Conjuring with cultures and myths

Miracles and wonder ... Brett Bailey (second left) with (from left) Nokela Danyel, Toyi Medikan, Bonive Tjoka and Vukile Hlangana (drumming) get into the urban spirit of 'Amambo Jumbo' which draws on Xhosa song, dance and storytelling.

Theater... Brett Bailey is among the new breed of South African playwrights and theatre directors. That means he simultaneously takes on the roles of teacher, researcher, storyteller, negotiator, administrator, cultural mediator, pragmatist and visionary. His latest production, 'Amambo Jumbo', which opens at the Market Theatre tomorrow, is billed as a unique blend of traditional healer's techniques and Western magic realism. Bailey's long list of pioneering duties includes 'Days of Magic, Days of Miracle', which explored the changing face of modern theatre.

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Bailey's work is inspired by the idea that traditional healers and modern theatre can work together to create something new. His latest production, 'Amambo Jumbo', is a unique blend of traditional healer's techniques and Western magic realism. Bailey's long list of pioneering duties includes 'Days of Magic, Days of Miracle', which explored the changing face of modern theatre.