

Miss Julie in Apartheid Era

MISS JULIE IN AFRICA

How the production of *Miss Julie* in 1985 nearly caused a major explosion and changed South Africa.

HOW THE ARTS CAN IMPACT AN ABNORMAL SOCIETY

23rd Sept Crossing borders

Crossing Borders 1pm - 3pm

- Apartheid in 1985
- SA Theatre in 1985 – Eurocentric
- How the international cultural boycott of SA theatre launched playwrighting in South Africa
- From Atholl Fugard to Farber, Pam-Grant, Slabolepszy, Maponya, Ngema, Dirk-Uys – playwrights talking to South African audiences.
- Slabolepszy – playwriting for the times, from Apartheid to Post Apartheid – a country still hurting – *Saturday Night at the Palace*, *Pale Natives* and *Suddenly the Storm* reflecting the times.
- **Video** clips of *Palace* and *The Storm*

CREATING NEW PLAYS - FROM PAGE TO STAGE (Suitable for writers, directors, actors – full day)

Friday, 24 September - 10 a.m - 4 p.m

Very limited space. Sign up: newnordicvoices@thespians.dk

- Original scripts of *Saturday Night at the Palace* & *Suddenly the Storm* and how they developed between writer, director and cast into the staged and published versions.
- **Full Video** production screening of *Suddenly the Storm*
- Analysis of playwriting and director's contribution
- **Zoom call** discussion with playwright Paul Slabolepszy (in South Africa) and Bobby Heaney
- The power of performance

Conference: Phoenix Hotel 25th Sept

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How our production of *Miss Julie* in 1985 nearly caused a major explosion and changed South Africa.

- Introduction: 15 minute **video documentary** created by Bobby Heaney about the *Life of Nelson Mandela*, which gives a good introduction to South Africa during the time of apartheid and providing context to our 1985 production.
- **Power point** presentation (about 100 slides) outlining:
 - Adaptation of *Miss Julia* and black and white minimalist staging
 - Casting two top South African actors – Sandra Prinsloo (Afrikaans) & John Kani (black)

- The casting of a black servant opposite a white actress
 - Live **video clips** of the 1985 production
 - Critical reaction to the production
 - How the publicity and the onstage kiss caused an uproar that resulted in vicious hate mail and
 - Attempts to cancel funding for the arts and
 - A debate in Parliament about the production, racism and whether Afrikaaners have black genes
 - A staged Mass Theatre Walkout
 - Death Threats to the two actors and the violent attack of John Kani
 - The filming of *Miss Julie* by Swedish company – never been seen in South Africa
 - Touring to the Main Edinburgh Festival
 - 20 Years later the next South African production with a black servant and white actress features nudity and simulated sex, again plays to packed houses – *Mies Julie*
 - *Mies Julie* tours to 18 cities around the world
 - The impact of the 1985 production is still felt today – a movie called 'The Kiss' (based on the onstage kiss between John and Sandra) – is in the pipeline today. Discussing the film script, and *how Miss Julie* 1985 helped end apartheid.
- Screening Swedish **Film** of *Miss Julie* 1985