

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Kraal Takes Centre Stage at the South African State Theatre**

**A compelling South African drama of kingship, family, African spirituality and the enduring struggle between tradition and ambition**

**Pretoria, South Africa** – The South African State Theatre, in association with **Artists Legend & Legacy Projects Pty Ltd**, proudly presents **The Kraal**, a gripping South African drama that explores the timeless themes of leadership, power, family loyalty and the enduring influence of African traditions. Running from **3 to 13 September 2026** at the **Sibusiso Khwinana Theatre**, this powerful production invites audiences into an unforgettable theatrical experience where history, culture and human emotion collide.

Written and directed by **Bongani Bennedict Masango** and mentored by celebrated theatre practitioner **Aubrey W. Sekhabi**, *The Kraal* stands as a compelling work of contemporary South African theatre that honours African storytelling while speaking directly to the realities of today's society. Through an intricate blend of drama, live music, movement and ritual, the production examines the complex relationship between leadership and responsibility, tradition and change, and the personal sacrifices demanded by power.

Set within a fictional Zulu royal household in KwaZulu Natal during the late 1990s, *The Kraal* follows the journey of **Banele Dlamini**, an ambitious young law student whose visit home unexpectedly draws him into a fierce succession battle that threatens to tear his family apart.

His elder brother, **King Bonga**, struggles to preserve the dignity and future of the kingdom while confronting the pressures of producing an heir. Meanwhile, **Prince Bafana**, consumed by ambition and resentment, believes that the throne belongs to him. As long hidden family secrets begin to surface and ancestral voices refuse to remain silent, the royal household descends into conflict where loyalty is tested, relationships are fractured and the future of the kingdom hangs in the balance.

At its core, *The Kraal* is far more than a story about kings and kingdoms. It is a deeply human exploration of family, identity, legacy and belonging. It asks timeless questions about what makes a true leader, whether tradition should always dictate the future and how individuals navigate the tension between personal ambition and collective responsibility.

The production draws inspiration from the richness of African oral traditions, indigenous knowledge systems and classical African literature, creating a theatrical language that is both contemporary and deeply rooted in the continent's cultural heritage. Every scene celebrates the power of storytelling as a means of preserving history, challenging injustice and shaping the future.

Audiences can expect an immersive theatrical experience where movement, live music and dramatic performance combine to create a visually arresting production. Every artistic element has been carefully crafted to transport audiences into the heart of the royal kraal, where ceremonies, rituals and ancestral wisdom become integral to the unfolding drama.

Featuring a talented ensemble cast including **Abongile Maurice Matyutyu, Sindisile Nyoni, Lehle Nkuna, Melusi Nhleko, Sfundu Nzuza, Msizi Njapha, Thandeka Shangase** and **Zu**, *The Kraal* showcases some of South Africa's dynamic theatre practitioners whose performances bring emotional authenticity and remarkable depth to this compelling story.

The production also reflects the South African State Theatre's ongoing commitment to championing original South African work that celebrates local voices, indigenous stories and cultural excellence. By providing a platform for productions such as *The Kraal*, the Theatre continues to fulfil its mandate of preserving, promoting and developing the country's rich performing arts heritage.

As conversations around leadership, governance, identity and cultural heritage continue to shape South Africa's democratic future, *The Kraal* offers audiences an opportunity to reflect on the values that define communities, families and nations. It

reminds us that leadership is never simply inherited. It is earned through wisdom, sacrifice, accountability and service.

Whether you are passionate about African theatre, fascinated by stories of royalty and tradition or simply seeking an emotionally powerful theatrical experience, *The Kraal* promises an unforgettable journey that will challenge perspectives, stir emotions and celebrate the richness of African storytelling.

This is more than a stage production.

It is a celebration of African identity.

It is a story of power and purpose.

It is a tribute to the enduring strength of tradition.

It is theatre that honours the past while speaking boldly to the present.

Do not miss *The Kraal* at the South African State Theatre this September.

### **Production Details**

**Production:** The Kraal

**Presented by:** The South African State Theatre in association with Artists Legend & Legacy Projects Pty Ltd

**Venue:** Sibusiso Khwinana Theatre, South African State Theatre

**Performance Dates:** 3 to 13 September 2026

**Age Restriction:** 16 PG

### **Creative Team**

Writer and Director: Bongani Bennedict Masango

Mentored by: Aubrey W. Sekhabi

### **BOOKINGS & TICKETS**

General Admission: **R150**

**Wednesday Special:** Half-price tickets at **R75** for Wednesday performances only.

Tickets are available online via **Webtickets** and at **Pick n Pay** outlets nationwide.

For bookings and enquiries, contact the South African State Theatre on **012 392 4000** or visit [www.statetheatre.co.za](http://www.statetheatre.co.za).

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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## **DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Website: [www.statetheatre.co.za](http://www.statetheatre.co.za)

General Enquiries: 012 392 4000

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## **About SAST TV**

SAST TV is the South African State Theatre's official digital platform showcasing theatre productions, festivals, music, dance, documentaries, artist interviews and

behind the scenes stories that celebrate South Africa's rich artistic and cultural heritage. Through innovative digital storytelling, SAST TV continues to connect audiences with exceptional African productions while promoting local creative excellence to audiences across South Africa and around the world.