

CAMP 015/2296/1

Archbishop E.W. Scott

29 Hawthorn Avenue

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

M4W 2Z1.

April 6/89.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I write to commend the work of "SIYAKHA - Theatre of Energy".

This energetic and imaginative group have been making very effective use of the "Arts" in combatting, not only apartheid in South Africa, but racism in the many forms in which it appears in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Their plans for the Second Annual Toronto South Africa Arts Festival merit strong support. During the period from June 13 - 18th. a number of events will provide, not only stimulating entertainment, but also an opportunity for Canadians to learn much about the realities of apartheid but even more about the resilience of the human spirit.

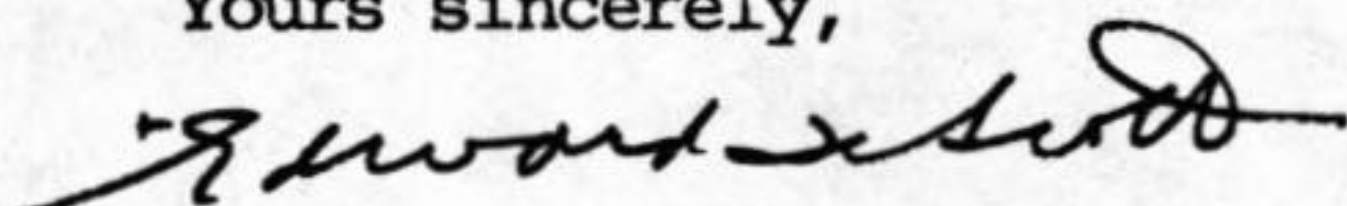
The first is important in the mobilization of commitment to intensify efforts to bring about the dismantling of "a very comprehensive system of racially structured injustice, which was instituted by violence and is maintained by violence". The second is important because there is great need, in a world such as the one we live in where we are confronted by a number of global crises, for people like you and me to be aware of those inner resources which can keep human beings resilient.

I would urge all who can to provide both moral and financial support to this group as they continue with their plans. Such support will benefit not just the members of Siyakha but a much larger community which will be enriched by attending and participating in the events of

"Mayibuy' iAfrica"

The Second Annual Toronto South African Arts Festival.

Yours sincerely,



Edward W. Scott.



