

CELEBRATE MAMA AFRIKA



Celebrate Mama Afrika is South Africa's tribute to the most important African musician of all times - the legendary Miriam Makeba. Her song "Pata Pata" made her popular all over the world. The musical director of this unique production is no less a figure than **Hugh Masekela**. The line up is made up by more stars of the South African music scene: the legendary **Mahotella Queens**, **Vusi Mahlasela** ("the Voice"), **Thandiswa** ("best female artists" and "album of the year" - South African Music Awards) and **Zolani Mahola** (lead singer of Freshlyground - South Africa's most popular band - she was singing "Waka Waka" together with Shakira as the official anthem of the World Cup in South Africa). The premiere of the show took place at Rio Loco Festival in Toulouse - several ten thousand people and media were totally stoked.

Miriam Makeba had particular importance not only as a musician. Next to Harry Belafonte and Hugh Masekela she had wide influence on the emancipation of the black population of South Africa and the USA. She also was an advocat for peace in the world. "Celebrate Mama Afrika" contains the songs that made Miriam Makeba popular; at the same time the repertoire of this show makes a living portrait of Africa.

Celebrate Mama Afrika !

- a wonderful musical tribute to the legendary Mama Afrika: the unforgettable Miriam Makeba.

The line up

Musical director - **Hugh Masekela**

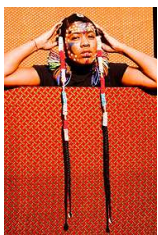


He was Miriam Makeba's first husband and wrote a number of songs for her (like Soweto Blues). Besides Miriam Makeba he was the most successful musical export of South Africa in the sixties. His single 'Grazing in the Grass' topped the Rolling Stones' Jumping Jack Flash in the US charts (and brought him a Grammy). His hit "Bring Him Back Home" became the anthem for Nelson Mandela's world tour following his release from prison. History ? Today Hugh Masekela is even more popular than ever before: he opened both - the kick of concert and the opening ceremony of the world cup in South Africa. A worldwide TV event. Most recently he appeared as a surprise guest with U2 in the stadium of Johannesburg... Also outside of South Africa Hugh Masekela is celebrated wherever he performs (if in Oslo in 2010 in front of 80 000 people or the Carnegie Hall and the Royal Festival Hall ... all sold out). Hugh Masekela is a living legend and a genius musician who is even getting better in his old days. He performs with his band and plays some duets together with his guests.

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Vusi Mahlasela: South Africa's most popular singer also performed at the kick off concert for the World Cup. He is a star in his country and the USA - simply called "The Voice" ... for good reasons: his interpretation of Pata Pata is so powerful that it makes one of the highlights of the show and his voice is a guarantee for goosebumps.



Thandiswa: her first album "Zabalaza" reached platinum status over night and caused a sensation in South Africa. She has been awarded as "Best Female Artist" in South Africa recently (and her new album was awarded as "Album of the Year"). Thandiswa already made history when she was the lead singer of Bongo Maffin - a master success not only in South Africa. Now that her third solo album has been released and one success follows the other Thandiswa became a big star herself in South Africa. The way she interprets the music of Miriam Makeba has a strong South African impact and proves the quality of contemporary South African music.



The choir for Miriam Makeba's beautiful a capella work: the legendary **Mahotella Queens:** with a 150 years of stage experience the three Queens are living history - and a guarantee to make every audience leap for joy once they enter the stage singing and dancing as if they were young girls ...



Some shows will be supported by **Complete** (see local billing): the four male voices belong to the very best in South Africa ... where competition is hard when it comes to a capella chant. Think of Ladysmith Black Mambazo (who became known when they were singing "Homeless" together with Paul Simon). Complete are just 4 man singing - but no one who saw Mambazo will be disappointed when discovering Complete ! They are incredibly powerful and precise. Complete is Hugh Masekela's favourite choir. Famous producer Stewart Levine (Simply Red, Joe Cocker) took a plane last year just to record with them in South Africa ...



Last but not least: **Zolani Mahola** - the lead singer of South Africa's most popular band Freshlyground. Countless times platinum for all their CDs - "Doo bee Doo" - most played single ever in South African history, sold out stadiums wherever they perform ... While Freshlyground and Zolani are an international success too: the MTV Award went home with her ... a premier for the African continent. Last year Zolani performed the official World Cup song "Waka Waka" together with Shakira. Her interpretation of "Meet me at the River" and "Soweto Blues" are too beautiful to be missed. Also the way she performs together with Hugh Masekela is a must see !

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All in all more than a Dozen of the most important musicians are on stage when Miriam Makeba is celebrated by contemporary interpretations of her songs.

This show is the most one of the most beautiful production of the last decades coming from South Africa. It is much more than "just" a tribute or an homage to Miriam Makeba - this is what Africa can deliver to the world today: most beautiful music performed on the highest level with joy and passion. A lively and diverse show full of emotions and unforgettable musical highlights.

Hugh Masekela kept the line up open for changes and additions .. on his wish list are more young acts that he wants to give a platform so that the world can discover the talent of South Africa ...

Miriam Makeba would have liked that as she was a big supporter of talent too. This show does not imitate anything - but keeps the work of Miriam Makeba alive.

The event has been produced by Hugh Masekela together with his European booking company Griot. Griot made a name as an export office for South African music in Europe. Besides almost everybody you can think of that has a meaning in South Africa (but always also with many young and unknown talents) Griot toured the late Miriam Makeba together with their partner BPR.

Tour dates 2011/2012

Summer: first half of July and first half of August. Autumn: end of October into November.
Spring and summer 2012.

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