

# 7 YEARS OF JOY, MAGIC AND THRILL

**100% AFRICAN 100% JOY 100% PARTY** 

www.circus-mother-africa.com



# Dear Audience,

Lean back, close your eyes and forget about your daily routine. Welcome to Africa, welcome to "Mother Africa", the Circus of all Senses.

Come and join us on a stirring trip to Africa's colorful world, get part of Africa's attitude towards

Fickle coloured costumes, rousing rhythms, breath-taking acrobatics und pure joy of life – that's "Mother Africa". Touring since 2006 all around the world from Europe to Australia from New Zeland to the Philippines from Russia to the Middle East, Mother Africa is now appearing for the first time in America. Over 1,5 million spectators were elated so far.

In the meanwile more than 150 splendid artists from all over Africa are forming the "Mother Africa" family. They all have trained and prepared with great passion and enthusiasm at the Artist's College in Dar es Salaam in order to present a creative firework of circus art and emotions today. Get bewitched!

But "Mother Africa" wants more than just to entertain. Like every year we donate a part of our earnings to Karl-Heinz Böhm's aid for Ethiopia "Menschen für Menschen".

**But now: Step right up!** 





You can hear the pulse of the earth beating... "Mother Africa" catches on a high artistic level with charm, humour and unsophisticatedness. An exhilarating world, celebrating a big party at the end with standing ovations

NÜRNBERGER ZEITUNG



The artists from the black continent were lighting up a display of fireworks. That was entertainment at its best on an international state-to-the-art-level. waz



Pure spectacle, colourful costumes, immense physicality, powerfully rhythmic music, song, dance, cirque acts and comedy, something for everybody.

GLAMADELAIDE, NEW ZEALAND

Mother Africa at Grimsby Auditorium was a sunshine safari for the mind!

If this show comes this way again then my advice is to grab a ticket and prepare to be amazed!

GRIMSBY TELEGRAPH, UK

It's the Lion king on steroids!

DOMINION POST, NZ

**EL PAIS, SPAIN** 



# **Breathtaking beautiful!**

High-contrast patterns and strong colors the colors of African fabrics are stunning, they superbly reflect the continent's culture. Colorful, joyful and unique - that is how the artist's dresses are presented at "Mother Africa" -The Circus of Senses.

The African fire and pure joy of live: This is what the typical African cotton prints called Bazin and Khitenge display! Bazin is a tightly woven, monochrome patterned cloth. Khitenge stands for a colorful printed cloth that is used in East Africa for blouses or shirts, baby-slings or headpieces. The idea for this dress is based on a former design for the show in 20. The mixture between the monochrome Bazin and the circle patterns on the Khitenge cloth are a real eye catcher!



Zebra, springbok, crocodile and lion come on stage for the first time this year. All kinds of "animals" and masks dance for "Mother Africa" this year - with costumes made of 100 % rubber. Skillful handicraft costume directors take flat gym mats and creating amazing animal masks out of it. They think of the best design and then cut, stick together and paint the mask. It's more than a weeks' work until one animal mask is ready to use.



Dar-es-Saalam: A hall in the biggest city of Tanzania. It's four-side open, only the roof and the blinds protect against the sun. There are clotheslines all across the room, two men are singing, the sound of some rhythmic drums is followed by loud laughter. At the Circus Artist's College of Winston Ruddle the Mother Africa family is rehearsing for the big show.

They have to extemporize: Idrissa, Adama and Pom- nia. The main principle is voluntariness; everyone pido are working on the drum act between the can join, watch and try out. And if talent is displayed, freshly washed sheets. On a rug on the floor Yetiayet the trainers think of the best suitable artistic disciis placing one hoop after the other around her rotating body. And with the help of a stool Ibrahim is ment on the young Africans get travel costs, training jumping upon the trampoline.

There is not so much time for practicing because every weekend the young artists have to leave the college for it is used as a "wedding hall" then.

It was in 2005, when Winston Ruddle made his dream come true founding his own Circus College in Tanzapline for the young man or woman. From this moand catering fully paid. The education at the Circus College is for free.

Many young people have taken that chance, they've used their talents to improve their lives. In the meantime Winston Ruddle has trained more than 150 young Africans. And for the most of them this is the only chance to escape from poverty in their motherland.

The Circus College must get bigger and so Ruddle plans his own training hall with an affiliated normal school with teachers. In addition a development association shall be founded in order to finance and enable a training for more talented Africans.











