

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

BIO – BRETT BAILEY

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

His iconoclastic works, which interrogate the dynamics of the post-colonial world, include the musical dramas BIG DADA, IPI ZOMBI?, iMUMBO JUMBO and ORFEUS, a radical reworking of Verdi's MACBETH, and the performance installation, EXHIBIT B.

He has worked throughout South Africa, in several African and European countries, and in the UK. His works have played across Europe, Australia, Africa and Latin America, and have won several awards, including a gold medal for design at the Prague Quadrennial (2007).

He headed the jury of the Prague Quadrennial in 2011, is a member of the artistic committee of South Africa's National Arts Festival, and is this year for the second time a juror of the International Theatre Institute's 'Music Theatre Now' competition. From 2008-2011 he was curator of South Africa's only public arts festival, 'Infecting the City', in Cape Town. In 2014 he wrote the International Theatre Institute's World Theatre Day message for UNESCO.

He completed his post-graduate diploma at Das Arts in 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.

PRODUCTIONS etc. :

2015/16 – Jury of the International Theatre Institute's Music Theatre Now competition

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

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

2011 – Chairman 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

MACBETH: director/designer

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 Teatro 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 B: director/designer

2015 – Santiago a Mil, Santiago; Galway International Festival, Galway; Asian Culture Complex Arts Theatre Gwangju, South Korea
2014 – Edinburgh International Festival; Territoria Festival, Moscow; TAP, Poitiers; Theatre Gerard Philippe, St Denis, Paris, Le 104 Paris
2013 – Holland Festival, Amsterdam; Avignon Festival; Vooruit Centre, Ghent; Le Maillon, Strasbourg; Le 104, Paris; Wroclaw Dialogue, Poland
2012 – Kunsten Festival des Arts, Brussels; Berliner Festspiele, Berlin

EXHIBIT A: director/designer

2012 – National Arts Festival, South Africa
2011 – Kiasma Theatre, Helsinki
2010 – Vienna Festival; Theaterformen Festival in Braunschweig

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

2012 – Zurich Theater Spektakel; Theaterfestival Basel; Berliner Festspiele; and 7 Dutch cities including Amsterdam and Rotterdam
2005 – Cape Town
2003 – Johannesburg

ORFEUS: writer/director/designer

2011 – Theaterformen Festival, Hannover
2009 – Vienna Festival; Holland Festival, Amsterdam
2007 – Grahamstown Festival (main program)
2006 – Cape Town

macbEth: the opera: director/designer (written by Verdi)

2007 – Cape Town
2002 – Pretoria
2001 – 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

2010 – Market Theatre Johannesburg

2009 – Perth and Adelaide Festivals, Australia; Linz European cultural capital programme; Rich Mix in London

2008 – Sidney Festival; Zurich Theater Spectakel

2007 – Edinburgh Fringe Festival; Harare; Umea, Sweden

2006 – Melbourne, Commonwealth Games

2005 – Vienna Festival; Berlin; Brussels; Reunion Island

2004 – Bern

2008-2011 – ‘Infecting the City’ festival, curator

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

2005 – Vienna Festival; Brussels; Berlin; Johannesburg; Cape Town

2001 – Barbican Theatre, London; Amsterdam; National Arts Festival, Grahamstown (main program); 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; Grahamstown; Cape Town

1997 – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown (main program); Cape Town; Johannesburg

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

2003 – Kampala, Uganda; Amsterdam, Rotterdam and 13 other Dutch cities

THE PROPHET: director/writer/designer

1999 – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown (main program)

IPI ZOMBI?: writer/director/designer

1998 – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown (main program); Cape Town; Hilton Festival; tour of Eastern Cape Province; Bulawayo and Harare

ZOMBIE: writer/director/designer

1996 – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, Cape Town

AWARDS:

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 drama.

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:

2001 – '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:

Recent travels to Performing Arts Festivals in Kinshasa (Congo), Harare (Zimbabwe), Kampala (Uganda), Accra (Ghana), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Khartoum (North Sudan).