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[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE REMOUNT
OF HANDSPRING PUPPET COMPANY'S
UBU AND THE TRUTH COMMISSION
MAY 1–3 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Extensive residency activities are planned on campus and in the community, including a Puppet Creation Workshop on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, and a symposium addressing post-apartheid South African politics on Saturday, May 2

BERKELEY, March 26, 2015—Cal Performances presents South Africa's [Handspring Puppet Company](#) in its acclaimed dramatic work, *Ubu and the Truth Commission*, featuring famed South African artist and director **William Kentridge** and puppet master **Adrian Kohler**. The work combines animation, live actors, film, music, and a troupe of meticulously-crafted puppets in an examination of the apartheid regime and its aftermath. Cal Performances co-commissioned the remounting of this work that transcends politics; it will be presented on Friday–Sunday, May 1–3 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Playhouse. “By turns chilling and hilarious, brutal and forgiving, the show casts a surreal light on the heart of darkness—and still manages to leave you with hope” (*The Washington Post*). Inspired by Alfred Jarry's classic drama *Ubu Roi* (1986), *Ubu* is set in post-apartheid Johannesburg, and examines the regime through the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, exploring themes of justice as well as punishment and forgiveness. The 90-minute multimedia story, written by **Jane Taylor**, focuses on the political, military and criminal exploits of the avaricious Ubu who, like Shakespeare's titular character Macbeth, is spurred by his wife in his craze for power.

In conjunction with the performances, a variety of [residency activities](#) are planned on campus and in the community. In collaboration with Theatre Bay Area, a two-day public, Puppet Creation Workshop will be taught by **Janni Younge**, Associate Director of *Ubu and the Truth Commission*, on Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MOCHA in Oakland. Tickets can be purchased [online here](#). A symposium

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entitled *Impossible Machines: Puppets, Politics & Truth Commissions*, will be held on Saturday, May 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, the Townsend Center for the Humanities, and the Center for African Studies. Featured panelists include members of Handspring Puppet Company, visiting scholars from Stanford University and Hunter College, and members of the Bay Area arts community.

Handspring Puppet Company has created works with finely crafted puppets within live theatrical contexts for more than three decades, most recently earning international acclaim with the hit play *War Horse*, winner of a Special Tony Award, an Olivier Award, and the Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and LA Drama Critics Circle awards. Based in Cape Town, South Africa, the company provides an artistic home and professional base for a core group of performers, designers, theater artists, and technicians. Handspring's work, which ranges from lighthearted children's theater, to socially relevant political content, to a series of pieces with animals at the heart of their dramaturgies, has been presented in more than 30 countries around the world. Handspring's artistic leadership comprises Adrian Kohler (Artistic Director, co-founder and puppet designer), Basil Jones (co-founder and Executive Producer), and Janni Younge (Associate Director).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Handspring Puppet Company's** *Ubu and the Truth Commission* on Friday–Sunday, May 1–3 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Playhouse are \$78.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26, MOCHA
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. & 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1625 Clay Street, Oakland

Puppetry Workshop

Program: In collaboration with Theatre Bay Area, a two-day public, Puppet Creation Workshop will be taught by **Janni Younge**, Associate Director of *Ubu and the Truth Commission*.

Tickets: Priced at \$150.00 and subject to change. Tickets may be purchased online [here](#).

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Saturday, May 2, 1:00–6:30 p.m. Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Symposium Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Program: A symposium entitled *Impossible Machines: Puppets, Politics, People & Truth Commissions* featuring panelists from Handspring Puppet Company of South Africa, visiting scholars from Stanford University and Hunter College, and members of the Bay Area arts community. For the most current schedule and to RSVP, visit Cal Performances [here](#).

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Friday–Sunday, May 1–3 at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Theater

Ubu and the Truth Commission

Handspring Puppet Company

William Kentridge, director

Jane Taylor, writer

Adrian Kohler, puppetry

Program: Combining animation, live actors, music, and puppets, Handspring Puppet Company examines the apartheid regime through the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (Cal Performances co-commission)

Tickets: Priced at \$78.00 and subject to change.

– Cal Performances –