



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION



GOVERNMENT
OF THE PRIMORSKY KRAI

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PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Programme to promote the art
of the theatre in the Russian Far East

VLADIVOSTOK 2026

**September
22, 23**

**Primorsky Stage
of the Mariinsky Theatre
(Great Hall)**



HATCHED ENSEMBLE

by Mamela Nyamza (South Africa)

HATCHED ENSEMBLE

by Mamela Nyamza (South Africa)

Concept, Choreographer & Director –

MAMELA NYAMZA

Rehearsal Manager – **Kirsty Ndavo**

Opera Singer – **Litho Nqai**

African Instrumentalist – **Given Mphago**

Production Technical Manager – **Thabo Pule**

Costume Design: **Mamela Nyamza & Xolani Mawande**

Dancers:

Kirsty Ndawo

Sinazo Bokolo

Khaya Ndlovu

Thamsanqa Tshabalala

Dineo Mapoma

Thato Molusi

Mbali Brandt

Thabang Mojapelo

Zandile Constable

Pavishen Paideya

Hatoentle Tema

1 hour without intermission

Co-Produced:

National Arts Council & Makhanda National
Arts Festival

Creation funded by:

National Arts Council of South Africa



Hatched Ensemble by the South African choreographer Mamela Nyamza is a scaled-up artistic statement that evolved from a chamber solo *The Dying Swan*. The production defies the unwritten rules of classical ballet, which have long rejected certain body types, skin colors, and hairstyles.

The performance features ten classically trained dancers representing various ethnic groups, as well as an opera singer and a multi-instrumental musician. The choreography seamlessly blends western classics (including the music of Saint-Saëns) with South African vocal scores, while ballet steps intertwine with African dance traditions. The famous “swan” theme is reflected in a multi-facet mirror of meanings, multiplying and challenging the poetics of the original.

Mamela Nyamza strives to showcase the unique character of each movement, shaped by the personal, cultural, and professional contexts of the performers. Her dancers’ background is a fusion of classical ballet, African traditions, and contemporary choreography. Through restrained gestures and inner sensitivity, the performance reveals a universe unimaginable in the classical dance. The blend of European opera and African rhythms creates a cultural dialogue, allowing participants to discover a true identity in art. Following the principle of “enlightened entertainment,” the choreographer addresses social issues relevant both in South Africa and beyond, inviting the audience members to look within themselves to discover new meanings and beauty in familiar forms.



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"Hatched Ensemble is as much art installation as dance performance, with communal liberation its chief underlying theme... Perhaps not all Nyamza's artistic intentions are crystal-clear, but her work is imbued with delicacy, scope and a strong authentic intelligence."

Donald Hutera, The Times, 2024



MAMELA NYAMZA

South African dancer, choreographer, director and activist, whose works redefined the boundaries of contemporary dance theatre. Born in Gugulethu, Cape Town, she was trained in dance from the age of eight going on to graduate from Tshwane University of Technology with a national diploma in ballet, before winning a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey International School in New York. From early in her career, Nyamza was drawn to the politics of the body – challenging who gets to be a classical dancer and on whose terms. Her landmark work *Hatched* (2007) launched a practice built on unapologetically deconstructing the norms of classical dance, and her recent project *Hatched Ensemble*, which was World Premiered at the Makhanda National Arts Festival in South Africa in June 2023, received rave reviews from critics, including recognition at a number of dance festivals around the world. Mamela also won the Silver Lion at the 2026 Venice Biennale. Her other awards include the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance (2011) and the JOMBA Legacy Artist of the Year Award. Internationally acclaimed for her bold choreography, Nyamza continues to push the boundaries of form and convention in her new work, *The Herd/Less*, a searing new work exploring the fine, violent line between community and compliance.



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MAMELA'S ARTISTIC MOVEMENT

Non-profit Company

MAMELA'S ARTISTIC MOVEMENT NPC (MAM) is a center that brings together various forms of dance performance for educational purposes, strengthening social cohesion, and implementing socio-economic development programs. Collaborating with interested institutions, individuals, and communities engaged in dance, MAM strives to collaborate, nurture, develop, and empower vibrant dance performing arts institutions, individuals and communities that will enhance artistic excellence in all dance genres, such as: African Traditional Dance, Amapantsula/Amapiano Dance, Gamboot Dance, Contemporay Dance, Modern/Pop/Rap Dance, Cultural Dances, Ballet, etc; and encourage creative and powerful-shared experiences and exchange of ideas.

All members of Mamela Nyamza's troupe (musicians, dancers, and technical staff) are *are all ballet trained artists and choreographers in their own right*. The company strives to continue to be a beacon of hope and a source of creative inspiration for artists facing rejection due to their views on body politics, and to use performance as a means of social critique.



**T H E A T R E
O F N A T I O N S**

artistic director of the theatre national
artist of Russia **Evgeny Mironov**

O R G A N I Z E R S

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I n f o r m a t i o n P a r t n e r s



Вентори

Partner