

# CREDITS

Lufthansa and Jessica Nupen  
13 July 2016

CONCEPT, VISION & CHOREOGRAPHY: Jessica Nupen

TECHNICAL DESIGN: Wilhelm Disbergen

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSITION: Spoek Mathambo

WARDROBE DESIGNER DANCE: Anmari Honiball

PROJECTION: Ed Blignaut

DRUMMERS: Jabula Rhythms

STYLIST: Honey Makwakwa

FILM: The Adventures Of

DANCERS: Moving Into Dance Mophatong | Thenjiwe  
Soxokoshe, Asanda Ruda, Thabang  
Mdlalose, Kgotsotalang Mavundla, Otsile  
Masemola and Thamsanqa Masoka

HONORARY PATRON: Pulane Kingston



 **Lufthansa**  
PRESENTS  
Romeo and Juliet  
**REBELLION &  
JOHANNESBURG**  
JESSICA NUPEN  
and Moving Into Dance Mophatong

# THE REBELLION

“Johannesburg demands rebellion from each and every one of us everyday. We rebel against the cruel history of the city while trying to unearth the vibrancy and long lost personalities, styles, tales and sounds of bygone eras. We rebel against our present, our leaders, our own people with teeth-sucking smirks and shoulder-shrugging. We rebel to clear the air, but not against the vast pollution and waste around our mine dump town. We rebel against the notion that we live in an uninhabitable crime ridden, traffic blocked stress ball. We celebrate with every gesture and sound, with casual greetings and warm jokes to complete strangers on the street corner. We rebel against high fences, security corps, alarmist crime stats and live with the adventurous spirit to explore this home of ours, the third biggest urban forest in the world. We rebel to survive in this a polyglot of fancy suburbs with quadruple story mansions, innumerable mall complexes, townships, squatter camps and pirate landlord-run inner-city slums. We rebel in search of our identity, expression, community and individualism.

”

Skhothane/Izikhothane/Ukukhothane have become synonymous with excessive waste, careless spending, boasting, and capital-battling. Skhothane is a township sub-culture that has emerged in the democratic years of South Africa's new history. Izikhothane are groups of young people commonly clad in expensive floral T-shirts and Carvela shoes who live a life of deliberate decadence.

In a dance-off called Ukukhothane, the winner is elected by lot of who has willingly destroyed the most currency. The direct translation — to lick each other — fails to translate the complexities of the sub-culture and its roots in a heritage of rebellious profligacy. In its simplest form it is youthful rebellion.

Choreographer Jessica Nupen relishes the term 'apartheid after-party', which she borrows from composer Spoek Mathambo. In revolt against the continued struggle of their parents who fought in the struggle, as apartheid became colloquially known, the youths of South Africa's townships took to the streets to burn money and pour custard on the floor in ostentatious displays of their disregard for the currency of freedom: wealth.

It is this picture of protest against the perpetuated cycle of struggle that opens the curtains of REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG. It is a fresh dance that aims at understanding what it means to be young in Johannesburg today.



**The piece expresses the idea of a constant rebelling! Against the times! It's an endeavour to take some personal control. Nupen sees in the destruction of the symbols of wealth, a sense of the cultural violence and conflict that has been part of the country's history for generations.**

**Rebellion falls at the centre of REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG**

STEVE THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

**Welcome to downtown Johannesburg where YOUNG people are re-defining the story of South Africa and expressing it through acts of resistance and re-interpretation, nowhere more actively than in this city, the melting pot of urban youth. Our dance installation and performance is a scenic deconstruction of the original piece responding to the social architecture and diversity of Johannesburg.**

