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**New Victory Presents
Isango Ensemble's
Aesop's Fables**



**Olivier Award-winning Isango Ensemble
Returns to New Victory for Limited Engagement!**

Original South African Opera Brings Joyful Songs Stateside

New York Premiere November 1 - 3, 2019

New York, NY (September 23, 2019) -- Hear the spirited sounds of South Africa in this fall's vibrant staging of *AESOP'S FABLES* by the Olivier Award-winning **Isango Ensemble** at The New Victory Theater from November 1 - 3, 2019.

Last seen in New York with *A Man of Good Hope* (BAM 2017), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (New Victory 2015) and *The Magic Flute* (New Victory 2014), **Mark Dornford-May** and **Mandisi**

Dyantysis return with **AESOP'S FABLES**. Sung through in English and a mix of Xhosa, Tswana and Zulu languages, this youth-oriented opera features a soaring live score of marimba music inspired by gospel and traditional African song.

This opera for young audiences revisits classic stories and valuable lessons like “where there’s a will there’s a way” and “look before you leap.” Colorful costumes and enthralling dance tell the tale of how Aesop escapes his master and embarks on a journey to Mount Olympus. Lauded by **Sir Ian McKellen** and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** for reinventing classic stories within a South African setting, **Isango Ensemble** brings an energetic, playful charm to **AESOP'S FABLES**.

“Isango Ensemble is different; it is unique, producing work of international standards, linking high art to the lives of its astonishing performers,” said Isango Ensemble Patron Sir Ian McKellen. “The future of Isango is important not just to its company members but to South Africa and to the world beyond.”

The South African company **Isango Ensemble** is based in Cape Town, South Africa. The core of the company was formed by director Mark Dornford-May and music director and singer Pauline Malefane in 2000. Isango’s productions re-imagine classics from the Western theater canon, finding a new context for the stories within a South African or township setting, and adapting South African literary works, creating inventive work relevant to the heritage of the nation. Their take on *The Magic Flute* (New Victory 2014) won the Olivier Award for Best Music Revival. They are also the recipient of the South Africa Arts and Culture Award for Excellence in Opera. The company’s productions have toured Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Martinique, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Turkey, the U.K. and the U.S.

This production of **AESOP'S FABLES** is directed by Mark Dornford-May, with music direction by Mandisi Dyantysis. Choreographed by Lungelo Ngamlana. Production manager Martin Gelder. Company manager Maris Sharp, co-production manager Sandile Mgugunyeka, stage manager Valencia Mgugunyeka. Lighting design by Manuel Manim. Lesley Nott Manim is the speech and dialogue coach for this production; Doreen Nondibano Hintsho is the chaperone. Featuring cast members Thobile Jim Dyasi, Nombongo Fatyi, Thandokazi Fumba, Zamide Gantana, Siphosethu Hintsho, Nontsusa Louw, Zimkhitha Mathomane, Zanele Mbatha, Sinethemba Mdena, Zoleka Mpotsha, Thandolwethu Mzembe, Siyanda Ncobo, Sonwabo Ntshata, Melikhaya Ntshuntshe, Cikizwa Rolomana, Masakana Sotayisi, Luvo Tamba, Ayanda Tikolo and Philani Xhaga.

Learn more about **AESOP'S FABLES** at NewVictory.org.

Public Performance Schedule:

Friday, November 1 at 7pm

Saturday, November 2 at 2pm / 7pm

Sunday, November 3, at 12pm / 5pm

AESOP'S FABLES has a running time of 70 minutes with no intermission, and is recommended for ages 7 and up.

Ticket Information

Full-price tickets for *AESOP'S FABLES* start at \$17. Tickets are available online (<http://www.newvictory.org/boxoffice>) and by phone (646.223.3010).

To purchase tickets in person, the New Victory box office is located at 209 West 42nd Street (between 7th / 8th Avenues). Box office hours are Sunday & Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About The New 42nd Street

The New 42nd Street, led by President & CEO Russell Granet, catalyzes the power of performing arts to spark new perspectives, incubate new works and create new opportunities for us all. Through our signature projects--The New Victory Theater, New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street--New 42nd Street makes extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life—from the earliest years onward. The organization also stewards seven historic theater properties on 42nd Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues, ensuring the legacy and vitality of America's most iconic theater district. Together with our supporters, we are opening access to performing arts that move us—as individuals, communities and a society.