#### **ARTISTS & MUSICIANS**



Figueiredo, **Roy Gregory** Tanzania, **Band Leader** 



Ntavyo, **Bizimana Emmanuel** Tanzania, Musician



Mwanisawa, Richard Leonard Tanzania, Musician





Muteta, Theresa Makaita Zimbabwe, Dancer



Mkwananzi, Nomathamsanqa Treatie Zimbabwe, Dancer / Singer



Makimu, Nurdini **Athumani** Tanzania, Musician



Mlenge, Khamis Suleiman Tanzania, Musician



Dominick, **Benick** Pompido Tanzania, Musician



Magonya, Silethemba Zimbabwe, Dancer / Singer



Magagula, Mduduzi South Afrika, Dancer / Singer



Matiga, Koba Tanzania, Percussion



Agbogba, Kouassi Jean-Marc Benin, Baraque / Flute



Melese, Yetinayet Melkamu Ethopia, Hula-hoop



Gambo, Stephen William Tanzania, Musican/ **New Singer** 



Madlala, Clive South Afrika, **Dance Captain** 



Tulwo, **Ibrahim Hafidh Mussa** Tanzania, Rolla-Rolla



Teame, Gebregziabher Erensie Ethopia, Contorsion



Alemu, Yonas Teka Ethopia, **Icarian Games** 



Rashidi, Fadhili Ramadhani Tanzania, Hand-to Hand



Omary, Omary Ramadhani Tanzania, Hand-to Hand



Fuko, Yusuphu Ramadhani Tanzania, Contorsion



Habtemaryam, **Netsanet Tekle** Ethopia, Footjuggling



Sewasew, Alemu Truneh Ethopia, **Foot Juggling** 



Ferouz, Baraka Juma Tanzania, Unicycle



Wubshet, **Amare Sahale** Ethopia, Diabolo





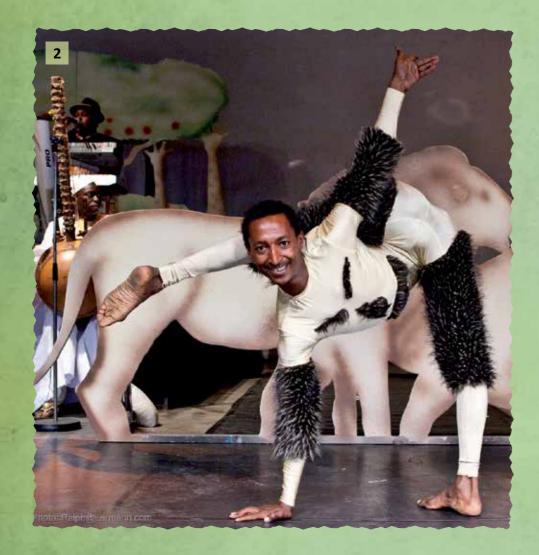


Christina, **Jacob Benedict** Tanzania, Dancer, Areal



Degefa, Tariku Fufa Ethopia, **Icarian Games** 

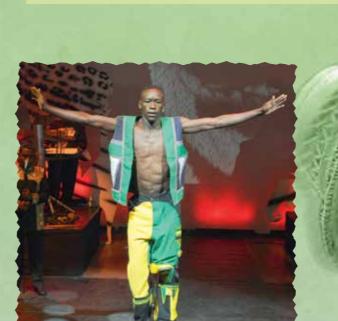




- 1 Yonas & Tariku from Ethiopia are thrilling the audience with neck-breaking somersaults and combinations of spins in the air.
- 2 Teame from Ethopia has been one of the main attractions of the "Mother Africa" shows in the past five years. This year one of the most flexible mens in the world has arranged his acts new, creating a bundle of tricks.







tional dance of the South African mine workers.

