how we use the visual element to tell this tale, while underpinning the musicality, it is hoped we will evoke the spirit of the time. Maqoma to us is not only an iconic figure of Xhosa land but a figure of historical transformation, the custodian of a movement of a people that cleared the path to an emancipation that he spent his whole life yearning for.

— Gregory Maqoma and the collaborators and performers of *Exit/Exist*

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma started his formal dance training in 1990 at Moving into Dance. From then on he established himself as an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, director and scriptwriter for his works. When he founded Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT) in 1999 Greg was at the Performing Arts Research and Training School (PARTS) in Belgium. Many of his works in the VDT repertoire have won him accolades, including: FNB Vita Choreographer of the Year, 1999, 2001 and 2002 (*Rhythm 1.2.3*), *Rhythm Blues* and *Southern Comfort* respectively; the Standard Bank Young Artist award, 2002; the Gauteng MEC Awards, 2006 and 2007 (*Beautiful Us* and *Beautiful Me*); and as a finalist: the Daimler Chrysler Choreography Award, 2002, and the Rolex Mentorship Programme in 2003, The Dance Manyano Choreographer of A Decade Dance.

Maqoma is respected for his collaborations with artists of his generation. In 2006 he collaborated with the British based Choreographer Akram Khan with the London Symphonietta to the music of Steve Reich. He also created *Neon Flight* for South African Ballet Theatre, which premiered in Russia in June. He began his ongoing collaboration with theatre director James Ngcobo in 2008 with *The Lion and the Jewel*, *The Hill* by Zakes Mda. In 2009 collaborated with James Ngcobo on *Crazy for Jazz* and *Thirst*. Maqoma was the head choreographer for the World Summit of Arts & Culture and presented *3 Colours* with Brett Bailey. In 2010 he choreographed Hugh Masekela's project, *Songs of Migration* (produced by the Market Theatre) that toured internationally in 2012. His theatrical collaborations with James Ngcobo include *Master Harold and the*

Boys (Theatre on the Square), and *Sunjata* (The Market Theatre). Maqoma was selected as head choreographer for the FIFA World Cup Kick-Off Concert held in Johannesburg, Soweto in June 2010.

In 2011, Maqoma won The Dance Manyano Choreographer of A Decade Dance award, and in 2012, was part of the creative team behind the ANC Centenary Celebration, Dance and Theatre Musical, *Tshihumbudzo*. His latest accolades include the 2012 Silver Standard Bank Ovation award for achieving excellence on the 2012 National Arts Festival Fringe with the dance production *Mayhem*. He is also the recipient of the 2012 Tunkie Award.

Maqoma was Associate Artistic director Moving Into Dance 2002 - 2007 and for FNB Dance Umbrella Festival 2010. He was Artistic Director of the Afro-Vibes Festival in the Netherlands and UK 2004 - 2010. In 2011 Maqoma was invited to be part of the dance committee for the National Arts Festival.

Maqoma has taught and continues to teach at various universities in Africa, Europe, and also the United States, including UCLA, Bates College, and Bennington College. He has created repertoire for a number of dance companies, including Moving into Dance, Jazzart Company, South African Ballet Theatre, and Cape Performing Arts.

Complete

Formed by brothers Happy Motha and Bongikosi Zulu in 2001 and later joined by Linda Thobela and Bubele Mgele, Complete is a vocal indulgence of harmonic voices. The quartet found its wings in the Assembly of God Church in Boksburg, Vosloorus, where they have built a fan base with regular performances. They were then recruited by Benjamin Dube to be part of the critically-acclaimed Praise Explosion 2004 and went on to perform at the T.D Jakes Mega Fest concert in Johannesburg, South Africa. Complete has a vision to touch and change the hearts of music lovers worldwide through singing gospel, R&B, and Scathamiya, a popular South African genre. Complete's music is spiritual, mature and extravagant and crosses cultural, racial and class barriers. Upon winning three awards in the Ekurhuleni local gospel competition (2003-2005) they were awarded an opportunity to perform at the 2004 KORA All Africa Music Awards. They have also worked with the legendary Hugh Masekela on 100 years of South African music, and on *Songs of Migration*, featuring Sibongile Khumalo, which was performed at The Kennedy Center in 2012. The group recently toured Germany and has worked with the legendary pianist Themba Mkhize and SWR big band. In South Africa, Complete was featured on Hip-Hop group Deep Level's song called *Thula Mama* and recorded a hit song—*I'm Complete*—on house group Revolution's album *Tribal Journey*. They are currently working on a new album.