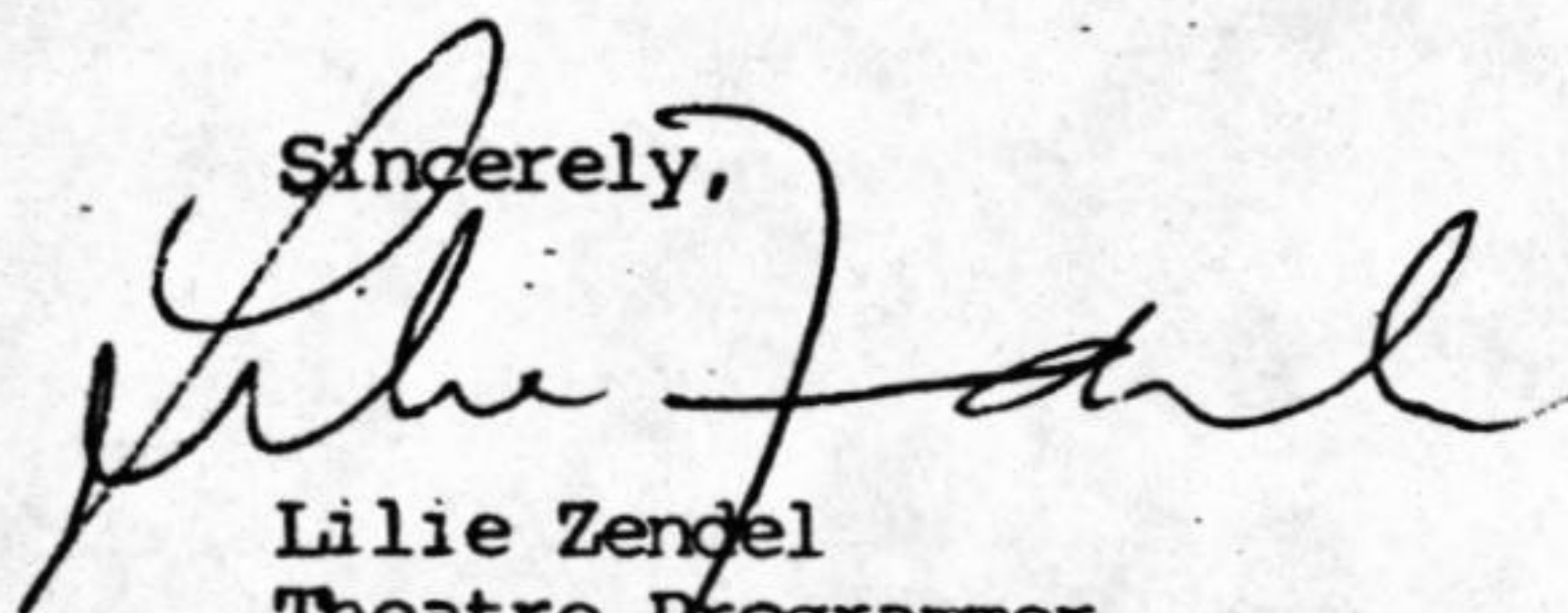
January 16, 1989

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been acquainted with the work of Siyakha since the summer of 1988 when they successfully participated in the 1988 du Maurier World Stage. This group of dedicated young artists has demonstrated a strong commitment to keeping the story of South Africa alive through music, dance and theatre. Their endeavours have been both educational as well as highly entertaining as was well illustrated with their production of WOZA ALBERT produced in conjunction with the Toronto Arts Week this past fall.

Siyakhha represents a new breed of cultural organizations that have found innovative ways to offer a better understanding and appreciation of South African heritage. I urge the Canada Council to lend support for the development of this unique and vital organization.

Sincerely,



Lilie Zendel
Theatre Programmer
Performing Arts

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FOR PERSONAL CONTACT:



Women, Solidarity and Southern Africa

September 19, 1988

To whom it may concern,

A national conference, "Women, Solidarity and Southern Africa" was held on June 3-5, 1988 at Bolton Conference Centre. Seventy-five solidarity activists from across Canada, as well as representatives of the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO of Namibia) from New York and a member of the Federation of Transvaal Women were in attendance. The main themes discussed during the week-end were how to do solidarity work in a more effective, united way that would make practical and conceptual links between our experiences and would integrate the crucial contribution of women.

On the Saturday evening, Siyakha performed in what was certainly one of the highlights of the week-end. Siyakha represents a very vibrant expression of international solidarity - a collaboration of Canadian and South African men and women of all ages, demonstrating very clearly through music and dance their abhorrence of the apartheid regime.

These cultural expressions of protest are clear examples to us in Canada of the vitality and strength of South African people. The innovative and energizing "cultural workers" in Siyakha provided the opportunity for the "audience" to be fully involved. Everyone took to their feet to sing and dance.

In building a society that is more democratic and non-racial, we look to more participatory ways of involving people in various ways and forms. Siyakha is one example of popular culture at its finest - music by people, for people.

I highly recommend Siyakha.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Boswell

Sheryl Boswell
Coordinator

TCLSAC

The Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa

427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1X7, Canada. Tel (416) 967-5562

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN EVENING WITH ALBIE SACHS - BOTH OF THEM

February 28, 1989...**Albie Sachs**, the prominent anti-apartheid activist and member of the African National Congress, will join **R.H. Thomson**, one of Canada's leading actors, to address a public gathering on **Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity St. Paul's Church, 427 Bloor Street West.** It is his first visit to Canada.

