

BMR/010/0090/1

ZABALAZA

SOUTH AFRICA SPEAKS

A Festival of South African Arts - Theatre, Music
Film, Literature and Art, taking place in London
from the 2nd to the 15th July 1990.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT.

Over the past decade there have been a series of
Festivals in different countries:

CULTURE AND RESISTANCE	GABARONE	JULY	1982
CULTURAL VOICES OF RESISTANCE	AMSTERDAM	DEC	1982
TOWARDS A PEOPLES CULTURE (BANNED)	CAPETOWN		1986
CULTURE IN ANOTHER SOUTH AFRICA	AMSTERDAM	DEC	1986

ZABALAZA ! STAND FIRM **LONDON** **JULY 1990**

These Festivals chart the development of a progressive
South African culture which expresses in a most dynamic
way, what people are struggling for - a non-racial,
united, democratic South Africa.

THE FESTIVAL.

To provide a platform for performance which reflects both
the artistic excellence and the major currents of a
dynamic , progressive South African Culture.

To run a programme of practical workshops and training
in each of the artforms. This programme is being devised
according to the needs articulated by cultural workers
at a grassroots level in South Africa. Joint workshops
Joint workshops with community based cultural workers
in Britain are envisaged as a means of exchanging ideas
and developing an ongoing relationship.

To create a forum for the conference at which cultural
workers from South Africa and their exiled counterparts
will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and
share skills in an environment conducive to free and
unhampered cultural expression.

THE PROGRAMME.

The intention is to bring one hundred and fifty South African representatives of the various artforms to London from the 2nd to the 15th July. Thereafter it is hoped that much of the work will tour to other venues in the United Kingdom and Europe.

THEATRE.

We plan to programme four theatre productions reflecting the vast range of work currently being produced in South Africa. The final programme will be selected later this year. Preliminary ideas include a childrens theatre piece as well as well-known work and a performance/dance piece.

MUSIC.

Again the programme will be finalised in the next few months. The aim is to display the range of styles and talents currently flourishing in South Africa.

CINEMA.

A programme featuring new film and documentary together with historical material is being prepared for exhibition in Europe prior to being shown at the Festival.

ART.

The Art exhibition encompasses three strands:

- 1) We are collaborating with the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford on bringing a major Exhibition of South African contemporary and Township Art to the UK which will be presented both in Oxford and London.
- 2) There is a collection of some two hundred screen printed workers posters dating back over the past twenty years. This is a unique collection which has never been exhibited in its entirety and will be shown at the Festival.
- 3) An exhibition of photography as well as a series of documentary photographic exhibitions around particular themes.

LITERATURE.

Writers and poets will take part in a programme of readings and discussions.

TRAINING.

The lack of educational, training, performing and other facilities in all black communities in South Africa is a direct expression of apartheid. With limited resources cultural workers, through their organisations, are trying to redress this historical situation as a matter of urgency. The Festival, through its training component, will give this initiative further impetus and support and establish an infrastructure to enable this process to continue beyond the Festival event.

Consultation is taking place with people inside the country to identify training needs; the resulting training and workshop programme will attempt to address the needs which are expressed. Whilst there are limitations to the amount which can be achieved in short term training programmes, the aim is to facilitate an ongoing educational process.

The Festival is an excellent opportunity for South Africans to develop administration skills. Plans are underway for a trainee to come to work and gain practical experience on a longterm basis, working on production, promotion and marketing skills. It is also planned to have a trainee curator working at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford who would work on the exhibition which is part of the Festival.

THEATRE.

Practical training schemes are being planned and a wide variety of UK theatre workers are being approached with a view to participation and teaching.

MUSIC.

As with Theatre, discussions are ongoing with workers in South Africa to assess their needs and also with practitioners here who can provide practical implementation of a relevant programme.

CINEMA.

Trustee Susi Figgis is working on setting up a film course in association with the BFI and the London Film School. Practitioners who have offered to teach on such a course include Sarah Radcliffe, Ken Loach, Chris Menges and many others.

ART

Artists who attend the Festival will have the opportunity to train in technical and creative courses. Approaches are being made to both organisations and individuals to provide expertise.

LITERATURE.

Writers and poets will have the opportunity to work with their counterparts here and also explore the possibilities afforded by existing short term courses.

CONCLUSION.

The Festival is being organised in the spirit of unity that is embodied by the Trade Unions and Community organisations within the country who are co-operating in the broad front against apartheid.

Specific details of the programme will be announced during the next few months and ancilliary touring for various music and theatre companies will be arranged.

If you require further details about any aspect of the Festival, please get in touch at the address below:

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