

honouring remembering feeling cleansing healing celebrating dreaming hoping

•Konshus Pilot Media presents

*White Paper Boats*

1 December 2009 marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the emancipation of Slaves in South Africa.

**White**...the colour of peace and hope... the cloth worn by slaves. **Water**...the element that binds us all...the carrier of slave ships to and from unknown lands.

*Konshus Pilot Media* invites you to remember and honour the contribution of the slaves to the Cape, through *White Paper Boats*- a unique fusion of music and origami in a ritual embodied by the shamanic vocal performance of *Ernestine Deane*.

It is impossible to look around Cape Town without seeing the indelible mark of the slaves on the beautiful city-whether through the old buildings they built or the first roads & mountain trails etched out by their hard labour; their contribution to the Afrikaans language or the imprint of their ancestral line on the faces of the mixed population.

Slaves were brought from places like Indonesia, the coast of Africa, Polynesia, even China (to name only a few).

*White Paper Boats* flips the dark intentions of the slave route as white paper boats are created throughout the performance, giving all present the opportunity to cast a boat onto water and claim their place on the earth...a place of hope and healing.

*White Paper Boats* offers an opportunity to unite the diverse people of the Cape through the accessible ritual of music, and without blame or victimization.

The ritual allows the audience to enter a space of fluidity and open-ness, as if at sea. They are invited to claim their part in the healing of present day, post colonialist Cape Town and indeed the earth- as white paper boats are cast onto water... carrying the new hopes and dreams of the current inhabitants of the Mother city.

Supported by stellar musicians, South African Brian de Goede (Moodphasesive drummer/producer) in collaboration with outstanding Fijian artists, Ernestine flies her soulful vocals over an acoustic landscape of guitar, drum and indigenous South African and Fijian sounds- as her songs journey through the issues of ancestry, dispossession, post-colonialisation and ultimately- a celebration of hope and unity.

The performance is punctuated by a dance of pride... and the action of folding white paper boats through \*origami, representing the human ability to survive and heal through mindful action—even in the most dire circumstances. \* The sublime Kyoko Kimura of *Origami for Africa* will perform origami.

**\*Konshus Pilot Media** is a Cape Town based multimedia label that promotes modern-day storytelling with conscious content, through the media of music and film. *Konshus Pilot Media* deals only in original content that promotes pride in heritage and identity as well as healing through creativity. Creative husband and wife team, Ernestine Deane and Brian de Goede, who are aware of the huge impact of music and film on the globe, run *Konshus Pilot Media*. They are committed to producing content that instills in the youth a pride in their heritage- encouraging South African communities to embrace and tell their own stories.

**Ernestine Deane** is well known in the South African music industry for her outstanding talents as vocalist and songwriter and for her work with top S.A. group Moodphasesive. She is passionate about exploring her hybrid heritage. Her songs speak for those who cannot: oppressed nations, forgotten elders, exploited women and children. In this intimate production the audience participates in her passion for healing through music and ritual, as she remembers her ancestors- the nameless men and women who arrived in bondage at the port of Cape Town a few hundred years ago. Ernestine performs on stages around the world, billing with acts such as Freshlyground, Simphiwe Dana, Morcheeba, Jazzanova, Horace Andy, Cesaria Evora, Khadja Nin.

**Kyoko Kimura** is a founder member of Origami for Africa. She promotes this ancient Japanese art form as a means of meditation and mindfulness, making it accessible to the general public as well as those in trauma.

**Brian de Goede** is the drummer and a founder member of much loved S.A. group, Moodphasesive. His music has taken him to festivals throughout South Africa and Europe. After playing drums and percussion, his passion is producing dub and reggae albums.

**WHITE PAPER BOATS** was launched in September 2009 at the Slave lodge/ Iziko museum in Cape Town, South Africa and formed part of the 2010 Spier Public Arts Festival, **Infecting the City** also in Cape Town.

The production travels to Fiji in December 2011 for the **Wasa Wasa festival of Oceans**.

### **Project description**

*WHITE PAPER BOATS* was created by South African singer/ songwriter Ernestine Deane and launched in September 2009 at the original Slave lodge/ (Iziko museum) in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2010 it formed part of the Spier Public Arts Festival, *Infecting the City* also in Cape Town.

It is a performance ritual that fuses music and the ancient Japanese paper art of Origami in an effort to honour and remember the fact that South Africa was built on the blood sweat and tears of Slaves who were brought from various lands by the Arabian merchants, European traders and colonizers of South Africa (Dutch and English) in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

These slaves eventually intermixed through rape and marriage with the indigenous tribes as well as the colonizers themselves, resulting in what was classified in Apartheid as the *coloured* people of South Africa. Today there are still many social problems amongst these people, even after the abolition of Apartheid. The dispossession, massacring and animalizing of tribes indigenous to the Cape has led to a loss of sacred ancestral ways, low self esteem, poverty, crime and a general disregard for life. Many youths show no respect for elders and find their sense of belonging in drug use and gang membership. Add to this the lack of information on their heritage through inferior and propaganda education in the Apartheid years. Many battle with alcoholism as a result of the tot system enforced on their ancestors- a system of payment with alcohol for farm labourers.

This is the Cape Town that tourists do not get to see and are not informed about. It is juxtaposed with the breathtaking beauty of Table Mountain and her fertile valleys and exquisite bays, wildlife and vegetation and a peninsula of tumultuous waters- where the two oceans Indian and Atlantic meet.

It is a very intimate, honest and uplifting musical experience that explores the above themes in a very gentle non-abrasive and non- blaming way. It seeks to encourage the fact that just as we can cause pain, humans have the most incredible ability to create deep happiness- that whatever our background or wounds, we remain the captain of our ship, capable of unity and great healing.

### **Social messages**

White Paper boats remembers the healing and cleansing properties of water, the water in the tears of hardship and joy and the simple fact that no human being can survive or grow without it...no matter what your social standing. We are reminded

that no matter what our past, be we ancestor of voyager, plunderer, coloniser or slave... we are bound by our need for water.

Water is a most precious resource as it supports the earth, our bodies, growing babies- future generations. It is possible to embrace our painful memories of the past in a way to transform our present and our future without blame, victimization or judgment. Each of us is responsible for our present and future as we reflect on the past.

**Activities** As white paper boats are folded on stage, the opposite image of the huge dark slave ships-the audience is invited to participate in this activity symbolic of creating our own vessel of hope for our present and our future, a mindful action of moving forward in life, of staying a float, of being held and supported and connected to all others by the element of water, by the earth. Of remembering and laying to rest those who've sacrificed for us...of getting on with life in a positive way...with hope and peace. Kyoko Kimura involves the audience by teaching women and children and any interested to fold boats with her. The boats are handed to the crowd at the end of the performance as all cast a boat onto water either at home or on a water body with their intentions for peace and hope an in an effort to heal through creativity.

**Duration** – 1 hr

**Target audiences-** all and sundry

**Equipment, props-** front of house speakers, monitors, 1 x vocal mic, drumkit and mics, percussion and mics, bass and guitar amps, DI box for sampler, mic stands, white cushions, white candles, white pebbles, shells, bowls/ vessels to hold water

**Venue type-** preferably outside near water, comfortable seating