

# Inhabitant

A collaboration between Sello Pesa and Vaughn Sadie



# Sello Pesa

Sello Pesa is the Artistic Director of Ntsoana Contemporary Dance Theatre and is interested in the changes and challenges that arise from living in South Africa. He toured South Africa and Europe with the Soweto Dance Theatre and received a scholarship to study at the Northern Contemporary Dance School in Leeds. Sello co-founded Inzalo Dance Theatre and was co-director until 2002 after which he spent four years collaborating with French choreographer Valerie Berger in Reunion Island.

Sello's works have toured internationally – Same but Different won the Sanga II African Contemporary Dance Competition in Madagascar and was performed as part of Movement (R)evolution In and Out of Africa which toured the USA.

He has been commissioned to create works for Yorkshire Dance, the American Dance Festival, the FNB Dance Umbrella, Arts Alive and the Small World Festival (Russia). He is a highly sought after teacher and has conducted choreographic workshops on behalf of the FNB Dance Umbrella, at the Small World Festival in Russia, at the

Tanzfabrik – Berlin and at the Attakkalari Biennial in India.

2008-2010 saw Sello working with Carlos Pez and Tanzfabrik Berlin on the Cross Currents and Sharpsharp Activities Projects which took place in South Africa and Berlin. He has performed his solo After Tears in Berlin, at the Julidans Festival in Amsterdam and at the Attakkalari Biennial in India.

Sello enjoys exploring new ways of working and pushing the boundaries of his experience which led to the collaboration with Peter van Heerden (erf {81} Cultural Collective) in creating the controversial Time of the Small Berries for the FNB Dance Umbrella. Sello was inspired by Jay Pather to participate in visual artist Vaughn Sadie's project Performing the Street Lamp which led to their collaboration in creating Inhabitant.

## Vaughn Sadie

In 2010 Sello created Lime Light on Rites in partnership with the Goethe Institute which was performed at GoetheonMain and at the Jomba! Contemporary Dance Experience; Same But not Different was toured to the National Arts Festival and the In House Project took place in Jo'burg and its surrounding Townships. The In House Project was invited to be performed as part of the Colloquium Emerging Modernities held at the University of Cape Town in 2011.

Vaughn Sadie is a conceptual artist and educator. He has participated in several group shows nationally (Being Here 2005, SAartsEMERGING 2007, Light Show 2008 and Social Patterns 2009). Following his 2005 show Spill light, presented as part of the KZNSA Gallery's Young Artists Project, curated by Storm Janse van Rensburg, his first solo exhibition, situation, was held at Bank Gallery in 2009 and travelled to the AVA in Cape Town in 2010. Sadie's interest in the role and function of artificial light has seen him facilitate light workshops with Jay Pather for the Spier Contemporary Performance Workshops in 2007/9. In 2009 Sadie completed his MFA at the Durban University of Technology and was a full time lecture at Vega The Brand Communications School for six years. In 2010 Sadie traveled to Holland with Jay Pather's, Body of Evidence and was awarded two residencies one at the Bag Factory Artist Studios, Johannesburg and the second with Twenty Ten Reasons To Live In A Small Town, in Dundee, KwaZulu-Natal.

# Ntsoana Contemporary Dance Theatre

Ntsoana is a Contemporary Dance based organisation committed to exploring the diverse and evolving South African cultures through the medium of contemporary dance and its relationship to other art disciplines. Ntsoana aims to promote the necessity and importance of cultural heritage and aims to express these experiences through the dance and performing arts.

Ntsoana was formally registered as a non profit organisation in 2006 under the Artistic Directorship of internationally renowned choreographer and dancer, Sello Pesa.

Over the years, Ntsoana's projects have included a Training and Development Programming which has focused both on training dancers and choreographers and performances at local South African festivals such as The Dance Umbrella, Arts Alive Festival, HIV/AIDS Festival, The National Arts Festival and Jomba! Contemporary Dance Experience. The company has been invited to perform in Mozambique, the Netherlands, and Germany and has been involved in several choreographic workshop

programmes as well as cross cultural, inter disciplinary interventions both locally (in Gugulethu, Johannesburg, Soweto and Alexandra Townships) and internationally in Germany.

Ntsoana has also under taken performance projects in public spaces such as the Johannesburg Art Gallery, The Alf Kumalo Museum, Hector Pieterse Memorial, The Drill Hall, Museum Africa , Power Park and the Library in Sebokeng and endeavors to take dance and art into accessible spaces. The 2010 In House Project saw various dance and performance art works performed in Soweto, Alexandra Township and Johannesburg's Northern Suburbs and was invited to be performed as part of the University of Cape Town's Gordon Institute of Performing Arts colloquium, Emerging Modernities in 2011.

# performing the streetlamp

**performing the streetlamp** workshop were conducted as part of Vaughn Sadie's residency at the Bag factory. The workshop was part of his larger project, which explores the city of Johannesburg through its formal lighting strategy. The workshop conceptually explored the means through which light and space impact on social practice. The participants were asked to explore the impact artificial light has on ones experience of public space and the ways in which light continually shapes and recreates the environments we move through. The workshop was co-facilitated by Jay Pather.

The intention of the workshop was to identify the elements and ideas that the participants themselves gravitate towards, and then through collaboration develop and workshop these into site-specific performances. The workshop looked at performative nature of artificial light in public space. The intention would be to explore this as new possibilities for thinking around how public space is imagined and created.

