Masote's Dream Staged in Welkom

PACOFS-an agency of the Department of Arts and culture in partnership with Thambo Theatre Producers proudly do so by show-casing the untold story of MIKE MASOTE's dream on its stages, a dream which he had from the early age of 11 of being a violinist. While only the popularised versions of the story of black people burning down schools during the apartheid era has been commonly told, PACOFS and Thambo Theatre Producers took the initiative to tell his story as he was also a victim who experienced his school being burnt down by white police for teaching what they regarded as "white music" and had his dream almost shattered.

Ntate Matlhaela Michael Masote was born in 1941 in Johannesburg in the taught himself how to play the violin using only a wooden plank and a stick, he then took up violin lessons in Johannesburg after completing his matric. Masote wanted to study music further but experienced difficulties in applying to tertiary institutions in South Africa. This lead to him successfully registering to study abroad at the Royal School of Music in London where he obtained his licence in violin teaching in 1973.

He is the first black South African to be awarded a B-Mus degree by the University of South Africa (Unisa) in 1998, which was then followed by an Honorary Licentiate in music also from Unisa in 2005.

Among his many projects and initiatives he established the Mmabatho Youth Orchestra, the Klerksdorp Youth Orchestra and the Seventh Day Adventist Orchestra to name a few.

About six (6) decades later his story unfolds on stage through a production arranged by Ntate Masote's own son, Kutlwano Masote. What better way to tell his story than to work with his son, who is also one of the musical successes who followed in the very same footsteps of the man the story honours?

The production "Masote's Dream" is a moving tale about both his dream and his musical journey. It was initiated as an idea spurred on by Zuko Nodada and has since evolved into a production lead by Thambo Theatre in partnership with Pacofs, Orkater Theatre Company the National Arts festival.

The production features mostly local artists from the Free State, including six (6) classical music players (ranging from violinists, chalos and altos) as well as singers and actors. It's directed by a Dutch director Dagmar Slagmolen who specialises in telling stories in which the narrative is driven forward by music. This dynamic production is like none other- not the "regular classical music rendition". The audience can expect a thrilling and exciting musical theatre experience which will unfold with storytelling through imagery with the players as part of the action.

Masote's Dream will be performing at the Ernest Oppenheimer Theatre on 31 July and 01 August 2015 at 19h00. Tickets are available. For more