

April 16, 2013

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For Immediate Release



Profile Theatre presents
***My Children! My Africa!* by Athol Fugard**
May 8 – May 26, 2013

(Portland, Oregon – April 16, 2013) Profile Theatre presents the final Main Stage production of its 2012-13 Athol Fugard season, ***My Children! My Africa!***, May 8 – May 26.

It's 1985, the height of the student uprising against the South African government's oppressive apartheid system. Passionate, dedicated teacher Mr. M inspires an unlikely pairing for an English debate competition: brilliant black student activist Thami and privileged, down-to-earth white Isabel from a neighboring school. Loyalty and friendship are put to the test when external forces prove stronger than the walls of the Karoo classroom, and hope erodes into conflict between rebellious youth and "old fashioned" ideals. "Should violence be met with violence? Or is there an alternative?" asks playwright Fugard

My Children! My Africa! was written in 1989 as South Africa was struggling with the end of apartheid. Fugard captures a country in the throes of powerful change.

My Children! My Africa! is the inaugural production of Profile Theatre's new Inside Out: Community and School Tour. Following its run, *My Children! My Africa!* will tour to local high schools in the greater Portland area. Presented in full costume with props, sound and minimal set pieces, the play is followed by conversation with students and cast. More information, including a Resource Guide, can be found at <http://profiletheatre.org/tour>.

As part of its education programming, Profile Theatre offers free tickets to all performances to any full-time teacher in the K-12 system or professor in an accredited college or university. Information about Inside Out and Teacher Tickets is available at www.profiletheatre.org or by calling 503.242.0080.

Director: **Adriana Baer**, Cast: **Bobby Bermea**, **Gilbert Feliciano** and **Chelsie Kinney**

Design and Production: Kristeen Willis Crosser, Sara Ludeman, Olivia Murphy, Shareth Patel, Melissa Schlachtmeyer, Amanda Soden and Brent Sullivan

Performance Schedule

Wednesday, May 8 – Friday, May 10, 7:30pm – Previews
Saturday, May 11, 7:30pm – Opening Night
Thursday, May 23, 7:30 pm – Sign-interpreted performance
Saturday, May 25, 2:00pm – Additional matinee performance
May 15 – May 26: Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:00pm

Special Events

Sunday, May 12: "Mat Chat" Talkback with Production Team
Saturday, May 18: *Dinner with the Artist* – Director Adriana Baer

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Ticket Information

Regular Tickets: \$16 - \$30 (student, senior, and group discounts available)

Pay-What-You-Will Preview: Wednesday, May 8

Details and tickets at 503.242.0080 or www.profiletheatre.org
All performances are held at 3430 SE Belmont Street in Portland.

About Playwright Athol Fugard:

South African writer Athol Fugard is one of the most prolific and oft-produced playwrights in the world. He has worked in the theater as a playwright, director, and actor in South Africa, England, and the United States for over fifty years. As a playwright, his works have received critically acclaimed runs on Broadway, in London, and at The Fugard Theatre in Cape Town among many others. He has been seen on stage in South Africa, London, Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional theater in the U.S. In June 2011 he received a Lifetime Achievement Tony Award.

His plays include: *No-Good Friday*, *Nongogo*, *Blood Knot*, *Hello and Goodbye*, *People are Living There*, *Boesman and Lena*, *Statements After an Arrest*, *Under the Immorality Act*, *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*, *Dimetos*, *The Island*, *A Lesson From Aloes*, *"Master Harold"...and the Boys*, *The Road to Mecca*, *A Place With the Pigs*, *My Children! My Africa!*, *Playland*, *Valley Song*, *The Captain's Tiger*, *Sorrows and Rejoicings*, *Exits and Entrances*, *Victory*, *Coming Home*, *The Train Driver* and *The Blue Iris*.

Film credits include *The Road to Mecca*, *Gandhi*, *The Killing Fields*, *Meetings With Remarkable Men*, *Marigolds In August*, *Boesman and Lena*, and *The Guest*. His novel *Tsotsi*, was adapted into a film which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film (2006). He has published his autobiographical memoir "Cousins."

About Profile Theatre:

Profile Theatre's mission is to celebrate the playwright's contribution to theater by focusing on the work of a single writer per season. Profile believes that text is the generating seed for all creativity in the theater and that by focusing on the body of work of a single writer each year, we provide our audiences a unique opportunity to explore, in-depth, that writer's vision, talent, artistic oeuvre, and influence on theater and the world at large.

Profile's 2012/13 Season featuring the works of Athol Fugard is supported in part by The Collins Foundation, The Kinsman Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, The Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation, Regional Arts Culture Council, and Work for Art. Profile's unique mission is supported by a strong education program that includes adult and student programming and Inside Out: Community and School Tour.

Profile Theatre is moving, and will open its 2014 Sam Shepard season at its new home at Artists Repertory Theatre in January 2014.

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