

October 2009
PRESS RELEASE



Two Gents Productions In Association with UK Arts International Present

Vakomana Vaviri ve Zimbabwe

Two Gentlemen of Verona

By William Shakespeare

With support from the Oval House Theatre

7.30pm, Thursday 3 December

A two-man Zimbabwean riot of love, friendship and betrayal!

Two gents Productions present *Vakomana Vaviri ve Zimbabwe* or *Two Gentlemen of Verona* by William Shakespeare at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Thursday 3rd December, 7.30pm.

From Verona to Milan, via Harare and Bulawayo, two great friends, Valentine and Proteus, vie for the love of the same woman. When Valentine is banished, their friendship is threatened and only through disguise, deception and intrigue are they reconciled.

In triumphantly energetic 'township' style the two actors slip into all of the play's fifteen characters – from amorous suitors to sullen daughters, depressed servants and even a dog!

Using few to no props and a set that consists of no more than a trunk, the actors explore the text's nuances from a distinctly Zimbabwean perspective, bringing Shakespeare's verse to life in new and unfamiliar cadences.

With a watchful eye, great intuition and comic timing, the actors draw the audience into the action and create a soulful and engaging theatrical experience not to be missed.

Tickets for this performance are £9 (£8) CC £8.50 (£7.50) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

Two Gents Productions is Denton Chikura, Tonderai Munyevu and Arne Pohlmeier. Its members share a penchant for African performance modes, a taste for excellent writing and a shared experience of life within migrant communities.

Denton Chikura is a Zimbabwean actor and musician. Previous shows include *Yours Abundantly, from Zimbabwe* (Oval House Theatre), *Qabuka* (Oval House Theatre) *Boniface and Me* (BBC Radio 4), *Heart of a Dog* (Rogue State Theatre Company) and *Nhamo the Mandinka Warrior and His Sexy Wife Chipu* – a series of sketches and short stories.

Tonderai Munyevu studied at the London Centre for Theatre Studies and the National Youth Theatre. Theatre includes: *Yours Abundantly, From Zimbabwe* (Oval House Theatre) *Merchant of Venice* at the Arcola, *Dark of the Moon* (Jermyn Street), *Lions of Teranga* and *Red Dust Rising* (Oval House). As a voice artist: *Nelson's Dream* (Cambridge Press), *Boniface and Me* (BBC Radio 4) and *Pure Brazil Samba*.

Arne Pohmeier has spent half his life in Germany and the other half in countries such as Cameroon, the USA, South Africa, and the UK, developing a taste for all things cross-cultural. His directing credits include a staged reading of *Caucasian Chalk Circle with Omphile Molusi* at the Actors Centre Johannesburg and the award winning *Beethoven, in Raptus* at Artscape, Cape Town.

UK Arts International

Two Gents' production of *Vakomana Vaviri ve Zimbabwe or Two Gentlemen of Verona* was originally staged at the Oval House Theatre in London in November 2008 with support from Arts Council England.

Since 1992, UK Arts International has been touring, presenting and producing provocative and culturally diverse theatre and dance throughout the UK and overseas, working with a range of productions and companies that deal with contemporary issues in a challenging and exciting manner. UK Arts International have been presenting work in the UK since 1995 including productions from South Africa, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Haiti, the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

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