

MEDIA RELEASE: 9 November 2017

ONE DAY. SIX CITIES. HAIRRAISING TALES IN A BARBER SHOP.

INUA ELLAMS

A Fuel, National Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse co-production (UK)

BARBER SHOP CHRONICLES

'To walk into Barber Shop Chronicles is to walk into a space teeming with life. We're in a barber shop full of African men chatting, cutting hair, joshing with the audience and chilling to music. A champions League final between Chelsea and Barcelona is on the TV; the late American rapper Tupac is on the stereo. It's instantly, compulsively convivial.' The Telegraph (UK)

Newsroom, local hot spot, confessional and football club. For generations, African men have gathered in barber shops to talk shop, family, race, music and sport.

Now you can take a fly-on-the-wall look at their heart-warming and hilarious goings on in **Barber Shop Chronicles**, Inua Ellams' latest production direct from two sell-out seasons at London's National Theatre.

Take a fast-paced journey from London to Africa via six barber shops over the course of a single day. Meet the crew and share their stories. Whether it's London, Jo'burg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos or Accra, the banter is barbed and the truth is right in front of the mirror.

The 12 high-energy actors in *Barber Shop Chronicles* explore secret men's business and the other stuff of life with sharp insight, upbeat music and laugh-out-loud comedy.



Inua Ellams was a popular hit with Perth audiences as Perth Festival's 2017 artist-in-residence and *Barber Shop Chronicles* will be his fourth performance piece here after *The 14th Tale* (2012), *An Evening With an Immigrant* (2017) and *Midnight Run* (2017).

'The first country I travelled to when I got the right to live and work in the UK in 2011 was Australia, Perth. I went to the other side of the planet and the play I performed, *The 14th Tale* found an attentive, empathic enthusiasts audience,' Ellams says.

'My most recent, *An Evening With An Immigrant*, also played to the same audience last year, and I started working on *Barber Shop Chronicles* in 2008.

'In many ways, *Barber Shop Chronicles* is an expansion and culmination of the themes explored in my previous plays, and I'm excited for its actors and conversations to meet the Perth audiences... who have embraced and welcomed me time and again'.

WHAT: BARBER SHOP CHRONICLES

WHERE: Octagon Theatre

WHEN: Fri 9 Feb – Sun 18 Feb

TICKETS: Adult \$36 - \$66, Friends \$60, Concession \$36 - \$67, Students \$25

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 – perthfestival.com.au

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Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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