

World Theatre Day Message

By Makambe K Simamba

“Where Does Theatre Live?”

Theatre does not belong to institutions.

Theatre belongs to, and lives in...

The body.

A body like yours, and a body like mine.

And as long as we have bodies, we will always have theatre: outstretched arms of tradition extending into fingertips for new generations.

Theatre lives in the rhythm and repetition of heartbeat. In grooves the texture of skin. In foundations of solid footing. In the hollowness of bright ears and the bass notes of eager mouths...

Theatre lives.

And as long as we have our bodies, in whatever form they come, we **will** always have theatre.

In this time, where futures are uncertain and gathering is a challenge, and the bodies that theatre calls home find themselves humbled, I, Makambe, offer that:

Theatre lives not only our ritual of gathering with others. Theatre lives in our ritual of gathering with ourselves.

So today, I invite us to honour the birthplace of this thing we love: This space - this space, of growth and stretching, worship and rest, healing and scars, discovery and reflection, hilarity and hope. Forgiveness. Resistance. Revolution. Release. And breath. And the telling of stories of all the things that are life.

Theatre lives here.