3 It looks like the Bavarian "Schuhplatteln" but in reality it's the tradi-

**4** A different way of cycling: Baraka Juma from Tanzania presents all that can be done on a unicycle.



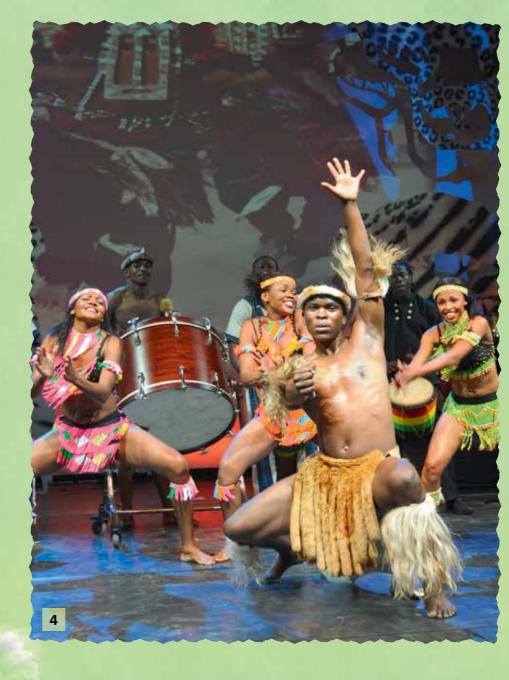


**1** The opener of the show will be mystic, full of rhythm, theatrically attitudes and power this year.



2 The Ramadhani Brothers from Dar-es-Salaam unify powerful leverage technique and balane in their elegant act. And it is not only the women hearts beating faster when they do their tricks

**3** For some people a simple toy, for others high energy artistic. The Artist from Ethiopia is also climbing up a walking globe to top the act.



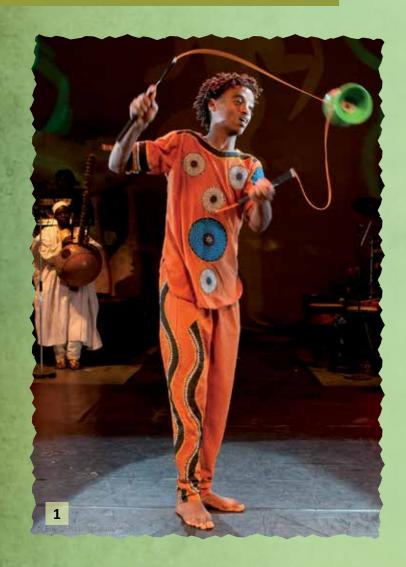
**4** Dancing is joy, Africa is the homeland of dance: The dancers and musicians are presenting a mixture of Zulu, Tswana, Ndebele and Wenda dances.

**5** Higher and higher are the floors made of tubes and boards that Ibrahim Hafidh Mussa is building. The balancing actor has reached the 6th floor meanwhile.





#### **THE SHOW**



- 1 One of the oldest and most traditional circus tools, the Diabolo. Some children might do some simple tricks, but Wubshet is called "Maestro Diabolo".
- 2 The program wouldn't be half as good without our musicians from Zanzibar. Our In Africa band has always been the core of every "Mother Africa" show.
- **3** Africa's" stage: Yusuphu Ramadhani from Tanzania can do magic with a pyramid of chairs. Without a rope and hooks!



- **4** The girls from Ethopia are balancing jars, tissues and even heavy tables like they would be light as feathers.
- **5** Quite unusual but true: Tap dance has its home in South Africa as well. And of course Mother Africa has got the best dancers. Tna Benedikt and Mduduzi on stage.









### A dream came true

In the past he was clown, artist and tightrope walker. Now Winston Ruddle is the founder and art director of "Mother Africa", the Circus of Senses.

#### Mr. Ruddle, in 2005 you have made your dream come true: you've opened an Artist College in Tanzania. How did that dream arise?

It was in 2001, when I was working as an artist in a show. In that time my aunt asked me what profession I would choose in future. And I brooded over that question, I thought deeply about my life, my future and the path I should choose in life. After all, one cannot work as an artist forever and ever. And since that time I was dreaming about creating a real African Circus. Finally my dream helped to create and to make "Mother Africa" so very successful. This really makes me happy!

#### Since eight years "Mother Africa" is touring through **Europe and the world. How are the tours going?**

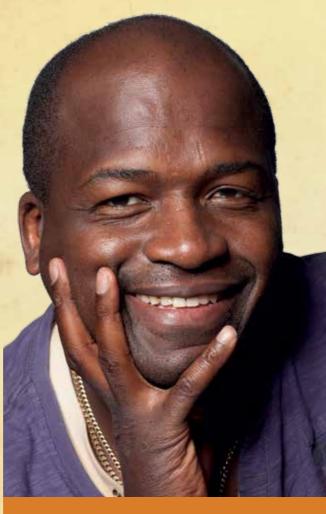
Well, we've been coming around quite a lot: to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, Singapore or Spain. But our last tour exceeded everything before. We have been travelling for eleven months through Australia and New Zealand! Having a look at the ticket sales of the show, this was the best tour we have ever had.

