



PRESS RELEASE
'ALBATROSS – WINGS OF FREEDOM'
NAIROBI & BRIGHTON UNITE ON
ROSE THEATRE STAGE



From the creators of Kesho Amahoro, the Chicken Knitters International Theatre Company presents the world premiere of Albatross – Wings of Freedom, at the Rose Theatre Kingston, for the International Youth Arts Festival 2014.

This magical musical delves deep into African history, exploring many different aspects of slavery and freedom. It intertwines mythical folklore with historical fact and emphasises the importance of redemption and forgiveness.

Set in the late 1880s in Zanzibar, East Africa, this musical tells the story of the epic struggle to eradicate the black market slave trade, being perpetrated along the East coast of Africa. Inspired by the true story of Bishop Charles Smythies of Zanzibar, we follow the church's mission to end slavery. In collaboration with the Royal Navy and a passionate and dedicated group of local people, they capture slave boats, free the slaves and bring the reprimanded traders to justice.

Although a historical piece, the themes of anti-slavery are as relevant today as they were over 100 years ago, with recent estimates suggesting there are over 20 million people living in conditions of 'slavery' throughout the world. This musical is dedicated to the continued struggle to stamp out this illegal practice, wherever it may be found, and to create a world where all can be free.

30 children from Braeburn School in Nairobi, Kenya, will join 70 children, from Downs Junior School, Brighton: Two schools united across the continents of Africa and Europe to present this wonderful piece of dramatic theatre, from the talented playwright Lizzie Jago, and brought to life by the beautiful music of Anna Rusbatch (music teacher at Downs Junior School, Brighton).

The Kenyan cast will arrive at Downs Junior School, Brighton on Wednesday 16th July. The full cast and crew will be rehearsing at Downs Junior School all day on 19th & 20th July, before travelling to London for the dress rehearsal and live performances. For more information, contact **Anna Rusbatch**: Tel: 01273 558422 - annarusbatch@hotmail.com.



Tickets £10-£15 (concession £8-£13)
available from the Rose Theatre
Box Office: 08444 821556
Wednesday 23rd July at 11:30
Friday 25th July at 14:30
Saturday 26th July at 19:30
Sunday 27th July at 16:30

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