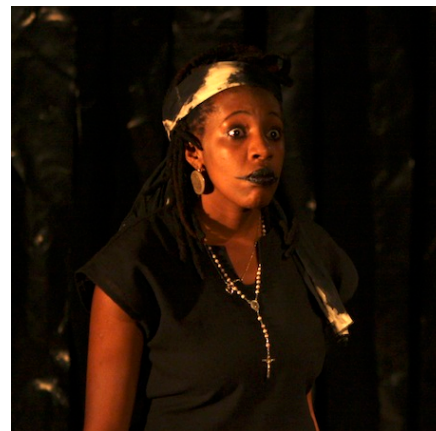
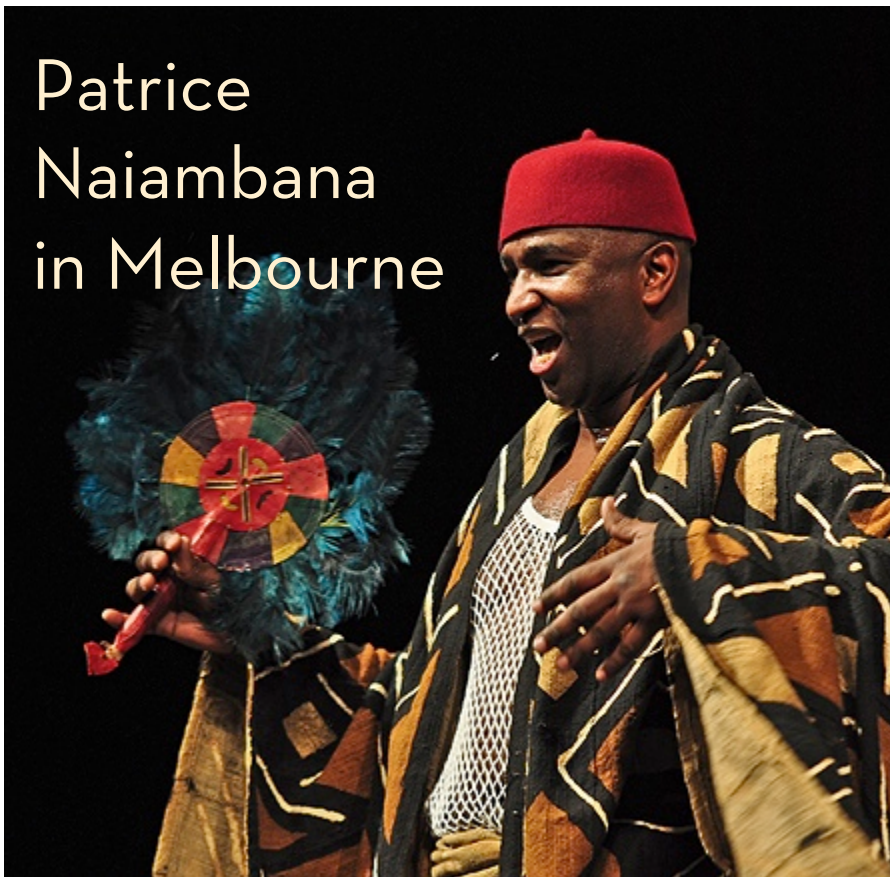


# Patrice Naiambana in Melbourne



The Man Who  
Committed  
Thought

The Gospel of  
Othello



15 Sep - 4 Oct 2014  
Performances | Public Workshops  
Private Workshops



# Patrice Naiambana in Melbourne

Footscray Community Arts Centre, 15 Sep – 4 Oct 2014

## INFO PACK

Prepared by Lara Week | Revised: 2 June 2014

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# The Man Who Committed Thought

## About the Show

In postcolonial Lion Mountain, a determined peasant seeks justice after his cow is eaten by a greedy dictator. An initially indifferent lawyer, much given to quoting Shakespeare and the Western Canon, is forced to commit thought about his own responsibility for the state of his country. Is it all in vain?

Patrice Naiambana's solo show *The Man Who Committed Thought* is inspired by the courage and humour of the people of Africa and all those who have dared to challenge ignorance and oppression.

## Origins of the Show

Patrice's work centres on the understanding that all our stories, no matter how difficult, have nobility and hope from which we can all learn. In the West, contemporary African narratives are almost entirely missing from fictional stories on television, film, radio and in theatre. *The Man Who Committed Thought* was created in order to shed light on Africans who are living, thinking and adapting to traumatic times and contemporary issues. It is an attempt to combat the racism and stereotyping that inevitably comes from repeated negative images and stories of a people, and to express the valuable lessons that Africa's stories can give to the rest of the world. The play is a tribute to all those who survive war and horror and still continue to think, laugh and play.