# What does "Mother Africa" mean to you personally?

My dream came true. "Mother Africa" has splendid African artists and it is successful all over the world. With our show my crew and I have taken the chance to



Winston Ruddle and Hubert Schober (Producer).



present both outstanding African artists and our continent. That's wonderful!

#### What are your ideas and wishes for the future?

Unfortunately it is a fact that many organizations try to save money on the artists. This means that they employ less expensive actors instead of well-trained ones. And as a consequence the quantity of welltrained actors is getting less. That's why I wish that this may change and that quality will be more valued in future.

#### What's so special about the current show, do you have a favorite act yourself?

Our African artists have developed and our show has become even more better. We have unbelievable talents in the show, that's why I have two favorite highlights this year. The first is the "Icarian Act" from Ethiopia; the second is the "Contortion Act" from Kenya. But I really don't want to tell more secrets now – come and see the show!

# **Presenting: The team of Mother Africa**



#### Esiaka Shah Seif / Mask designer

Esiaka Shah is a multi-talented man. The former acrobat is working as a Tent Master and Best Man. On this tour he takes care for the beautiful animal masks. No matter if it is a giraffe, crocodile or a springbok – he breathes life into every mask.

#### Tsendbjamba Erdeneshoo / Senior Designer

The costume designer and choreographer works for "Mother Africa" since 2006. She is responsible for all the splendid filigree embroideries and applications on the costumes. Her circus career started in 1986, when she was a contortionist at the Mongolian State Circus, being all around the world with it. Between 2004 and 2011 Tsendbjamba Erdeneshoo was teaching young girls in Ethiopia to bring them forward to become contortionists themselves. The young artists worked for "Africa! Africa!" and other shows afterwards.



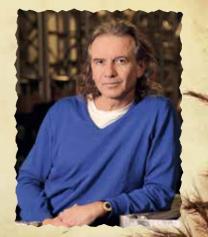
#### Tumaini Mutru / Costume Designer

Tumaini Mutru is Costume Designer at Mother Africa's. He learned how to sew and tailor from his father in his early years of childhood. Accidentally he met Winston Ruddle, and since 2006 he's a permanent member of the "Mother Africa" team. He has got all the ideas for the costumes, makes all samples and finally produces all the dazzling and beautiful costumes of the show.



#### **Hubert Schober / Producer**

"Mother Africa" is an affair of the heart for him. Hubert Schober and Winston Ruddle are working together since 2003. Working as project manager and event manager for FKP Scorpio, he has 20 years of experience in show business. Furthermore he made his mark with musicals for children and Europe wide Chinese circus productions such as "The Big Chinese Circus Hebei".



# Her heart beats for dancing

Tshegofatso Brenda Mafojane is a member of the "Mother Africa" family since 2009, she is on stage as a singer and dancer. She gained a lot of experience at Andre Heller's show "Africa! Africa!". And it was there where she met Winston Ruddle, who was immediately impressed by her.

#### Brenda, how old are you and where exactly from South Africa do you come from?

I'm 29 years old and was born in Mafikeng, which is in the beautiful North-West province of South Africa. At the moment I live with my family in Johannesburg.



#### How did you come to singing and dancing?

Oh, ever since I can remember I loved dancing! When I was 13 I started to train all kinds of dancing styles at the Mmambana cultural center in my hometown. I trained Latin dances, Hip Hop, Freestyle but also ballroom dancing, tap dance and ballet. Since then I've taken part in many national and international championships and I've won several awards. I really love dancing and being on stage is the greatest thing for me!

#### What is so special about "Mother Africa"?

It's the crew and the spirit, that is all very harmonically. You can't get it any better! "Mother Africa" consists of all of the talented, enthusiastic artists, all bursting with energy. I've learned so much from all the different artists and from the directors of the show. That was good for my personal development. To make it short: We are a big family and I love to be a part of "Mother Africa"!

#### What are your wishes for the future?

I love dancing, but it would be great if I could improve my singing career in future. A vocal training would be wonderful... But I have some more plans because at the moment I study additionally at the University of South Africa. When I have graduated, I would like to open a business and of course have a family. But the rest I give to the hands of the almighty God!

