

'The Cry of Winnie Mandela' is a must-see for theatregoers

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AS MUCH as there are plenty of theatre shows currently on, there is one production that you must make a point of catching later this month.

And that is *The Cry of Winnie Mandela* at The Market Theatre from March 30 to April 21.

Alex Burger adapted it from Njabulo Ndebele's novel of the same title, released in 2003.

The poignant offering centres on four women waiting for their men to return from either exile, the mines, political imprisonment or studying abroad. These are personal stories, which are attached to the more high-profile public figures later.

One story is that of Winnie Mandela, offering the audience a front-row view of her life, and her indomitable spirit, and pays homage to her legacy through the haunting conversations the women share.

The play is directed by MoMo Matsunyane, current Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winner for Theatre. She is supported by costume designer, Onthatile Matshidiso, sound and videographer, Vangile Z Mpumlwana, as well as award-winning set and lighting designer, Wilhelm Disbergen.

The cast features Ramli Chuene as Mannete, Ayanda Sibisi as Delisiwe, Nambitha Mpumlwana as Winnie Mandela, Siyasanga Papu as Marara, Pulane Rampoana as Mamello and Les Nkosi as Prof Ndebele.

Where: Barney Simon Theatre, Market Theatre.

When: March 30 - April 21, at 7pm.
Cost: Tickets are R100 to R200 through Webtickets. For reduced-price block bookings and school groups, contact The Market Theatre.

My Son Pinocchio Jr

If you are looking for something to keep the little ones entertained, look



THE seasoned cast of the powerful *The Cry of Winnie Mandela*. | Supplied

no further than this classic Disney story at the Peoples Theatre.

My Son Pinocchio Jr is told from the perspective of toymaker Gepetto, who embarks on an adventurous journey to discover the true meaning of family.

The production is underpinned by songs that the audience can sing along with, like *When You Wish Upon a Star*.

The journey of Pinocchio, from an awkward wooden puppet to a real boy, is laden with heart-warming moments and fun exploits.

The play is produced and directed by Jill Girard and Keith Smith, with costumes by Luciano Zuppa, choreography by Sandy Richardson Dyer, musical direction by Coenraad Raal and set design by Grant Knottenbelt.

The cast includes Caiden Distiller, Kiran Moodley and Ntsako Mtombeni alternating as Pinocchio, Zuppa as Gepetto, Nonhlanhla "Noni" Mkhonto as The Blue Fairy, Gamelihle Mbovana as Mr Stromboli, Raymond Skinner as Cat and Lesedi Mphshe as Fox.

Where: Peoples Theatre.

When: On now until April 21, at 9am and 11am Tuesday to Friday and 10.30am and 2.30pm on weekends and public holidays.

Cost: Tickets are R140 to R165. For school group rates, contact the theatre directly. Book online at www.joburgtheatre.com or via Webtickets.

SONDA (State Of the National Disaster)

A satirical one-hander on the

state of the South African nation, post-apartheid.

SONDA, a modern protest theatre show, pulls no punches in addressing pertinent social issues like unemployment, poor service delivery, high crime rates, a poor education system, poverty, the appointment of incompetent public servants and empty promises.

Written and performed by Philangezwi Nxumalo, the 70-minute show, which includes physical comedy, is directed by Aallyyah Matintela.

With elections around the corner, this piece gives a voice to the voiceless.

Where: Kippies, Market Theatre.

When: Tomorrow to Sunday, check times when booking. No under 12s.

Cost: Tickets R100 via Webtickets.

Expelled

This family drama homes in on the power of social media. Alex, in matric at a private school, finds himself ensnared in a viral scandal and suspended. This has far-reaching consequences for his family as well as him.

Directed by Craig Freimond, this production, written by Rosalind Butler, was born from the production company's script development programme, The Writers' Collective, during the lockdown in 2021.

It stars Charmaine Weir-Smith, Antony Coleman, Nicolas Hattingh, Graham Hopkins and Amelia Smith.

No under-14s are allowed.

Where: Mannie Manim, Market Theatre.

When: Until March 31, at 7pm.

Cost: Tickets R120-R230 via Webtickets. Discounts for students and block bookings are also available.

Sophiatown

This long-running stage production has returned to The Market Theatre, directed by Aubrey Sekhabi. This time a live band accompanies the play.

It is set in the repressive 1950s, when two *Drum* magazine journalists, looking for a tenant, advertise for one at Mamariti's shebeen in Sophiatown.

To their astonishment, a white Jewish girl from Yeoville responds to the ad.

And so begins an interesting journey, against the backdrop of the vibrant and colourful atmosphere of the area and the shebeen, and in defiance of apartheid rules.

Where: The John Kani Theatre at The Market Theatre.

When: Runs until March 24 at 7pm, 3pm and 11am, depending on the day.

Cost: Tickets range from R120 - R250 and can be booked via Webtickets. There are also reduced-price bookings for 10 or more and school groups.