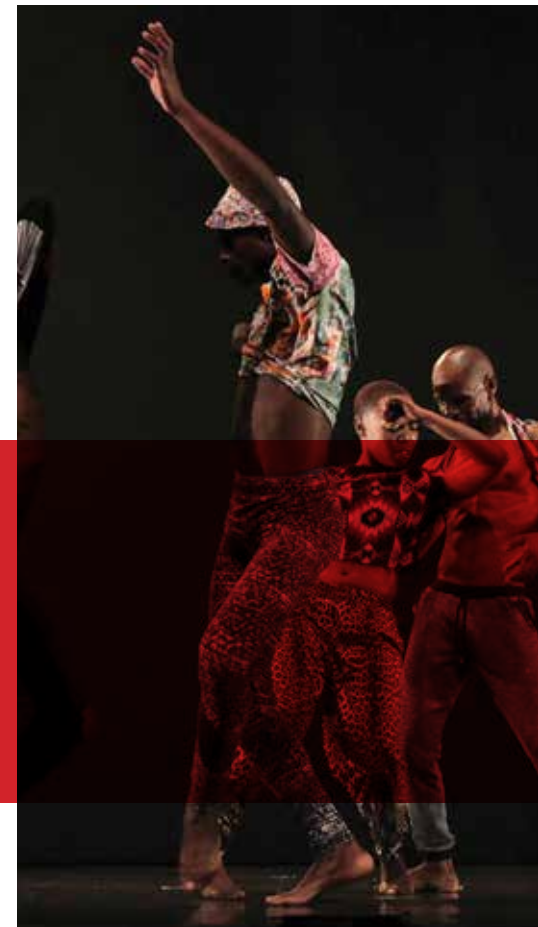
Allow yourself to be submerged in the colours, heat, sounds and pulse of inner-city Johannesburg where dance battles splash the streets, stylishly-clad, phony sangomas haggle on spaza corners and Ponte peers through its own shadow across the concrete landscape. Our Shakespearean tragedy weaves its thread into the young, zealous men and women of Jo'burg whose survival is tested and illuminated by the city's beat and burden.

## ACT 1

The streets explode with a skhothane dance battle fought by two Jo'burg gangs boasting their Pantsula, Sbujwa, Afrofusion and street dance styles. The winners hiss at their opponents as Ultramel custard flies through smoke-infused air - a fire burns. In the second scene the traditionals of this lost-generation paint themselves in pink and dance their cultural dances in expression of their unity and power, only to be observed by the identity-seeking Romeo who battles between his heritage and contemporaneity. Our fierce and warrior-like Jo'burg Juliet marks the scene with her striking spirit and taunts the juvenile Romeo into a fiery duet.

## ACT 2

Night time in the city is no comforting place and the line dividing mugger and victim is blurred in a haze of attacks. The tension builds as the sensual Mercutio exposes and manipulates these criminal acts and pays the ultimate price. Our two protagonists bear the weight of this circumstance and morph into a dance of the disillusioned. But as the sun rises again, the resistance and rebellion finds its profligacy and the dare-devilishness and the hauntings of yesterday are forgotten.



**South African-born Germany-based dancer, choreographer and social entrepreneur Jessica Nupen explores in her work politics in the arts from a distinctly African perspective.**

# WHO IS JESSICA NUPEN

**She is inspired by transformation in her country where younger generations are faced with wide-ranging socio-political challenges. Reflecting these complex realities with satirical undertones and a blatantly honest perspective, Jessica has attained international acclaim and the reputation 'dance disruptor'.**

Her integration of diverse media and collaboration with a range of respected artists sees in her work the expression of an eclectic choreographic vocabulary as she investigates a certain theatrical reality. Her pieces have received national and international recognition through celebrated tours of Europe and South Africa, ably supported by artists including Spoek Mathambo, Jürgen Schadeberg, Dan Halter, Philip Miller, Anmari Honiball and William Kentridge.

Jessica completed her professional training in London at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance and has danced in Covent Garden, the National Theater of Mannheim and the State Theatres of Giessen, Lübeck and Berlin, and currently produces her work in Germany and South Africa. Her works have been performed in Kampnagel, Deutsches Theater Munich, Theater Dortmund as well as the Eigenarten and Hauptsache Frei Festivals in Hamburg, Osnabrück, Mainz as part of an African Female Arts collective, RODEO in Munich and alongside dance greats such as Emilio Greco and Ohad Naharin in Italy.

She recently opened the South African Dance Umbrella festival with her internationally acclaimed REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG dance-theatre production partnering with headline Sponsor Lufthansa. The piece will celebrate its Italian Premiere at the Rovereto Oriente Occidente Festival in September 2016.

REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG is both an interrogation and a celebration of youth rebellion in South Africa today expressed through varied dimensions of eclectic, cutting-edge dance-theatre aimed at pulling the middle-finger at mediocrity and tradition.

