

PROFILE OF ARTHUR MOLEPO

BOOKING DETAILS

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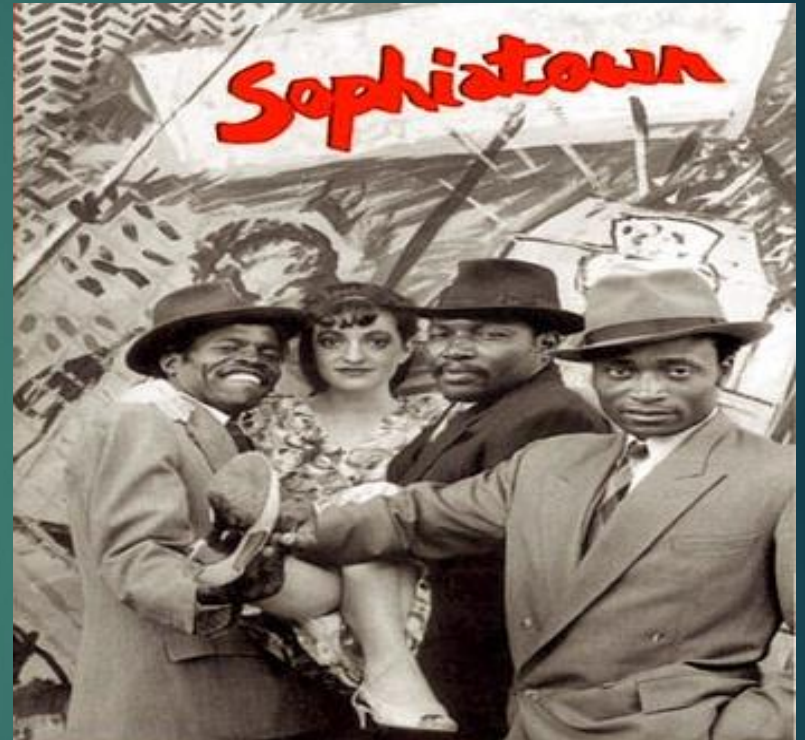
Who is Arthur Molepo

- ▶ Actor
- ▶ Director
- ▶ Producer
- ▶ Writer
- ▶ Sculptor
- ▶ Composer
- ▶ Music Director
- ▶ Musician (guitar, harmonica & penny whistle)



Script Writing

- ▶ Randlords and Rotgut
- ▶ Dikhitshining
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Marabi
- ▶ Sophiatown
- ▶ From The Shadows
- ▶ Passion Play
- ▶ Ga-Mchangani
- ▶ The Diary
- ▶ Sniffing
- ▶ Mama I Want The Black That You Are
- ▶ Who Killed Mabel



Music Composition

- ▶ The Sin
- ▶ Sysiphus
- ▶ Ramlord and Rotgut
- ▶ The Crunch
- ▶ Howl at the moon
- ▶ Marabi
- ▶ Second Chance
- ▶ Sophiatown
- ▶ From The Shadows
- ▶ Cry Free Mandela
- ▶ Starbrites
- ▶ Passion Play
- ▶ Corporate and Industrial Theatre productions



Directing

- ▶ Passion Play (1992)
- ▶ Ga-Mchangani (1998)
- ▶ The Diary (1998)
- ▶ Sophiatown
- ▶ Gods Are Not To Blame
- ▶ Ga-Mchangani (2004)
- ▶ Various Industrial Theatre Productions
- ▶ Mama I Want The Black That You Are (2012)