# The Man Who Committed Thought

## Press Quotes & Endorsements

### **Scotsman Fringe Festival First Award Winner**

"This is passionate theatre, brilliantly performed, about matters of massive import... Packs more power into its 80 minutes than most would-be writers manage in a lifetime... You are left gasping for breath." - The Scotsman

"Brilliantly, honestly, fearlessly challenging the status quo." - Three Weeks

"...A moving play that is an indictment of the hypocrisy of the human rights agenda, aid, and the nations that give it. It illustrates the conflict between humanitarianism and humanism, and shows that right and wrong are not necessarily black and white, but rather, they are painted in shades of grey." - Kubatana.net

"He has charisma to burn, and the physical presence to back up that charm." - The Stage

## Recent Performances

2014

Tristan Bates Theatre, United Kingdom

2011

Ko D'ooooooooor, The Netherlands  
Pentecost Festival, United Kingdom  
Rock Paper Sistahz Festival, Canada  
Harare International Festival of Arts, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*  
Roosevelt Academy, The Netherlands

2010

Théâtre L'Arrière-Scène, Belgium  
Intwasa Festival, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*  
Harare International Festival of Arts, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Hong Kong

2007

The CAPITAL Centre, United Kingdom  
Soho Theatre, United Kingdom

# The Man Who Committed Thought



## Workshops

The show is a resource to introduce Creating Performance workshops. Patrice offers participants the opportunity to explore story-making using interdisciplinary performance techniques. Participants engage with various themes and practices to address a range of social justice issues. Patrice is happy to work together with organisations to design a workshop plan compatible with individual needs and interests.

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Group size:** 18 – 25 participants

## Venue & Dates

Performance Space  
Footscray Community Arts Centre  
45 Moreland Street  
Footscray 3011

Friday, Sep 19: 7.30pm  
Saturday, Sep 20: 7.30pm  
Sunday, Sep 21: 2pm

Ticket Prices  
Full price \$23  
Concession \$15  
Groups (4+) \$20

Ticket prices include a post-show discussion  
(facilitator TBC)

**Private Workshops**  
By arrangement.

# The Gospel of Othello



Patrice Naiambana will facilitate two sessions of The Gospel of Othello, a 5-day creative lab in which participants will develop and stage their own version of Othello. Participants will engage with movement, improvisation, song, dance, and ensemble acting, melding Shakespearean verse with the vernacular of their communities in order to interrogate Shakespeare's play. We will focus on key themes such as gender relations, exile, racism, and 'othering'. The lab will encourage participants to voice their understanding of the themes, and to exchange ideas on social change. The lab will culminate with a performance sharing for invited guests and industry.

By the end of the lab, participants will:

- have created a unique, local performance in response to a text from the western canon
- have developed approaches to intercultural performance-making that can inform future work
- have the option to mount their own version of The Gospel of Othello, and to continue working as an ensemble once the program has concluded
- be able to use performances as a starting point to encourage community dialogue about key issues such as gender relations, racism and migration

- have further developed their networks through engaging in collaborative activities with other course participants and international professional
- be better positioned to access creative entrepreneurial and apprenticeship opportunities, and continued skills development

Patrice has facilitated The Gospel of Othello in the UK, South Africa, Canada and Zimbabwe with professional and emerging artists, as well as school children and community participants. He devotes the core principles of professionalism, discipline and creativity to any group of participants irrespective of artistic experience.

In recent years, the program has achieved recognition among educational institutions around the world. Professor Walter D. Mignolo, Director of the Centre for Global Studies and the Humanities at Duke University, is including a chapter on the program in his book *Decolonial Aesthetics: Global Responses to the Western Canon* (Duke University Press: Forthcoming). Dr James Moran, Associate Professor in Drama at the University of Nottingham, has called it "a ground-breaking initiative that works to bring a variety of different cultural perspectives to bear on Shakespeare's text, allowing Othello to be reimagined in a way that opens up key questions about race, identity and belonging."

# The Gospel of Othello

## Testimonials

“Being South African, this project has given me an in into that other cultural experience. It was a true testament of the voracious appetite of inner cities that people want stories to be told, are dying for theatre but it has to be inclusive, inclusive of the way they think, the way they feel and their situation.”

Wela Mbusi  
*Actor, Birmingham UK*

“The experience was a life-changing experience for my career as a actress and a singer. I learnt how to work as a team; voice projection; how to communicate with the audience; how to make different shapes and facial expressions and how to stay in character; tone of voice; how to feel, live, and breathe the character; to understand Shakespearian language, viewing and interpreting it in different ways and angles.”

Pamela Gonye  
*Performer, Zimbabwe*

“So many things like this should be done a lot more; we were crying out there not even wanting anyone to go because we were so excited just to work with each other. Each and every single person I have worked with has inspired me and I hope we keep in touch because it has been amazing.”