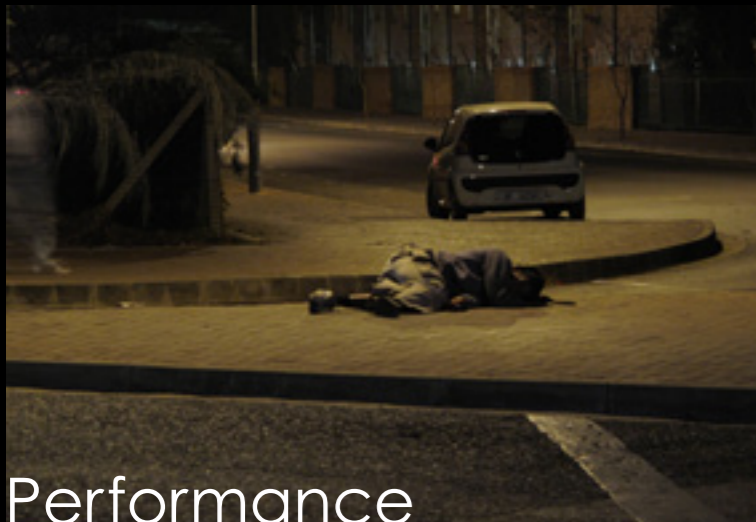
The workshops culminated in evening of performances at the BAG Factory on Sunday, 29 August 2010 at 6:30. Five smaller performances were presented as the outcome of the workshops as the audience walked through the area of Fordsburg.

The participants were Anthea Moys, Lerato Shadi, Murray Kruger, Eduardo Cachucho and Sello Pesa.



Workshop





Performance



# Inhabitant

Inhabitant looks at spaces, specifically inner city spaces, in an area such as Johannesburg and how they are more than they seem superficially; a doorway becomes a home merely through the occupation of space even though it does not have the traditional structure of 4 walls and a roof.

The transient nature of such an occupation creates subtle shifts in the nature and use of space and brings into question the rights and ownership of such. The energy and superficial expectations of the city can be overwhelming and push its inhabitants to a point where they revert to a natural, anamalistic way of living out in the open without the confines of accepted structures.

## Process // Research

Similar to that of performing the streetlamp the research process was about challenging assumption of both the spaces and the people who occupy it or move through it on a daily bases.

The project starts with mapping the space, identify all the formal and informal structure that constitute it. In an attempt to understand the context that we were working it was import to establish:

- Who occupies these spaces?
- How are these spaces occupied?
- How are these spaces utilised?
- Who does not utilise these spaces?

These points were a constant reference that kept us aware of our presence, the tone of our performance and the potential inconvenience of any intervention in a public space.

Most of our time was spent outside of the studio, observing and walking ,only returning to develop individual movements and group work before moving it onto the street. At these times we are able to use the actual environment as sounding board for what we were developing.







Performance



# Brian Mtembu

Brian Mogobozi Mtembu, was born in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg. His artistic career began in 2003 when he joined the community theatre group 'Beauty of Nature Theatre Productions' where he was involved in music and acting.

In 2004 he was introduced to different genres of dance, i.e. Contemporary, Jazz, Modern and Afro Fusion and in 2005 he joined Kazi Ballet Academy where he was taught ballet by Penelope Thloloe from Ballet Theatre Afrikan after which he joined the Johannesburg Youth Ballet and performed in a number of ballet productions such as Polovtsian Dances, Circle by Rulov Senekal and appeared as the Wolf in the 2010 production of Peter and the Wolf for the Arts Alive Festival.

In 2008 he joined Ntsoana Contemporary Dance Theatre for the tour of Extract of X's 2 to the Afro Vibes Festival in the Netherlands and in Mozambique. After the tour Brian became a member of Ntsoana and has performed in Totems, Same But Not Different, Moving Rituals and Lime Light on Rites.

In 2010 he performed with Ntsoana at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown and at Jomba! Contemporary Dance Experience in Durban; he was part of the SharpSharp {Laboratory} Performances held in Alexandra Township and was instrumental in organizing the performances in Alexandra Township which formed part of the In House Project.

Brian choreographed the solo Dithokgako which was performed on the Solo Works programme in Sebokeng and as part of the In House Project and Emerging Modernities.

# Humphrey Maleka

Humphrey Maleka was born and raised in Soweto, Johannesburg. He started pantsula and other township dance forms at a young age and while in high school he and his friends introduced a new dance language called ghetto rough. In 1991 a Moving Into Dance graduate introduced Humphrey to the Afro Fusion and contemporary dance styles.

It was through this connection that Humphrey met Alexandra le Maitre and began to study Flamenco; he has attended seminars with Flamenco masters Domingo Ortega and Carmela Greco and has performed in several Flamenco productions with Lina Dolores Vega, Ritmo Spanish Dance Company and Camino Arts Project.

In 2006 Humphrey was accepted into Ntsoana's Training and Development Programme after which he became a member of the company.

As a company member of Ntsoana, Humphrey has performed in and participated

in all of Ntsoana's projects; he has performed at the FNB Dance Umbrella, the Arts Alive Festival, Jomba! Contemporary Dance Experience, The National Arts Festival and The HIV/Aids when life Happens Festival. He has toured to Mozambique and the Netherlands and was part of the Cross Currents project which took place both in South Africa and Germany.

Humphrey has participated in various choreographic workshops and in 2010 choreographed his first solo work Naka tša go rwešwa which was performed at GoetheonMain, as part of the In House Project and at Emerging Modernities.





# Performers

Brain Mtembu, Humphrey Maleka, Sello Pesa  
Samora Ntsebeza and Lucia Kopano

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photography

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