Theatre Performances

- ▶ The Sin (1972)
- ▶ Sysiphus (1974)
- ▶ Randlords and Rotgut (1977)
- ▶ The Crunch (1978)
- ▶ Dikhitsheneng {Maids & Madams} (1980)
- ▶ Security (1980)
- ▶ Marabi (1982)
- ▶ Superheroes (1984)
- ▶ Dikhetsheneng **Again** (1985)
- ▶ Sophiatown (1986)
- ▶ Cry Free Mandela – The Movie (1988)
- ▶ Scorched Earth (1989)
- ▶ Lakutshoni ' Langa (1989)
- ▶ Stabrites (1991)
- ▶ Woyzeck On The Highveld (1992)
- ▶ Daughter Of Nebo (1993)
- ▶ Sophiatown **Again** (1994)
- ▶ Nongogo (1994)
- ▶ Othello (1995)
- ▶ Marabi **Again** (1995 / 1996)
- ▶ The Piano Lesson (1996)
- ▶ Black Age (1997)
- ▶ The Story That I'm About To Tell (1997)
- ▶ Dance Of Death (1998)
- ▶ The Transistor Radio, Ken Saro Wiwa (1998)
- ▶ The Wheel, Ken Saro Wiwa (1998)
- ▶ Love, Crime & Johannesburg (1999)
- ▶ Sophiatown 2006
- ▶ We Shall Sing For Our Father's Land (2010)
- ▶ Sizwe Bansi Is Dead (2010)
- ▶ MacBeki (2010)
- ▶ Sizwe Bansi Is Dead (2011)



Television & Film Performances

- ▶ Howl at the Moon (1981) Awarded Blue Ribbon – London
- ▶ Sales Talk (1983) Awarded Pink Ribbon - New York
- ▶ Waar en Wolhaar Stories (1984)
- ▶ Second Chance (1985)
- ▶ Freedom Square and Back of the Moon (1986)
- ▶ When I Eat Chocolate I Remember You (1986)
- ▶ Mapantsula (1987)
- ▶ Hold My Hand I'm Dying (1988)
- ▶ Wheel and Deals (1990)
- ▶ The Family Film (1990)
- ▶ Generations – (1993 - 1996)
- ▶ Going Up (1994)
- ▶ Suburban Bliss (1995)
- ▶ Sibongile – Mini Series (1994)
- ▶ Soul City II – Mini Series (1996)
- ▶ Kelebone – TV Series (1997)
- ▶ The Shop Keeper, Gavin Hood (1999)
- ▶ Short Film, Olivier Schmidt (2000)
- ▶ Orlando (2000)
- ▶ The Lab (2008)
- ▶ Rhythm City (2010)
- ▶ Sokhulu And Partners (2010)
- ▶ Isidingo (2012)
- ▶ Skeem Saam (2011 till now)
- ▶ 2020 Orlando East (2012)
- ▶ Mshika Shika (2013)
- ▶ Ayanda (2015)
- ▶ Keeping Scores (2016/17)



Industrial Theatre



- ▶ World Furnishers (1986)
- ▶ Environmental Awareness (1991)
- ▶ Eskom (1993)
- ▶ Lectrolite (1994)
- ▶ NOSA Safety (1996)
- ▶ Mercedes Benz (1996)
- ▶ S.A Breweries (1997)
- ▶ Sasol Core Values (1997)
- ▶ Aids Awareness Programme (1997 / 8 / 9)
- ▶ Mine Safety Westrand (1999)
- ▶ Mine Safety Amplats (2000)
- ▶ Rio Tinto Safety Conference, Los Angeles, USA (2000)
- ▶ Copperfield Acid Plant Mine Safety II Amplats (2000)
- ▶ Blue Moon, Various (2000 – 2006)
- ▶ Jumping Dust, Various (2001 – 2006)
- ▶ Mprojects, Various (2003 – 2016)



