

# REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gregory Maqoma/Vuyani Dance Theatre**

***Exit/Exist***

**November 7–10, 2013**



Image: Gregory Maqoma. Photo: John Hogg.

In *Exit/Exist*, renowned South African choreographer Gregory Maqoma reinvigorates African oral and musical tradition with contemporary movement to understand the complexities of our world. *Exit/Exist* will have its West Coast premiere at REDCAT, Calarts' downtown center for contemporary arts Thursday,

November 7 to Sunday, November 10.

Gregory Maqoma's transformational and poignant solo dance fuses storytelling with his signature unparalleled integration of contemporary and traditional dance styles, accompanied by the live singing of the South African acapella ensemble **Complete** and world-fusion guitarist Giuliano Modarelli, performing a lush score by the acclaimed singer and composer Simphiwe Dana.

Maqoma's performance embodies a forgotten history where the musicians become supporting characters in the narrative interwoven into Maqoma's vibrantly kinetic world, creating rich visual scenes that punctuate his abstract exploration of race and political power, cultural tradition and personal legacy.

*"Exit/Exist rewinds the tape to the days when the tapestry of South Africa was about the collision of biographies."* —Artspoken News

As inspiration for this piece, Gregory Maqoma looks to his ancestral past when 19th-century warrior Chief Maqoma fought to maintain the Xhosa cultural traditions of the Eastern Cape in the face of colonial dispossession. 2013 marks the centenary of South Africa's infamous Native Land Act (1913), a foundational piece of legislation that legalized colonial dispossession during segregation and apartheid. Maqoma invites audiences to reflect on who we are, where we come from, and how all of these facets inform our personal and collective identities today.

*The Washington Post* says, "Exit/Exist' may well be the best live music and dance collaboration Washington sees in 2013. The musicians were mesmerizing, and seamlessly complemented Maqoma's choreography...it is often tough to look away from this dancer who uses movement to tell a story of sorrow and struggle with such conviction."

*This is the kind of performance that is essential in helping to develop global understanding...with his body, Maqoma is able to take us to places that we could never visit on our own* —Seattle Examiner

*A beautiful work, easily accessible and absolutely fascinating.* —Artspoken News

*Maqoma appears to be a source of soft power: with a delicate change of his focus, the world changes, to a better, more alive place... Raw, real, yet still playful and engaging, Maqoma propels us further along*

*the interconnected trajectory of the 21st Century. He uncovers, he experiments, he investigates humanity in ways that are now no longer "other" to him—or to us... —Joan Frosch Bates College*

### **Gregory Maqoma/ Vuyani Dance Theatre**

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma, internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, director and scriptwriter, started his dance training in 1990. While studying under Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker at Performing Arts Research and Training School (PARTS) in Belgium in 1999, Maqoma founded Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT), a company that fuses African contemporary urban styles, music and culture with those of contemporary European counterparts. VDT creates work that questions and challenges social values with history as a launchpad for material. Their approach embraces—in a dynamic and theatrical way—the many tastes, motivations, and cultures that shape the uniqueness of South African society.

In addition to his own choreography, Maqoma has taught and created repertoire for Moving into Dance, Jazzart Company, South African Ballet Theatre and Cape Performing Arts, among others. Maqoma's work has been shown in Africa, Europe, USA and South America. He collaborated with the British-based choreographer Akram Khan for the London Symphonietta to the music of Steve Reich. He also created Neon Flight for South African Ballet Theatre, premiered in Moscow in 2006. In 2009, Maqoma was selected as the head choreographer for the Fourth World Summit of Arts & Culture, held in South Africa, and presented 3 Colours with Brett Bailey. He was also head choreographer for the FIFA World Cup Kick-Off Concert in Soweto, his birthplace, in June 2010. He was choreographer for Hugh Masekela's Songs of Migration and, in 2011, toured extensively with Southern Bound Comfort, a double bill choreographed by Maqoma and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

### **Complete**

Formed by brothers Happy and Bongikosi Motha in 2001, and later joined by Linda Thobela and Bubele Mgele, who sang together at the South African church where they were formed, Complete is a vocal indulgence of harmonic voices. Complete has a vision to touch and change the hearts of music lovers worldwide through singing gospel, RnB and Scathamiya, a popular South African genre. Complete's music is spiritual, mature and extravagant and crosses cultural, racial and class barriers. They have toured internationally and won several gospel 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. Complete was featured on Hip-Hop group Deep Level's song "Thula mama" and recorded a hitsong—"I'm

complete"—on house group Revolution's album tribal journey. The group recently toured Germany and is currently working on a new album.

**James Ngcobo** has collaborated with Gregory Maqoma on 12 productions. He 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*, performed in *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* at Britain's Festival Hall, and was awarded the 2007 Best Director for *The Suitcase* at the Naledi Awards.

*The presentation of Exit/Exist was 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.*



### **Upcoming at REDCAT**

Nov 11: [Eline Jongsma and Kel O'Neill: "Live Screening" of \*Empire: The Unintended Consequences of Dutch Colonialism\*](#)

Nov 21–24: [Faifai: \*Anton, Neko, Kuri\*](#)

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### **EVENT INFORMATION**

**Gregory Maqoma/Vuyani Dance Theatre: *Exit/Exist***

<http://www.redcat.org/event/gregory-maqomavuyani-dance-theatre-0>

Date(s)/Time(s):

Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Friday, November 8, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 7:00 pm

(Run time: approximately 60 minutes, no intermission)

Ticketing: \$20-25 general [\$16-20 student]

Location: 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, California USA 90012

For more information visit [redcat.org](http://redcat.org) or call 213-237-2800

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## **ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER**

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a theater, a gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org).

Location/Parking: REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

Street Address: 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

**THE LOUNGE** | Open to the public six days a week, the Lounge is a great place to spend an afternoon or grab a drink pre- and post-performance.

Lounge Hours: Tuesdays–Fridays from 9am until 8 pm or post-show; Saturdays from noon until 8 pm or

post-show; Sundays from noon until 6pm or post-show

**THE GALLERY** | REDCAT's Gallery presents five major exhibitions each year, and publishes artist books and catalogues. Admission to the Gallery is FREE.

Gallery Hours: Tuesdays–Sundays from noon until 6 pm and through intermission

**THE THEATER** | Tickets for programs held in the theater are available through the REDCAT Box Office, by phone 213-237-2800 or online at [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org). Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

Box Office Hours: Tuesdays–Saturday from noon until 6 pm or two hour prior to curtain

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