

# A LESSON FROM ALOES

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“ IS THAT THE PRICE OF  
**SURVIVAL**  
IN THIS  
**COUNTRY?**  
THORNS AND  
**BITTERNESS.** ”

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**PROFILE  
THEATRE**

**2012/13: ATHOL FUGARD  
NOVEMBER 7-11, 2012**

# A LESSON FROM ALOES BY ATHOL FUGARD

Directed by Bruce Hostetler

## CAST

Piet Bezuidenhout  
(an Afrikaner).....Jeff Gorham

Gladys Bezuidenhout  
(his wife, White South African).....Julia Brandeberry

Steve Daniels  
(his friend, Coloured) .....Jasper Howard

**THE ACTION OF THE PLAY MOVES BETWEEN TWO AREAS REPRESENTING THE BACKYARD  
AND THE BEDROOM OF A SMALL HOUSE IN ALGOA PARK, PORT ELIZABETH.**

There will be one 15 minute intermission



1 SEASON, 1 PLAYWRIGHT

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## SOME CONTEXTUAL DEFINITIONS REGARDING THE COMPLEXITY OF RACE IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Afrikaner** – Descendants of the original Dutch settlers who arrived in 1652

**Afrikaans** – One of the official languages of South Africa, developed from the seventeenth century Dutch

**Apartheid** – An official policy of racial segregation practiced in South Africa from 1948-1994 involving political, legal, and economic discrimination against nonwhites

**Black** – Of exclusively African (tribal) descent

**Coloured** – Defined in South Africa as anyone of mixed racial descent

**White South African** – Of European descent

## FROM THE DIRECTOR: BRUCE HOSTETLER

*A Lesson from Aloes* was first produced at Johannesburg's Market Theatre in 1978. A year later, I bought a copy of *The Port Elizabeth Plays* by Athol Fugard at the same Market Theatre. I read all of the plays on the five-hour drive back to my home in Mbabane, Swaziland. I was 14, and those plays truly changed my life. Even though I was an American kid who had just moved to Southern Africa, I felt I could understand these characters. My connection to Fugard's people enhanced and informed my young understanding of South Africa.

Since 1978, the political and social situation in South Africa has changed. Some of the old problems have faded from sight and new problems have risen to take their place, but the ghosts of apartheid still haunt the daily lives of those who live there.

Fugard enhances the global reach of his characters' interactions through well-crafted specificity of time and place, but the difficult questions faced in *A Lesson from Aloes* about friendship, love, and betrayal are universal.



### JULIA BRANDEBERRY (GLADYS)

This is Julia's first production with Profile Theatre. Other credits include *One Dancing* (Liminal Performance Group),

*Our Town* (Everyman Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Taffety Punk Theatre Company), and *Stars of the Sweet Decline* (HERE Theatre, NYC). She has worked in theatre, both as an educator and performer, for 15 years. Julia lived and worked in Vienna, Austria as a resident actor with International Theatre for three years. She is a certified combatant with both The Society of American Fight Directors and Fight Directors Canada and is studying Mo Duk Pai Kung Fu. Julia holds a BFA in Theatre from Stephens College and an MA in Theatre (with a special interest in Theatre for the Deaf) from the University of Kansas.



### JEFF GORHAM (PIET)

Jeff has been performing in the Pacific Northwest for 25 years. Favorite roles include Atticus Finch in *To Kill A*

*Mockingbird*, Charlie in *The Foreigner*, Williamson in *Glengarry Glenn Ross*, Clarence Darrow in *Clarence Darrow*, Friar Lawrence, *Romeo & Juliet*, King Henry in *Henry IV Part I*. TV/Film: *All My Children* ABC, *Terror in the Towers*, *Harry and the Hendersons*, *Flamingo Kid*, and *The Last Innocent Man*.



### JASPER HOWARD (STEVE)

Originally from Ohio, Jasper makes his Portland stage debut with *A Lesson From Aloes*. He has worked in town in

commercials and as a print model for the past four years. Jasper has performed in *The Piano Lesson* as Rev. Avery, *Six Degrees of Separation* as Paul, *Taming of the Shrew* as Petruchio, *End Game* as Hamm, and as the title role in *Dracula*. Jasper also works as a voice-over actor, and as a teacher for NW Children's Theater.

### BRUCE A. HOSTETLER (DIRECTOR)

In his 25-year directing career Bruce has directed well over a hundred theatre, musical, and opera productions throughout the USA and Canada. He has taught Acting, Directing, Improvisation, Dramatic Literature, and Stage Management at universities and private theatre schools in Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, British Columbia, and Oregon. He founded a summer Shakespeare Company in Indiana; was Producing Director for the Carnegie Mellon Summer New Plays Project in Pittsburgh, PA; and was the Assistant Producer of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR. Bruce is currently Artistic Director of Portland's CompassWorks and a freelance director and playwright. Bruce holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Stage and Television Directing from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in Pittsburgh, PA. He is also currently serving as the President of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance.

# NEXT UP

ATHOL FUGARD SEASON 2012/2013

VALLEY SONG ..... NOV. 28-DEC. 2

COMING HOME ..... DEC. 10

THE ROAD TO MECCA ..... JAN. 9-FEB. 3

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