

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 - since Paul Simon's Graceland rarely (if ever) such prominent South African musicians shared one stage together:

Lira - who was awarded in South Africa as "best female artist" 2 years in a row - she is the most popular artist next to Hugh Masekela in South Africa right now. Lira opened the kick off concert for the world cup together with Hugh Masekela singing "Pata Pata" worldwide on TV.

Thandiswa - also awarded as "best female artists" in South Africa and a super star in South Africa.

Finally **Vusi Mahlasela** who is simply called "the Voice" in his home country ...

The premiere of "Celebrate Mama Afrika" took place at Rio Loco Festival in Toulouse - several ten thousand people and media were totally enthusiastic.

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.

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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.



Lira set a soul scorching benchmark with her second album "Feel Good" in 2006. Feel Good was awarded as the "Best Jazz Album " in 2007 and Lira became a mega selling singer in South Africa. The title song was the most downloaded song in South Africa in 2008. With her third album "Soul In Mind" Lira caused a sensation. She had more nominations than anybody else in 2009 at the South African Music Awards ... and won all important categories ! Her success went on: she was awarded as "best female artist" two years in a row ... which never happened before in South Africa. Lira opened the kick off concert for the world cup together with Hugh Masekela live on TV. She is South Africa's most popular singer of today and her stage presence and talent is absolutely unique.



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 Muffin - 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.



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.

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With Hugh Masekela, Lira, Vusi Mahlasela and Thandiswa some of South Africa's greatest artists are on stage when Miriam Makeba is celebrated by contemporary interpretations of her songs.

This show is one of the most beautiful productions coming from South Africa today. "Celebrate Mama Afrika" is much more than "just" a tribute or an homage to Miriam Makeba - this is what Africa can deliver to the world today: beautiful music performed on a high 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 some more 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.

Further information and exclusive booking contact Europe: wulf@griot.de

GRIOT GmbH
Gut Horst
D-24601 Stolpe
Tel +49-4526-33820
Fax + 49-4526-338210
Mail: info@griot.de
www.griot.de

Booking partners:

Booking UK: John Cumming/Serious: john.cumming@serious.org.uk

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