About INDUMBA

Originally creating INDUMBA to illuminate the perpetual impact of unresolved apartheid politics in his native South Africa, Fana Tshabalala, Artistic Director of Broken Borders Arts Project, spent three weeks in residence with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in July 2017 to adapt INDUMBA for an American audience. “Indumba” means African healing hut, promising a work of stirring resilience and reconciliation. Tshabalala noted, “As an artist, I am fascinated by how social politics affect human interaction and spirituality. I created INDUMBA to provide individuals and communities with opportunities for this important spiritual cleansing through dance.”

Program Credits

Choreography by: Fana Tshabalala  
Music: Nicholas Aphane  
Costume Design: Alex Gordon  
Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner  

Performers: Dominique Atwood, Pierre Clark, Shanna Cruzat, Joshua L. Ishmon, Rebekah Kuczma, Marlayna Locklear, William Roberson, and Anthony Williams

Performance Videos

INDUMBA (Abridge Version)  

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater: Repertory Excerpts  

Excerpts from INDUMBA, Performed at the Logan Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago, IL, December 2017. The full length INDUMBA video is available upon request.  

Additional performance footage and full length videos are available upon request.
“Since inception, Deeply Rooted has been committed to themes connecting dance with social justice, equity, spirituality and body politics...Tshabalala’s dark, enigmatic piece about spiritual cleansing from the residual trauma of apartheid is in the dancers’ wheelhouse, though perhaps not in their audience’s. No matter — INDUMBA is unequivocally the dance of the year.”
- Lauren Warnecke
Read the full article.

“INDUMBA is intensely improvisational and is based on artists working together through movement and dialogue in ‘an open choreographic process’ to create their own Indumba — their own sacred place to express their freedom and ‘to be different from the outside world,’ says Tshabalala.”
- Charmaine Patricia Warren
Read the full article.

“Expressive and provocative, we feel like we are witnessing struggle, purging and catharsis all told through the language of dance. It is universal, and wow, is it intense. The dancers are athletic, vulnerable and possessing of remarkable endurance. The ‘hut’ is all at once a sacred space and a wrestling ring.”
- Allison Plamondon
Read the full article.

*Photos by Ken Carl*
Thinking Dance

“Knowing that Chicago-based Deeply Rooted Dance Theater was set to perform INDUMBA ... I felt compelled to ask Kevin Iega Jeff, artistic director of Deeply Rooted, his perspective on Black Dance, the relevance of the black dance aesthetic, and the importance of cultural traditions.”
- Gregory King

Read the full article.

InfiniteBody

“The work resonates for us, as well, in an America newly haunted by its nightmarish past and roiled by present-day hatreds and violence. If INDUMBA is a dance, as described in DRDT’s program, offering hope of ‘resilience and reconciliation,’ there’s clearly nothing easy along that path.”
- Eva Yaa Asantewaa

Read the full article.

Contact Information

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*Photos by Ken Carl*