

**MEDIA RELEASE 12.04.2018**

**“ABAKHULU – The Great Ones -”**

**presented by the Indoni Dance Academy**

**in partnership with Artscape Theatre Centre**

**choreographed by Sbonakaliso Ndaba**

**at the Artscape Theatre**

**on Sunday 3 June at 15:00 and 18:30**

**“ABAKHULU – The Great Ones -” is a moving essay examining how youth interpret the ancient wisdom of RESPECT, handed down during initiation to each and every traveller setting off on their journey to ADULTHOOD.**

**Fraught with tension, testosterone and menace, then lit up with tenderness, the dancers of the Indoni Dance Academy hold up a mirror to life.**

Every living being is born equal. Award winning choreographer, Sbonakaliso Ndaba, takes this value learnt in her childhood at the family home and on countless laps in the village, and portrays, in a confrontational and dynamic series of intertwining relationships, how it can all go so horribly wrong.

Initiation in the past was a lengthy, slow and thorough process. The modern fast-tracked initiation is too short. Youth emerge from this rite of passage without an innate sense of equality, without respect for women, respect for gay people, indeed respect for all that live! Questions are asked of The Great Ones. What is now the reason for the initiation? It no longer fulfils the passing down of equality as an overarching value to the youth; nor the understanding that no one is superior, and that sheer physicality does not prove masculinity.

The traditional African worldview, that we are not separate, but all breathe as one and are entitled to equal respect, is now only the vision of the few.

For the dancers of Indoni this theme is an exciting catalyst that challenges their versatility with rare portrayals of gentle and supportive partnerships followed by overwhelming displays of power and strength.

It is a theme that should be examined by every youth on the brink of ADULTHOOD.

**Sbonakaliso Ndaba**, is recognized as one of the leading contemporary African choreographers and teachers. She was the winner of the Western Cape Cultural Affairs Award in 2016 for ‘Best Contribution to Performing Arts: Dance’ and in 2017 for ‘Outstanding Achievement of Youth in Arts and Culture’.

**About Indoni:**

Performance and creative arts are powerful tools for healing and transformation. The vision of the **Indoni Dance, Arts & Leadership Academy** is to provide a space of excellence in dance and integrated arts, for talented school graduates who are without the financial means to go into higher learning.

Now celebrating four successful years, this three-year, post-schooling, professional training programme for dance and integrated arts, including music, drama, and visual art, aims to liberate the potential and creativity of our youth.

With the mission statement of “Investing in our Youth”, the Academy seeks to promote the arts as a channel for economic, personal and professional development, rekindling hope, and providing dignity and life skills to young people. Each student is empowered to become a creative collaborator in their own productive future.

The founding members of Indoni, **Sbonakaliso Ndaba** (Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer), **Balu Nivison** (Development Director and Lecturer in Life Skills), **Jennifer van Papendorp** (Managing Director) and **Dr Mamphela Ramphele**, (Patron and Lecturer in South African Heritage) collectively bring their particular expertise to directing and managing the academy.

The Academy is presently receiving funding from the National Lottery Commission, the National Arts Council, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, TFG and individuals who form part of the Benefactor- Mentor- Investor (BMI) Initiative. For further company details: [www.indoni-academy.org](http://www.indoni-academy.org)

**Performance Information:**

**Venue:** Artscape Theatre

**Dates and Times:** Two performances only on Sunday 3 June at 15:00 and 18:30

**Running Time:** 45 minutes – no interval

**Ticket prices:**

- R 100
- Discounts apply for pensioners, students and school groups.

**Bookings through Artscape and Computicket**

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Dance, Arts and Leadership Academy  
investing in our youth