Awards

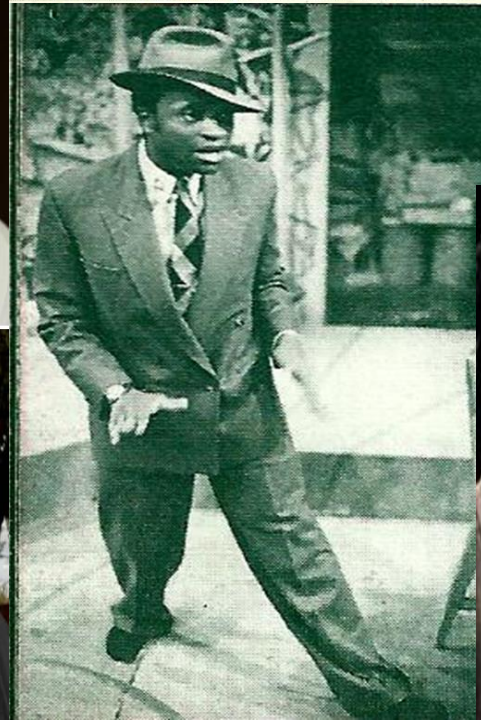
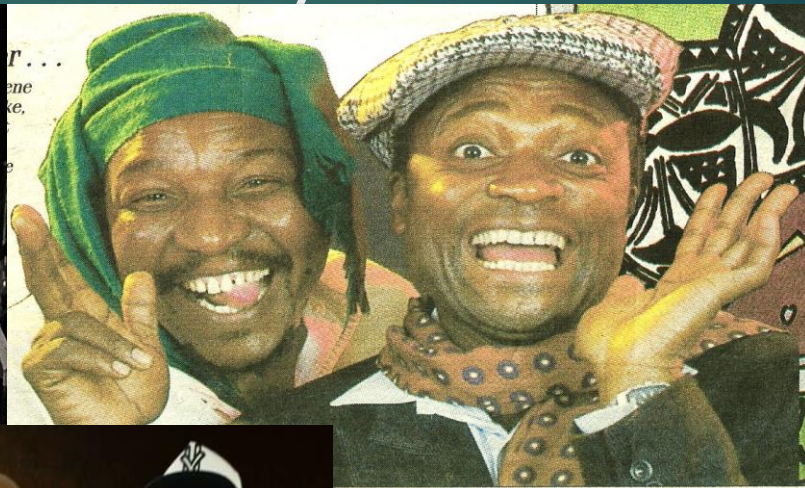
Nomination

- ▶ BEST ACTOR VITA AWARDS "SOPHIATOWN" 1994
- ▶ BEST ACTOR VITA AWARDS "MARABI" 1995
- ▶ BEST DIRECTOR VITA AWARDS "THE DIARY" 1999
- ▶ BEST PRODUCTION VITA AWARDS "THE DIARY" 1999
- ▶ BEST ACTOR IN MUSICAL ROLE VITA AWARDS "LOVE, CRIME & JOHANNESBURG" 2000
- ▶ BEST PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR "GAMCHANGANI" 2004
- ▶ BEST MALE PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL "SOPHIATOWN" 2005
- ▶ BEST MUSICAL DIRECTOR, SCORE & ARRANGEMENT "SOPHIATOWN" 2005
- ▶ BEST MUSICAL DIRECTOR, SCORE & ARRANGEMENT "SOPHIATOWN" 2017

Wins

- ▶ BEST ACTOR AWARD SABC TV 2 & 3 1986 "ASTERA 86"
- ▶ Loerie Awards Rio Tinto Safety Conference, Los Angeles, USA (2000)

Gallery



The Diary

Friday October 23 1998 SOWETAN

Windybrow features Molepo's *The Diary*

By Eddie Mokoena

FROM this week the Windybrow Arts Festival is being presented as a full-scale production at the Windybrow Theatre in Johannesburg. The festival runs until November 14.

One of the plays is a one-hander written and directed by Arthur Molepo. *The Diary* chronicles stories of generations of abused women in Gauteng. A victim of circumstance, one woman Thandi, ferries the audience through three phases of her life: as Thandi the little girl, the adolescent and as an adult.

