

DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center
and Chicago Puppet Fest present

Janni Younge:

Hamlet

By William Shakespeare

South Africa

January 26-28, 2023, The DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center

CREATIVE TEAM

Direction and design *Janni Younge*

Assistant director *Roshina Ratnam*

Dramaturgy *Janni Younge and Roshina Ratnam*

Lighting Design and Stage Management *Lize-Marie van Rooyen*

Sound Design and original music *Daniel Eppel*

Voice and performance coach *Lesley Manim*

Puppet and set construction *Janni Younge, Samkelo Zihlangu, Mandiseli Maseti, Julia Wojciechowska, Marissa Steenkamp*

Cast

Timothy Redpath
Siyamthanda Sinani
Roshina Ratnam
Tshiamo Moretlwe
Beviol Swartz
Samkelo Zihlangu

Due to visa problems Mongi Mtombeni is replaced by Timothy Redpath as the primary voice of Hamlet and Janni Younge joins the cast.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Commanded by the ghost of his father to avenge his death, Hamlet must grapple with the value of a life and what it means to 'set things right.' Caught between love and anger, immediate revenge and ultimate retribution, Hamlet fights to right his world shattered by murder.

The ensemble cast bring the full cast of characters to life through larger than life puppets.

The poetry and emotional magnitude of Shakespeare's words are echoed in the scale and energy of the puppets. The cast have worked collaboratively finding form for the intensity of human conflict captured in Shakespeare's words. They have learned to rely on each other's impulses and breath as they blend and reconfigure the figures as characters grapple with the depths of grief and passion. Hamlet's internal struggles play out visibly in the puppetry, as each puppet is a 'physical being' supported by and sometimes in conflict with the 'emotional being' of the performers.

This is an intense, high energy production is focussed on the heart of Hamlet's personal conflict.



Janni Younge Productions