Originally from Italy, Giuliano Modarelli is a stylistically unique guitarist. During his musical training he explored many different genres of music from Western Classical to Trip Hop, Klezmer to Heavy Rock. After studying Jazz at University, he went on to study under UK renowned sitarist Dharambir Singh and Indian classical maestro Buddhadev Dasgupta. His style is a subtle blend of World Folk, Arabic, Flamenco, Latin and Eastern European. His breadth of knowledge and soulful improvisation have led to awards and scholarships from the Arts Council England, SAA-UK, Sampad, Milapfest and others, enabling him to work with and learn from some of the world's most respected Indian Classical musicians such as L. Subramanian, J. Bose and Pt Ajoy Chakraborty. In addition to being a solo artist, Giuliano is also a core member of UK based band Samay, which combines traditional forms with a range of contemporary influences to reinvent the sound of Indian

Classical Music, blending Jazz, Flamenco, Samba, Funk and Chill Out to create both powerful and dynamic arrangements. As part of the international project Sunev featuring Grammy Award winning tabla star Bikram Ghosh (Rhythm Scape), Giuliano collaborated with Bikram to write and perform for the soundtrack of the Mira Nair film, *Little Zizou* (2008). He is also featured on the soundtrack of the latest Sangeeta Datta Film *Life Goes On*. Giuliano writes for theatre and dance, touring nationally and internationally with companies such as: Balbir Singh Dance Company, Motion Manual, Diversity Dance, Red Ladder Theatre and Phoenix Dance Theatre. He has also developed various music projects in the UK (such as Klezmer Trip with Bill Laurence, My Journey with Manvir Singh, Nshwa, Raga Nova) and performs regularly in prestigious venues throughout the country (Queen Elizabeth Hall, The Barbican, The Purcell Room, Bridgewater Hall, CBSO, BBC Venue/Radio) as well as at Darbar Festival, Music Port, Bestival, Womex, and Jazz and World Music festivals throughout the UK and abroad. Giuliano regularly works and trains in India where he tours with many outstanding artists such as Bickram Ghosh, Paban Das Baul, Pete Lockett, Purbayann Chatterjee, Sandip Chatterjee. These collaborations have allowed him to explore many different styles of South-Asian music including Bengali Folk, Rajastany Folk, Gazals, Thumri, Kayal, deepening his awareness of world music and continuing his journey into innovative and eclectic excellence.

James Ngcobo

James Ngcobo is a stage, television and film actor best known for his roles as editor Joe Dlamini on the South African drama series *Hard Copy* (2005), and as Mojo Khumalo on the South African sitcom *Stokvel*, from 2003- 2008 and 2010. Ngcobo has appeared at London's Young Vic in *The Revolution*, toured the United States in *The Horn of Sorrow*, toured Britain in *The Cherry Orchard*, and performed in *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* at Britain's Festival Hall. He trained with Kwa-Zulu Natal's Loft Theatre Company appearing in such productions as *La Ronde*, *Mujaji*, *Horn of Sorrow* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. As a director he has become known for adaptations: Es'kia Mphahlele's *The Suitcase*; Fred

Khumalo's autobiography, *Touch My Blood*; Wole Soyinka's *The Lion and the Jewel*; and *Thirst*, which saw Pelen Baldini's *The Water Carriers* transposed into an African setting. In 2007, Ngcobo won Best Director for *The Suitcase* at the Naledi Theatre Awards. In 2011, he turned his attention to the myth of the warrior king, Sunjata, who, legend has it, founded the Malian empire in the 13th century—the land of Timbuktu, the spiritual and intellectual capital of Africa. Ngcobo has just been appointed the new artistic director of the Market Theatre in Johannesburg.

Simphiwe Dana

Simphiwe Dana is one of South Africa's most soulful singers, renowned around the world and adored for her impressive vocal prowess. As an award-winning singer whose albums have ascended to the top of international charts, and her music captures the hearts of those listening to it. Her third album, *Kulture Noir* (2010), has received two METRO FM Music Awards 2010 for Best Female and Best Contemporary Jazz Album, and also claimed the No. 1 spot on the German World Music Charts and the number 3 spot on the European Music Charts.