Thandi, played by Tina Mnumzana, gently introduces the audience to characters that affect her young life: her mother, uncle Peter, his son George and the caring Mama

Nelly. Thandi battles to make sense of her abused mother's life and her own betrayal at the hands of care-givers.

The reality is that Thandi is possibly not a victim. But it is her generous understanding of her mother that will probably make the audience look with aching sympathy upon Thandi's own unpredictably tragic end.

Mnumzana's career in the performing arts started in 1987 as a member of Performing Arts Council of OFS (Pacofs). In 1990 she toured England and Scotland with the Traditional Dance Group, Iqhawe. The actress was also nominated for the FNB Vita as the Best Supporting Actress in Walter Chakela's adaptation of Bessie Head's novel, *Maru*.

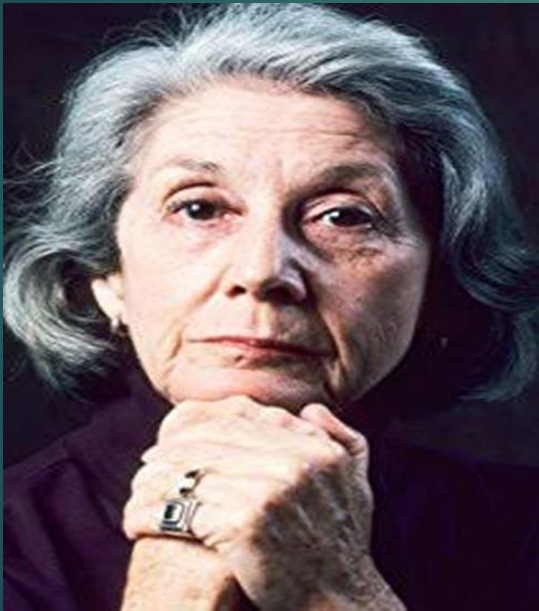
She has also graced the television screen in dramas such as *Soul City III*, *Generations*, *Suburban Bliss* and *Justice for All*.

Molepo is one of South Africa's leading television and stage actors. He has taken impressive roles in plays such as *Marabi*, *Othello*, *Sophiatown*, *When I Eat Chocolate*, *I Remember You* and *Back of the Moon*.

Television viewers will best remember Molepo as Busang in SABC2's soap opera *Generations*. He has also appeared in feature movies such as *Mapantsula*, *Hold My Hand I'm Dying* and *Wheels and Deals*.

The Diary is topical and gusty enough to be totally mysterious.

NADINE GORDIMER



- ▶ Nadine Gordimer was a South African writer, political activist and the recipient of the 1991 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ▶ In the 'Sunday Times' November 22, 1998, Nadine Gordimer in an interview with Ribald Suresh Roberts said:
Gordimer calls Arthur Molepo's
 - ▶ THE DIARY, in which a woman confronts a mayhem of sexual abuse, "the Ultimate feminist play, despite the author's maleness."
 - ▶ She compares the play to James Joyce's portrayal of Molly Bloom, and says this is another example of men writing women successfully.



Arthur Molepo and his son Mpho, who directs his father's play which is on at the State Theatre in Pretoria.

OPENING OUR EYES

Molepos tackle prejudice, myths about albinism

Patience Bambalele

LEGENDARY television and stage actor Arthur Molepo continues to address social issues with his works.

In his latest endeavour titled *Mama, I Want the Black that You Are*, he tackles the prejudice against people with albinism.

The show is on at the State Theatre in Pretoria, and is produced by his son Mpho of *Rhythm City* fame.

It features Puleng Molebatsi, Regina Ndlovu, Ntsoaki Mathiba, Harriet Manamela, and Mbuso Dube.

Molepo, who also appears in the SABC1 soapie *Skeem Saam* as the no-nonsense captain Malebana, has been itching to write a play tackling the challenges of people with albinism for years.

The idea was inspired by a little girl with albinism who was living around his neighbourhood. She was always secluded from other children.

"When I asked her why she was not playing with them, she would

say, 'they don't like me, and I don't know why', he says.