Since 1977, Mr. Sachs has been working for the Mozambique Ministry of Justice. In April, 1988, he lost an arm in a vicious car-bomb attack, generally believed to be the work of the South African government. He first came to prominence, in 1963, when he was detained in solitary confinement under South Africa's notorious 90-day Law. He was the first white incarcerated under that law and, subsequently, published a book on his experiences - **The Jail Diary of Albie Sachs.**

In 1983, Thomson starred in **Robert Rooney's** acclaimed TWP production of the play, based on his book. For this evening, Thomson will re-create the role, with additional dance and song from **Siyakha**, a multi-racial troupe based in Toronto. **Siyakha** is currently touring Southern Ontario with their production of **SOWETO-SO WHERE TO?** The evening is directed by Mr. Rooney, who will make a rare stage appearance in a cameo role.

The Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa, a group which has been working in solidarity with the liberation movements of Southern Africa for 15 years, is delighted and honoured to host this event. It is co-sponsored by the African National Congress and the Law Union. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the door. Reservations and more information can be obtained by calling **TCLSAC** at 967 5562.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT **TCLSAC** AT 967 5562 or **BRENDA ROONEY** AT 978 5602.

OPIRG - Toronto: Room 201, 455 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G8 416-598-2199

April 5, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) was requested by the members of Siyakha to write a letter of support. We are not only happy to support the efforts and work of Siyakha but we extend this support with great enthusiasm.

OPIRG had the pleasure of working with Siyakha in organizing a southern Ontario tour of **"Woza Albert!"** to various universities and community centres. The first production was in early November 1988 in Waterloo and from there **"Woza"** went to Guelph, Peterborough, Toronto, Hamilton and back to Guelph.

Our intentions in organizing this tour was to bring a cultural production to the campus which would help to broaden our common understanding of what is happening in South Africa and to then use the production as a forum for discussing the role of popular theatre as a politicizing tool. I am happy to report that the organizers in each of the communities mentioned felt that Siyakha was successful in carrying out both objectives. The play was well received and the actors took the time after the performance to answer questions from the audience about the play, South African politics and their own cultural work.

As a person who worked quite extensively with Siyakha in organizing this tour, I was very impressed with the degree of professionalism and the commitment that the members of Siyakha have for their work. We believe the **Mayibuy' iAfrica** festival is an exciting proposal and important development in the cultural work that Siyakha is providing the Canadian people.

We support Siyakha Cultural Productions and hope to work with them again in the future.

Sincerely,



Ann Rowan
Coordinator, OPIRG-Toronto

RYERSON

SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, FACULTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

November 26, 1987

To Whom It May Concern,

Mr. Sifiso Ntuli has asked if I could provide him with a letter of character reference. I have known Mr. Ntuli since his arrival from south Africa under World University Services of Canada sponsorship to study at Ryerson. As a political refugee, he was subject to the multitude of economic, cultural and psychological problems which are commonly part of this experience. Through observation of how Mr. Ntuli contended with this forced move, I developed a deep sense of respect for his strength and optimism.

In my opinion, he is a very courageous person who emerged from the first traumatic years in Canada with as strong a commitment to his homeland as he had before he was forced to leave. Over the following years he became convinced of the need to educate those in his new country, Canada, of the reality of institutionalized discrimination. His interest in the theatre as a vehicle for imparting that reality is sincere as he has already demonstrated by past performances and his indomitable efforts to bring his show "Siyakha - we are building" to the Canadian audience.

With some support of a financial nature, I am certain that he will contribute the commitment and energy necessary to make this worthwhile endeavour a success.

Sincerely,



Professor Lawrence Altrows

/mc



DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

Queen's University
Kingston, Canada
K7L 3N6

March 29, 1989

Siyakka Cultural Productions
29 Wells St.
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 1P1

S'Fiso, Neo, Victor:

This is just a short note to say thank you for coming to Queen's. Your visit was a great success and has generated a large amount of excitement. Students have commented often on the vitality and power of your production of Woza Albert and on the huge amount they learned in your talks with them.

