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under the patronage of the SOUTH AFRICAN Embassy the

vienna theatre project

presents



My Children! My Africa! **by Athol Fugard**

Location: Theater Die Tribüne
Café Landtmann, right next to the Burgtheater
Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 4, 1010 Vienna

Dates: March 17-29, 2003 (Monday thru Saturday)
Premiere: Monday, March 17, 2003
Teachers' Preview: Sunday, March 16, 2003
Open Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, March 15, 2003

Time: 8 p.m.

With: Eszter Hollosi (Isabel)
Allen Browne (Mr M)
David Wurawa (Thami)

Tickets: 16€ regular
11€ students
group discounts available

Reservations: +43 1 920 2583 or
www.viennatheatreproject.at

Directed by vtp artistic director Martin Buxbaum

Performances in English

About *My Children! My Africa!*

Set in 1985 South Africa, *My Children! My Africa!* explores the interaction and relationships between Thami, a gifted 17-year-old black boy, his teacher and mentor of many years, Mr. M., and Isabel, a confident and enthusiastic white pupil who befriends the other two during an inter-school debate in the Location, a black ghetto at the edge of a small provincial town. The two young people strike a gently competitive friendship and are enrolled to enter an English literature school quiz, but as the drilling for the competition advances, tension mounts. The play presents the obstacles encountered by two young people whose friendship is colored by the racial divide and the tensions of the society they live in and juxtaposes contradictory approaches to achieving racial (or any kind of) equality. Fugard skillfully explores the continuous struggle between the political and the individual in the context of relationships fraught with unresolved personal conflict, frustration and loneliness.

About Athol Fugard

Born in South Africa in 1932, Athol Fugard is South Africa's most famous playwright today. One of the first white playwrights to collaborate with black actors and workers, Fugard writes of the frustrations of life in contemporary South Africa and of overcoming the psychological barriers created by apartheid. Some of his works, such as *Blood Knot* (1960), were initially banned in South Africa and brought him into conflict with the South African government, which for instance withheld his passport for several years in the early 1960s. Widely acclaimed, his plays include *Boesman and Lena* (1969), *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead* (1972), *A Lesson from Aloes* (1978), the semiautobiographical *Master Harold and the Boys* (1982), *The Road to Mecca* (1985), *My Children! My Africa!* (1989), *Playland* (1993), *Valley Song* (1995), and *The Captain's Tiger* (1998). Fugard has also written one novel, *Tsotsi* (1980), and is the author of *Cousins: A Memoir* (1997).

About vtp

The *vienna theatre project* was founded in spring 2002 with the purpose of facilitating high-quality English-language theatre productions at different venues in and around Vienna. Drawing from a pool of Vienna-based professional actors whose native language is English, vtp attempts to offer a wide range of contemporary plays originally written in English and to make the tremendous scope of English-language plays from all over the world more accessible to Vienna audiences. After the successful runs of *Oleanna* at Theater Drachengasse in September 2002 and '*Night, Mother*' at the Ensemble Theater in November 2002, *My Children! My Africa!* will be the *vienna theatre project*'s third production.

To find out more about the *vienna theatre project*, please contact its artistic director Martin Buxbaum or its managing director Stefanie-Theres Tecka at office@viennatheatreproject.at or +43 1 920 25 83, or visit its website at www.viennatheatreproject.at.