



21 ICONS
SEASON II
SOUTH AFRICA

Adrian Steiner



MEDIA RELEASE

Powerhouse panel to assess the impact of the arts on SA's democracy

What role has the arts played in advancing the Constitution – and what more can the sector do to cement our freedom? As South Africa celebrates 20 years of democracy, this pertinent question will come under the spotlight during the 21 Icons Campus Dialogue at the Wits Theatre on Tuesday, 16 September 2014.

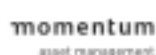
Issues such as human rights, censorship and access to the arts will be raised when a high-level panel consisting of George Bizos, Adrienne Sichel and Phyllis Klotz talks about the role the visual and performing arts have played in furthering South Africa's constitutional democracy.

Bizos is a world-renowned human rights lawyer who was Nelson Mandela's lawyer, confidant and close friend. Klotz is the artistic director and co-founder of the Sibikwa Arts Centre, and has a lengthy track record in development theatre in education. Sichel is a freelance theatre journalist, as well as a dance history researcher and consultant at The Ar(t)chive at Wits University.

This fascinating campus dialogue, which is free to the public, is a partnership between 21 Icons, the Wits Theatre and Brand SA. Wits Theatre director Gita Pather will facilitate the discussion.

The powerhouse panel will discuss and dissect the impact the arts sector has had in mobilising dissent and effecting change pre- and post-1994, and whether the post-democratic arts order has continued to effectively exercise its role as agitator and interrogator of the social status quo.

The discussion is a project of the 21 Icons project, which, through photography, film and other initiatives, has been profiling the achievements of 21 South African icons that have played a pivotal role in shaping and defining our young democracy.





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The 21 Icons team – alongside partners such as Brand South Africa – is holding a series of dialogues on university campuses across South Africa, in a bid to stimulate debate between young people and those very icons that have helped craft and shape our world-renowned Constitution.

Says founder of 21 Icons Adrian Steirn: “It is our goal this season to stimulate public participation and dialogue in the project, and in so doing, encourage upstander behavior, the hallmark of an icon. Through panel discussions and other activities, 21 Icons South Africa will relay the message that regardless of race, creed or socio-economic standing, anyone can act with integrity and make a positive impact and influence changes to our world today.”

The Wits chapter of these dialogues, taking place at the Wits Theatre in Braamfontein on 16 September at 6pm, promises to be a stimulating and challenging encounter.

Although the session is free, space is limited and those who are interested in attending are advised to book their tickets (two per person) by emailing info@buz.co.za. Join the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #21iconsWitsChapter – and let’s get talking about the role of the arts in promoting democracy!

Note to editors:

About the ICONS

21 ICONS South Africa is an annual collection of photographs and short films of South Africans who have reached the pinnacle of achievement in their fields of endeavour. These men and women have been an inspiration through their extraordinary social contribution.

About Brand South Africa

Brand South Africa is the official marketing agency of South Africa, with a mandate to build the country's brand reputation, in order to improve its global competitiveness. Its aim is also





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to build pride and patriotism among South Africans, in order to contribute to social cohesion and nation brand ambassadorship.

About Play Your Part

Play Your Part is a nationwide campaign created to inspire, empower and celebrate active citizenship in South Africa. It aims to lift the spirit of our nation by inspiring all South Africans to contribute to positive change, become involved and start doing - because a nation of people who care deeply for one another and the environment in which they live is good for everyone.

Play Your Part is aimed at all South Africans - from corporates to individuals, NGOs to government, churches to schools, young to not so young. It aims to encourage South Africans to use some of their time, money, skills or goods to contribute to a better future for all.

There are numerous opportunities, big and small, for each and every South African to make a positive difference in the communities in which they live and operate. Play Your Part encourages them to act on these opportunities.

The campaign is driven by the Brand South Africa.

Further resources from Brand South Africa

Media are invited to visit <http://www.southafrica.info/> for further resources which can be reproduced without any copyright infringement. Kindly attribute to Brand South Africa.

Join the conversation at:

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On behalf of **21 ICONS South Africa**

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