Jessica has been a panel speaker at international dance festivals in Europe, African and European political podium discussions, diplomatic conferences in Germany and was named one of the top 100 most influential Africans in Germany in 2015/2016. She also recently worked closely with theater legend Peter Konwitschny choreographing for his opera Attila which premiered in Lübeck in May 2016. Nupen's latest work THE LIONS will premiere in August 2016 and has been invited to perform in European festivals.

Nupen is the founder and director of the Sukuma Foundation developing and empowering young dancers from previously disadvantaged backgrounds in South Africa. The foundation's pilot development project 'Dance Alexandra' offers free and accessible dance training in Alexandra Township.

[www.jessicanupen.com](http://www.jessicanupen.com)





# COLLABORATORS

## MOVING INTO DANCE MOPHATONG

Moving into Dance Mophatong (MIDM) is a trailblazing, nationally acclaimed dance company and training academy, which has produced a multitude of award winning and productive dancers and choreographers throughout South Africa and internationally.

The company continues to perform on the world's stages performing a diverse range of South African and international works. Moving into Dance Mophatong presents work that is thought-provoking and innovative, yet accessible. Its work brings to life the zeitgeist of contemporary African dance and Afrofusion, which is characterised by sheer physical beauty and self-expression.

Through the organisation's Performing Arts Training Course (PATC), young talented dancers between 18-30 years old, from some of the most poverty stricken areas in the country, are identified and brought to Johannesburg to be part of the South African Qualification Authority Accredited Training Course. The students are housed, fed and clothed and are not only trained in dance and movement, but also educated in business communication skills, computer training, career development skills in related environments, research ability and dance facilitation and choreography.

## **ANMARI HONIBALL- Costume and Set Design**

Anmari grew up in the historical diamond town of Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa. She participated in the Design Indaba 2011 as an emerging creative and in 2012 was selected as a finalist for the Elle New Rising Star design awards hosted by ELLE Magazine and Mr Price. In April 2013 she showed her first women's wear collection at South African Fashion Week and was the

first Lufthansa First Best Collections winner. In 2013 she was selected as a finalist for Renault New Talent Search hosted by South Africa Fashion week. Currently she is working under her fashion label ANMARI HONIBALL that produces locally made women's wear.

## **SPOEK MATHAMBO- Music Composition**

Mathambo grew up in Soweto, South Africa. In 2010, his debut album Mshini Wam was released on BBE Records. The album includes an award-winning cover of Joy Division's 'She's Lost Control'. The track received the Young Director Award at the 2011 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity. Meanwhile Mathambo was nominated in the Best African Act category at the 2011 Mobo Awards.

In 2012, Mathambo released his second album Father Creeper on Sub Pop, gaining him a second nomination for Best African Act, at the 2012 MOBO Awards. He was also nominated for Best African Act for the third time at the 2013 MOBO awards.

The edgy, unorthodox figure of Spoek Mathambo heads the Fantasma project, a South African band made up of musicians with very different backgrounds and styles who teamed up to create a sound that is far more than the sum of its parts. Mathambo's music incorporates Zulu traditions, hip-hop, psych-rock, ancestral beats, Bacardi house (invented by DJ Spoko) and even aspects of surf music, one of Geldenhuys' areas of expertise.

## **ED BLIGNAUT- Projection Film**

Ed is a professional freelance photographer and videographer who focuses on capturing the essence of a subject, be it in nature or people. He pursues different ways of creating imagery that reveal the subject the way he sees it. Ed has always been an observer and it has become a way of life to observe, to capture moments in time. Ed has worked with Ross Garrett, Warren Van Rensburg, Steve Tanchel, and Sacha Waldman.



STEVE THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

18:30 – 19:00 Arrival and registration

19:00 – 19:15 Canapes and drinks served

19:15 – 19:30 Drumcall and speeches

19:30 REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG  
Act 1

19:50 – 20:00 Intermission  
Canapes and drinks served

20:00 REBELLION & JOHANNESBURG  
Act 2

20:15 Drinks

# THANK YOU

## JESSICA NUPEN

 MOVING INTO DANCE  
MOPHATONG

## THE PARK

HOUSE OF EVENTS ON 7

HYDE PARK  
C O R N E R