

For Immediate Release!

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**FEEL THE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS**  
YSIS Entertainment Inc. in association with Sting Music presents

# UMOJA

*The South African Hit Musical*

**April 18 – 30, 2006 Only!**  
**THE BOISFEUILLET JONES ATLANTA CIVIC CENTER**

**Tickets Available NOW!**  
*All tickets \$20 for the first two performances!*

**UMOJA - THE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS** is a vibrant, colorful showcase of the glorious sounds of Africa. From the potent rhythms of the tribal drum to the intricate steps of gumboot dancing; from rousing full-throated gospel singing to the remarkable synchronicity of the Venda Snake dance, **UMOJA** is a pulsating musical celebration of South African song and dance. "*Our music helped to keep us human,*" Hope, the show's narrator tells the audience, "*for in Africa, rhythm is life itself.*"

Through the cast of 40 of South Africa's brightest and most versatile young singers, dancers, and drummers, the story of one man's Africa unfolds: as the morning mists melt under the warmth of the African sun, the women walk down to the river to collect water. Balancing pots delicately on their heads, they make their way back to the kraal, humming, to prepare the meal. Even while engaged in simple domestic tasks, music accompanies every aspect of their lives... like the heartbeat of Africa itself.

**UMOJA**, the inspired creation of **Todd Twala** and **Thembi Nyandeni**, gives expression to the joy they feel for their heritage while at the same time generating opportunities for underprivileged South African youth. A mesmerizing combination of energy, passion, and enthusiasm, the cast, dressed in elaborate costumes of animal skins, colorful fabrics and modern street gear, pound the senses with an intoxicating mix of Zulu war dances, township jive, foot-stomping jazz and Kwaito, a South African variation of hip-hop that became all the rage post-apartheid.

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From the first time the cast stepped out on the Elgin Theatre stage in Toronto audiences were mesmerized by **UMOJA**; *"It was the happiest, most wonderfully uplifting show I've seen in years. I hope they sell out every show... I am still pulsating from the joyous rhythms of the music and dance last evening... The show was wonderful and deeply moving... They are fabulous dancers!"*

And the critics agreed:

*"Umoja has enough energy to light up London! I defy anyone to leave this hit dance musical feeling anything less than elated." Daily Telegraph (UK)*

*"They dance like demons, sing like angels and drum like magicians." The Independent (UK)*

*"I have never once seen such energy and grace on stage, and the finale had the whole audience on their feet for standing ovation after standing ovation." Irish World*

*"UMOJA is fresh and exuberant, with a strong sense of discipline. The sense of joy the cast conveys is infectious as the audience willingly accompanies them on their musical odyssey from tribal lands to urban sprawl." The Australian*

*"The history of South Africa brought to life by 40 fabulous singers, dancers and drummers! The stage glitters and glows with a full rainbow of colors and patterns from elaborate costumes,... uniformly excellent performers and their evident love for their culture. Perhaps the most ringing endorsement came from a young Afrikaans couple who, during the intermission, said they felt they were back in South Africa." Toronto Star (CAN)*

*"Spirited Umoja is irresistible! Umoja enthusiasts roared with approval from the beginning fade-in to the final black-out. The Umoja cast members, many of whom come from disadvantaged communities, are multi-talented. At the end of the evening, the multicultural audience exploded not merely into applause, but into dance, arms waving and bodies swaying." The Globe and Mail (CAN)*

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*"A vibrantly uplifting show that should warm the cockles of the coldest heart. An all-too-brief snake dance is a miracle of synchronized movement. The two buffed gentlemen who beat the living daylights out of a marimba constitute a thrilling showstopper and the section revisiting Sophiatown is glorious. Umoja is briskly paced, vividly costumed, evocatively lit and superbly performed by a versatile and ingratiating cast."* National Post (CAN)

*"Umoja- the best stage show ever in Windsor!"* Windsor Star (CAN)

*"It's time to rummage through the reviewer's gunnysack for superlatives. The South African show UMOJA is sexy, awesomely athletic, and fired with a spirit that only comes from people for whom song and dance have long been essential to their survival."* Georgia Straight (CAN)

## **UMOJA - The Spirit Of Togetherness**

**Presented by YSIS Entertainment Inc. in association with Sting Music**

**Tuesday, April 18 - Sunday, April 30, 2006  
Opening Night Wednesday, April 19, 2006**

**The Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center  
395 Piedmont Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
<http://www.atlantaciviccenter.com/>**

**Tuesday - Saturday @ 8pm  
Wednesday Student matinee @ 10am  
Saturday matinee @ 2pm • Sunday matinee @ 3pm**

**Ticket prices: \$20.00; \$45.00; \$65.00; \$85.00; \$95.00**

**Ask about Student and Senior discounts!**

**Wednesday student matinee tickets \$15**

**Tickets for Children ages 2 through 12 are \$15 for all performances**

**OPENING SPECIAL: April 18 & 19 @ 8pm all seats \$20!**

**Tickets can be purchased at the Civic Center box office or through  
Ticketmaster at 404-249-6400 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)**

**Groups/Schools: 1-866-786-0227**

**[www.umojatour.com](http://www.umojatour.com)**