

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Marin Theatre Company presents  
**MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA!** by Athol Fugard  
Directed by Josh Costello

**January 15 through February 8, 2009 | Opening Night January 20, 8:00 PM**

Marin Theatre Company continues its 2008-09 season with *My Children! My Africa!* by renowned South African playwright Athol Fugard in its Boyer Theatre. Directed by Josh Costello, MTC's Artistic Director of Expanded Programs, this masterwork of contemporary theater stars **L. Peter Callender**, one of the Bay Area's best-known actors, in his MTC debut as Mr. M; former Oregon Shakespeare Festival company member **Laura Morache** as Isabel; and A.C.T. third-year MFA student **Lloyd Roberson II** as Thami.

Set in 1985 South Africa, during a period of intense and often violent anti-Apartheid protests and boycotts, *My Children! My Africa!* follows the friendship of two teenagers. Thami, a gifted and independent black student, and Isabel, a white prep school student, participate in a rare interracial debate at Thami's school. Against the backdrop of an education system in crisis, Fugard's hopeful, seasoned teacher Mr. M struggles to lift his students above the strife and violence that is boiling in their black township. *My Children! My Africa!* premiered at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1989 and has been performed since then worldwide.

Director **Josh Costello** believes this play will resonate strongly with contemporary audiences. "Athol Fugard's ability to find the personal story in a dangerous political situation gives this play a special kind of power. We're excited to have such a talented cast bring these courageous characters and their struggles to life."

**Athol Fugard** is considered one of the world's greatest playwrights. Best known for political plays opposing the South African system of apartheid, he has influenced international public opinion on the politics of South Africa and worldwide oppression. He

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has been working in the theater as a playwright, director, and actor since the mid-1950s. Among Fugard's many award-winning plays are *Blood Knot* (seen last season at A.C.T.), "*Master Harold*". . . *and the boys*, and *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*. The film version of his novel *Tsotsi*, shot on location in South Africa, won the 2005 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film among many other awards.

Director **Josh Costello** directed the 2007 MTC production of *Lovers & Executioners* and recently directed MTC's school touring production of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Josh has directed dozens of plays up and down the West Coast, and was founding Artistic Director of Impact Theatre.

In addition to its regular schedule of performances of *My Children! My Africa!*, MTC is pleased to offer special student matinees of this coming-of-age drama set in a time of great political upheaval. Over 1,000 students from communities around Marin and the greater Bay Area will attend weekday special performances—several of these performances are already sold out. With support from the Shenson Foundation, MTC will send teachers into classrooms to discuss *My Children! My Africa!* before students attend the matinees.

## **THE FACTS**

For more information visit [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call 415.388.5208. Marin Theatre Company is located at 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley 94941.

**Previews**—Thursday, Jan 15 through Sunday, Jan 18, 2009

**Opening Night Gala**—Tuesday, Jan 20, 2009 at 8:00 pm

### **Performance Schedule January 15 through February 8, 2009**

Tues, Thu, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu 1:00 pm | Sat & Sun 2:00 pm

Please check [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

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**Ticket Prices**

Previews: Thu through Sun: \$31

Regular Performances:

Tues: \$31 in advance, or Pay-What-You-Can (excludes Opening)

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$34 & \$41

Fri: \$39 & \$46

Sat Evenings: \$44 & \$51

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$34 & \$41

Opening Night (Tues) with Cast Reception: \$44 & \$51

**Discounts available:**

Student tickets: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts, varies by performance

RUSH tickets \$10, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

Pay-What-You-Can Tuesdays (excludes Opening)

**MTC ENGAGED!**

Programs for *My Children! My Africa!* include:

**Post-Show Q&As**—After most performances (except Saturday evenings and Opening Night), MTC will continue its new tradition of hosting a Q&A with a member of MTC's Artistic staff and members of the cast.

**After Words**—Sunday, Jan 18

After our Sunday Preview matinee in the Boyer Theatre, Margot Melcon, MTC's Literary Manager/Dramaturg, will interview a guest (to be announced) onstage.

**Opening Night**—Tuesday, Jan 20

MTC's most festive evening! Meet the cast and director at an informal post-show reception. Enjoy a complimentary glass of Korbel champagne and treats provided by Whole Foods.

**Director's Night**—Wednesday, Jan 21 & Feb 4

Lively post-show conversations with the director and/or cast members on two Wednesday evenings.

**Wine Tasting Series**—Saturday, Jan 24

Complimentary wine tasting begins one before the show at 7 pm.

**Perspectives**—Thu Matinee, Jan 29

Topical lecture one hour prior to the Thursday matinee with a guest to be announced.

**Happy Hour**—Wednesday, Jan 28

All drinks half-off one hour before one of our Wednesday evening performances.

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## **ABOUT MTC**

Entering its 42nd year, Marin Theatre Company is one of only five LORT theaters in the Bay Area, and is the largest professional regional theater company located in San Francisco's North Bay. It produces an annual season of more than 200 performances on its two stages. MTC provides a forum for contemporary, classic, and emerging playwrights and, through the new Expanded Programs forum, an environment that introduces people of all ages to the transformative power of theatre. Through its public performances, school tours, and various educational programs, MTC serves more than 40,000 people annually.

## **BIOS**

**Josh Costello** (Director) has been MTC's Artistic Director of Expanded Programs since 2007. He directed *Lovers & Executioners*, MTC's School Tour production of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, and will be directing *My Children! My Africa!* in January 2009. Josh has directed dozens of plays up and down the west coast, including *House of Lucky* at Magic Theatre, *Hamlet* at Shakespeare-by-the-Sea, and *Romeo & Juliet: A Fire Ballet* at The Crucible. Josh was the founding Artistic Director of Impact Theatre, the Education Director at Marin Shakespeare Company, and has taught at A.C.T., Cal Shakes, and South Coast Rep, among others. He holds a BFA in Theatre from Boston University, and an MFA in Directing from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Each of the three actors makes their MTC debuts with *My Children! My Africa!*

**L. Peter Callender** (Mr. M) is an Associate Artist at California Shakespeare Theater and has appeared in over 20 productions including *King Lear*, *Man and Superman*, *Richard II*, *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Twelfth Night*. Peter has also appeared at Berkeley Rep in *Major Barbara*, *Spunk*, and *The Oresteia*, and in productions at A.C.T., Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, and TheatreWorks. He has performed on Broadway in *Prelude to a Kiss*. He is the recipient of SF Bay Guardian's Goldie Award (Best Actor), the East Bay Express Best (Actor) of the East Bay Award, and Bay Area Critics Circle Award for *World Music* (Jean) at TheatreFIRST.

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**Laura Morache** (Isabel) recently appeared as Sister James in *Doubt* at Center REP. A former member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival acting company, her roles included Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Annie Loder in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Mariane in *Tartuffe*, Young John Talbot in *Henry VI, Part 1*, and Laura Luthy in the world premiere musical *Tracy's Tiger*. Laura has also appeared at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Rubicon Theatre Company, and the New Hazlett Theater. Laura received her BFA in acting from Carnegie Mellon University.

**Lloyd Roberson II** (Thami) is a third-year student in the A.C.T. MFA Program and was recently seen as Agamemnon and Menelaus in their production of *Good Breeding*. Other A.C.T. MFA Program credits include *The Music Cure*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Clownation*, and *The Lady from the Sea*. Regional credits include *Exonerated* at Lynx Performance Theatre, and *Hamlet Machine* at Ion Theatre Company. He is a graduate of San Diego State University.

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