Nicole Munhawa  
*Singer, Nottingham UK*

## Project History

### 2011

Intwasa Festival: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*  
Canadian Stage's Festival of Ideas and Creation: Toronto, Canada  
Harare International Festival of Arts, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*

### 2010

Intwasa Festival: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe  
*British Council Supported*

### 2008

Port St John Junior School, South Africa  
Chapelton, Leeds, UK  
*Co-produced by The People's Arts Council in Association with The Royal Shakespeare Company and The Leeds Bi-Centenary Transformation Project*

### 2007

CAPITAL Centre, Warwick University, UK  
*As part of the artist residency of Patrice Naiambana*

# The Gospel of Othello

## Venue & Dates

Patrice Naiambana will lead two 5-day sessions of the Gospel of Othello in Melbourne. We are currently accepting expressions of interest from participants looking to develop their capacities in intercultural performance making and social change.

### Session 1

Lab and sharing at Basement Theatre  
Footscray Community Arts Centre

Lab: 10am-6pm, Sep 22-26  
Sharing for industry and invited guests: Sep 26, 6.30pm (time TBC)

### Session 2

Lab venue TBC  
Sharing at Basement Theatre  
Footscray Community Arts Centre

Lab: 10am-6pm, Sep 29-Oct 3  
Sharing for industry and invited guests: Oct 3, 6.30pm (time TBC)

## Registration Cost

Participants pay **\$495** of \$850 full cost for five-day lab and sharing. \$355 to be subsidised by supporter organisations (TBA).





# About Us

## Patrice Naiambana: Performer & Facilitator

Patrice is an African performing artist from Sierra Leone, currently based in Birmingham. Patrice's professional background includes work with the Royal Shakespeare Company, most recently playing the title role in Kathryn Hunter's *Othello*, and Warwick the Kingmaker in the Olivier Award-winning Histories Cycle Ensemble. Recent film work includes *The Bible* miniseries and *Three Sides of a Coin* directed by Tom Lawes. He starred as General Mukata in the Channel 4 sitcom *In Exile*, and has provided voices for the award-winning BBC animation series *Nina and The Neurons* and *Tinga Tinga Tales*. His Edinburgh Fringe First Award-winning solo show *The Man Who Committed Thought* has toured internationally. He founded Tribal Soul in 1991 as a means to make visible stories from African Diaspora experiences, in response to simplistic representations of Africans in the West. His passion is performance for social transformation.

## Lara Week: Producer

Lara is a Melbourne-based producer and designer for performance. Her background includes: co-creating monthly community music event *Deja* in her home city of Sydney; leading play-building workshops for children with Galli Theatre, Berlin; making costumes for a children's production in the Israeli Opera; and working with children in a youth club for refugees in Tel Aviv. She is currently engaged on projects with the Centre for Cultural Partnerships, VCA, as a designer on the Many Voices—Many Cultures primary school arts program, and with social enterprise CoDesign Studio. Lara has been associate producer for Tribal Soul since early 2011, producing community programs and original performances in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, the Netherlands, UK, and Australia. She is dedicated to creating spaces where people with different skills and perspectives can share ideas and produce work together.

# Tribal Soul Arts

Tribal Soul is a hothousing arts laboratory based in the United Kingdom. We create innovative and functional interdisciplinary art by bringing experienced artists into fruitful collaborations with citizens and communities.

We have four imperatives that shape our work:

- **Culturepreneurship:** Offering creative apprenticeships and learning for sustainable livelihoods
- **Social Transformation:** Contributing to practical positive change
- **Legacy:** Documenting and disseminating marginalised narratives
- **Shared History:** Cultivating an inclusive way of looking at our past, present and future

The outcomes of our projects take a variety of forms, from fully-fledged theatre productions to informal public sharings, to performance seminars and workshops. Our participants come from a range of sectors, and include professional performing artists, young people and early years, mental health staff and service users, university students, and community groups. We have facilitated creative projects in the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Canada, and Hong Kong. We are a UK registered Community Interest Company.

Tribal Soul Arts CIC  
Business Development Centre  
332 Marsh Lane  
Erdington  
B23 6HP UK  
[www.tribalsoularts.com](http://www.tribalsoularts.com)



# Footscray Community Arts Centre

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) is a community-engaged, contemporary arts organisation working with local, regional and international communities.

Our mission is to collaborate with artists, communities and organisations to build capacity, create opportunities and drive social change. We are the place where important conversations happen: we then action; we cultivate; we deepen.

We drive social, cultural, artistic and economic vibrancy in Australian communities through creativity and collaboration.

Our contemporary arts and community cultural development practice and cultural facility activation are underpinned by strong and dynamic operational models with a focus on sustainability; while ensuring access, innovation, diversity, leadership, sustainability and equity across all areas of our business.



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