In short, we all feel enriched emotionally and intellectually by your visit - and we hope that you can come back again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Richard Plant'.

Richard Plant.

RP/cah

MIXED COMPANY

730 BATHURST STREET
TORONTO, ONT. M5S 2R4
(416) 588-8580

November 30th 1987

To Whom It May Concern:

Anyone who has spoken for more than a minute with Sifiso Ntuli will have no doubts about his fervent dedication to contribute to the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

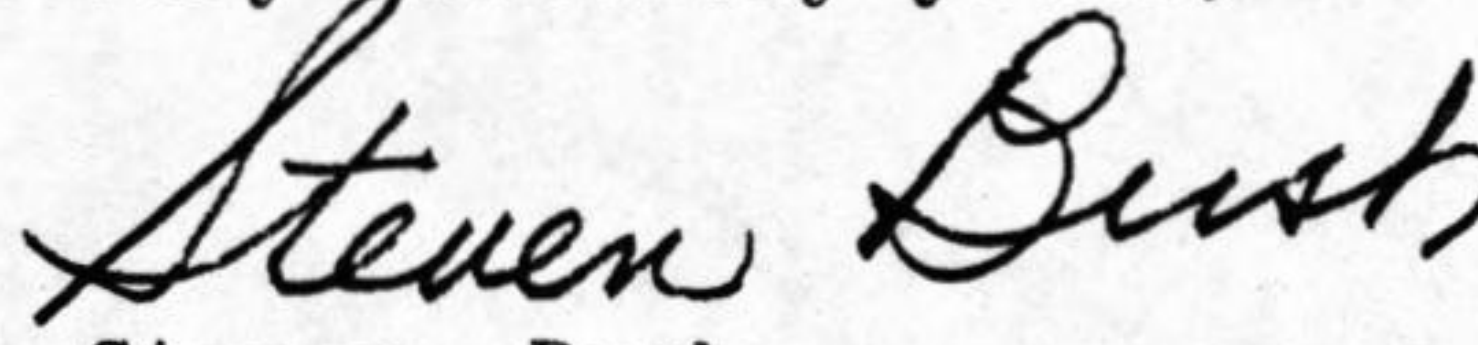
Anyone who has seen him onstage - as I did in Woza Albert - will know that he is a radiant, rivetting and multi-talented performer.

In the Siyakha project Soweto - So Where To? Sifiso is bringing together his strong moral commitments, his capacities as an organizer and his considerable talents as an artist and entertainer.

For many reasons I'm very pleased to see Soweto - So Where To? moving on to its next stages of development.

Because of its intrinsic artistic merit; because of its value as "cross-cultural communication" (i.e., informing Canadian theatre-makers about "township theatre"); because of its potential to contribute to the development of theatre here which more accurately reflects our present demographics; because of its commitment to educate Canadians about life under apartheid; and because it's theatre which might, possibly, help to save some lives...it seems important to urge your support for Siyakha's project Soweto - So Where To?

Very sincerely yours,


Steven Bush

Sifiso Ntuli
SIYAKH
84 Augusta ave
Toronto
Ontario
M5T2K1.
29.4.88

Dear Sifiso,

Thanks very much for your interest in booking the South African Theatre Companies.

The Vusisizwe Players production of 'You Strike the Woman, You strike the Rock' is available for the dates of 9 - 28th August to play at TWP in Toronto and have agreed to perform for a fee of \$5000 (five thousand) dollars per week plus accommodation and travel from Vancouver for five people.

Also the Sophiatown company hope to be able to perform in your Commemorative event on June 16th and accept you offer of hosting their stay in Toronto from 14th - 17th June.

I look forward to confirming our venue and performance dates for strike the woman and look forward to working with you on this.

Best Wishes,

Gill Lloyd

Gill Lloyd,
ArtsAdmin.

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