"This hit me hard. Since I'm always writing about issues affecting the community, I felt strongly that this matter needed urgent attention."

The subject of albinism is more relevant than before because of the recent attacks on people with albinism, especially in KwaZulu-Natal.

In writing the play, Molepo interviewed many people with albinism.

"These people opened their world to me, and their daily frustrations. I then sat down and came up with a show.

"I could see that those myths about people with albinism contribute to their killing."

Molepo says the challenges range from not being given equal opportunities to being killed.

The story is told through a 15-year-old called Matlakala who has albinism.

She is haunted by a life of abuse and the secrets she has to keep from everyone, including her mother.

Molepo says in his research he came across the "crazy" myth that people with albinism "hold magic powers".

Molepo says through the play people will learn a lot about the challenges and realise that we are all human.

"I want people to change these ridiculous perceptions they have."

Asked about collaborating with his son, Molepo explains that Mpho enjoys working with him.

"He is actually the one who always wants to work with me. I don't invite him. We have done a lot of projects together to a point that I regard him as a partner and not my son."

Molepo, one of the pioneers of black theatre, taught drama and acting at the Market Theatre Lab, and one of his products is the acclaimed actress Harriet Manamela.

Some of the plays to his credit are *MacBeki*, *Nongogo*, *Dikichining*, *Marabi* and *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*.

In addition he has written scripts and directed *Generations*.

ALBINISM PLAY ASKS QUESTIONS

A scene from *Mama I Want The Black That You Are*, starring Boitumelo Mothabela (standing) and Puleng Molebatsi.

Photos by Jabu Kumalo

People in the audience were crying

By JABU KUMALO

The atmosphere at the launch of the play *Mama I want the Black That You Are*, was so thick with mixed emotions that you'd be forgiven for laughing, crying or doing both at once.

The play proved that dealing with the matter of people living with Albinism is a sensitive issue.

The opening night was on Friday night at the Joburg Theatre in Braamfontein, Joburg.

The play will leave for a national school tour soon.

Referring to people with the condition, Minister of Arts and Culture Nathi Mthethwa said: "This event comes at a time when we are talking about Africa and Africans.

"We cannot perpetuate and propagate self-hate. We hunt that among us and chop it to pieces.

"A nation is about its soul. Let's organise ourselves and say 'thus far and never again'. There's no cure you'll find in another person's flesh!" Mthethwa said.

He said this must be fought to the bitter end "just as we fought racism".

He encouraged those in the crowd to show support by passing on the message: #AlbinismActivismCampaign.

The producer of the show, Mpho Molepo, thanked the minister and the deputy minister of social department, Hendrietta Bogopane-

Zulu, for their support. He said they had been knocking on many doors without success. "It's probably because of the sensitive subject matter that we couldn't get an ear," Mpho said.

The show is written and directed by Arthur Molepo.

Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, Nomasonto Mazibuko, called for a moment of silence before delivering her speech. "As we celebrate Africa month, we also celebrate the parents of children with albinism, because they are torn apart emotionally. These days, we no longer lock our doors with keys only, we also push dustbins and other objects to make sure we can hear when someone tries to come in," she said.

The audience was entertained by a moving song from Mpho. He was accompanied by Bob90 and the Binos choir, made up of people living with albinism.

The lyrics of the song: "*Siyabuza, senzeni na? Sibulawelani?*" led to people in the crowd breaking into tears. The crowd soon joined in and sang along the choir.

Deputy minister Bogopane-Zulu said it was amazing that people did not want to be called kaffirs, but they have the audacity to call others monkeys.

"People with albinism don't rest, even in their death. They are dug up to be sold for muti," she said.



Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, Nomasonto Mazibuko, called for a moment of silence.



Mpho Molepo on guitar with Bob90 and Binos choir entertained the audience at the launch of the play.

07 MAY 2013 DAILY SUN