Ralf Nonn

German born Nonn holds a degree in Mining-Engineering from Germany's Bochum University. From 1987 to 1989 he studied dance in Essen, and subsequently moved to Belgium and joined dance company Plan K (currently, Charleroi Danse). Nonn launched his lighting design career in 1996 as a lighting director for the Compagnie *Un Ouef* (Brussels). In 1997, he became a freelance lighting designer making designs for Toneelgroep Amsterdam (Netherlands), Meg Stuart (USA), Royal Flemish Theatre (Belgium), Ultima Vez (Belgium), Ballet Marseille (France), Ballet Lyon (France), Deepblue (Netherlands), David Byrne (USA), and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Belgium) among others. Nonn has also worked on projects with solo artists and dance/theatre companies from Austria, Sweden, Brazil, Russia, Slovakia, Norway, Poland, Portugal and China. His work on special event productions includes *Les metamorphoses de Louvre* (Paris), which was presented to more than 12,000 spectators. Nonn's work can also be found in international film and television productions. Nonn is currently based in Brussels, where he is the Technical Director for KVS.

Steven Lorie

Lorie has been a freelance sound technician since 1987, working with some of the most prolific musicians, theatre, and dance companies throughout Europe. After studying graphic design in college and working in the print industry for a brief spell, he shifted his focus and talents to sound. His career as a sound technician began with VdB-pa, a sound company in Belgium. For the next thirteen years he oversaw sound for concerts

throughout Belgium, including venues such as Vooruit (Ghent), Ancien Belgique (Brussels) and at festivals including Pukkelpop (Hasselt); TW Classic, Rock Werchter (Werchter). In 2000, Lorie embarked on a freelance career, designing and overseeing sound for touring bands (Zita Swoon, An Pierle, among others) and theatre companies (Kamagurka, Campo Victoria, among others). His work has taken him to Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Germany. Since 2005 Lorie has been the head sound and video technician for KVS in Brussels.

Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT) is a dance and theatre Company based in Johannesburg and was founded in 1999 by Gregory Maqoma. VDT's mission and artistic objective is to produce multidisciplinary projects that question and challenge social values while, exploring history, using it as a launch pad for research and development. Vuyani Dance Theatre's artistic approach embraces - in a dynamic and theatrical way - the many tastes, the different motivations, and the diverse cultures that shape the uniqueness of the South African society. VDT constantly works with co-creators and performers of artistic excellence from all over the world to collaborate on their productions, which ultimately tour throughout Africa, Europe, North and South America to great critical acclaim and audience response. In addition to performance projects, VDT has numerous ongoing programs that involve both professional and junior dance companies, educating dancers at all levels, and engaging South African communities in movement classes and broader discussions around the arts and social issues.

For more information: www.vuyani.co.za

MAPP International Productions is a nonprofit producing and touring organization

dedicated to engaging audiences through contemporary performing arts projects and artistic experiences that offer fresh interpretations of social issues and forge connections between the artist and the community. Established in 1994 by Ann Rosenthal, and co-directed with Cathy Zimmerman since 1998, MAPP International is recognized for producing nontraditional artists who tackle complex subject matter, experiment with form and push the cultural conversation forward in society. Since its founding MAPP International has produced 33 productions involving more than 300 artists in 42 U.S. states and 16 countries. MAPP International has also introduced the U.S. public to artists from 25 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean. Current programs include New Works, Artist–Public Dialogues, MAPP on Tour, The America Project and The Africa Contemporary Art Consortium. The common goal of these programs is to promote artistic and community engagement, and the exchange of ideas on a local, national and international stage. For more information: www.mappinternational.org.

The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium, a national partnership of twelve organizations, initiates, develops, and sustains a dynamic exchange of arts and ideas among artists, arts organizations, and public communities throughout the U.S. and the African continent. The Consortium is dedicated to working with artists who are interpreting contemporary life through traditional, popular or contemporary forms. Its programs are rooted in experiential opportunities that nurture conversation and exchange allowing for organic connections to evolve. Consortium members include: 651 ARTS (Brooklyn, NY); Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME); Center for World Arts at University of Florida (Gainesville, FL); The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (College Park, MD); CounterPULSE (San Francisco, CA); The Graduate Arts Leadership Program, University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA); The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC); MAPP International Productions (New York, NY); Portland Institute of Contemporary Art (Portland, OR); Seattle Theatre Group (Seattle, WA); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN); and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA). In 2011, the Consortium published a comprehensive history of its first 8 years, *Building Enduring Partnerships: A Report to the Field*; copies are available from MAPP International Productions. For more information: www.africaartsconsortium.org

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