#### Idea:

Winston Ruddle for African Acrobats Association, Tanzania

#### **Production:**

**Hubert Schober for FKP** Scorpio Konzertproduktionen GmbH, Germany

#### **Director:**

Print:

Edit:

**Photos:** 

Schober

Winston Ruddle

#### Show Choreographer: Winston Ruddle,

Finn Martin (RIP)

MinuteMan Press

of Bellerose

Sigrid Pohlhaus

**Poster Artwork:** 

**GmbH Hamburg** 

Press Agency:

Horstmann

Thomas Gutt for TMG

Bernd Zerbin & Mara

#### Dance Choreographer:

Sibongile Prudence Mtshali, Mduzu Magagula, Clive Madlala

## **Act Choreographer:**

Winston Ruddle **Assistant Trainer:** Gombragchaa Ianjmaa,

#### Rajubu Nasoro Zubwa Costumes:

Tsendbyamba Erdeneshoo, Tumaini Baraka Mrutu, Vera Manju

#### Props:

Winston Ruddle Masks & Heads:

#### Esiaka Shah Seif Stagedesign: Eddy Frühwirth

Tumaini Baraka Mrutu

#### Stage Images:

**Hubert Schober** Musiccollection:

#### Winston Ruddle Band:

InAfrica Band, Sansibar

#### Tourpreparation:

**Hubert Schober for** FKP Scorpio Konzertproduktionen GmbH

#### **Project Management:**

Elke Schneider

#### **Tour Manager:** Arvid Enge

**Best Boy:** 

#### **Technical Supplier:**

HICO, Wetzlar

### **Light Design:**

Eddy Frühwirth

#### Technicians:

Daniel Volk, Florian Kunkler, Kai Steffen Müller, Patrick König,

#### Sebastian Aspermeier

Programbook:

#### Julia Rösch, Jonathan Pohlhaus, Stefanie Hirsch, Ina Bauer and Lisa Messer for powerpress medien in cooperation with Hubert

#### Schober

Homepage: Markus Mandl for Buntwelt Our Thanks goes to all the

Travelagency: Irmgard Muschawek

#### Accountant:

Joachim Bock

#### Theresa Feihe, Claire Lee, Lawyer:

Winston Ruddle, Hubert Martino Glänzer

#### **Project Coordination &**

#### Booking:

FKP Scorpio Konzertproduktionen GmbH, Folkert Koopmans, Große Elbstr. 277 - 279, 22767 Hamburg, T: 040-853 88 888, F: 040-853 88 999,

info@fkpscorpio.com

#### **Special Thanks:**

coorporating and involved embassies, especially Miss Kasonta from Dar es Salaam, to all the brillant spectators of the show, to all our sponsors and partners of advertising, to Almaz and Karlheinz Böhm and "Menschen für Menschen" for their important work and as every time to all helping hands, the families and everybody who is not mentioned yet. To all the helping hands, especial-

ly Edeltraud Frühwirth, for hosting us so nicely year by year. This Tour is dedicated to our beloved friend, musical director and mentor, to one of the most important and adorable persons in the world, Finn Martin, who died tragically at an accident in September 2011.





#### **DEZEMBER 2013**

DEZEIVIDER Z	013		
Thursday	December 5	11:00 am	School Performace
Friday	December 6	11:00 am	School Performace
Friday	December 6	07:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Saturday	December 7	02:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Saturday	December 7	07:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Sunday	December 8	12:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Sunday	December 8	05:00 pm	Public Performance
Wednesday	December 11	04:30 pm	School Performance
Thursday	December 12	11:00 am	School Performance
Friday	December 13	11:00 am	School Performance
Friday	December 13	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Saturday	December 14	02:00 pm	Public Performance
Saturday	December 14	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 15	12:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 15	05:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Wednesday	December 18	11:00 pm	School Performance
Thursday	December 19	11:00 am	School Performance
Friday	December 20	11:00 pm	School Performance
Friday	December 20	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Saturday	December 21	02:00 pm	Public Performance
Saturday	December 21	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 22	12:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 22	05:00 pm	Public Performance
Thursday	December 26	02:00 pm	Public Performance
Thursday	December 26	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Friday	December 27	02:00 pm	Public Performance
Friday	December 27	07:00 am	Public Performance
Saturday	December 28	02:00 pm	Public Performance
Saturday	December 28	07:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 29	12:00 pm	Public Performance
Sunday	December 29	05:00 pm	Public Performance
Tuesday	December 31	02:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>

#### **JANUAR 2014**

Wednesday	January 1	02:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Thursday	January 2	02:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Friday	January 3	07:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Saturday	January 4	02:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Saturday	January 4	07:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Sunday	January 5	12:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>
Sunday	January 5	05:00 pm	<b>Public Performance</b>

March and April

Dollywood Theme Park, Tennessee

May Cost Rica

# SEVEN YEARS OF JOY, MAGIC AND THRILL.