

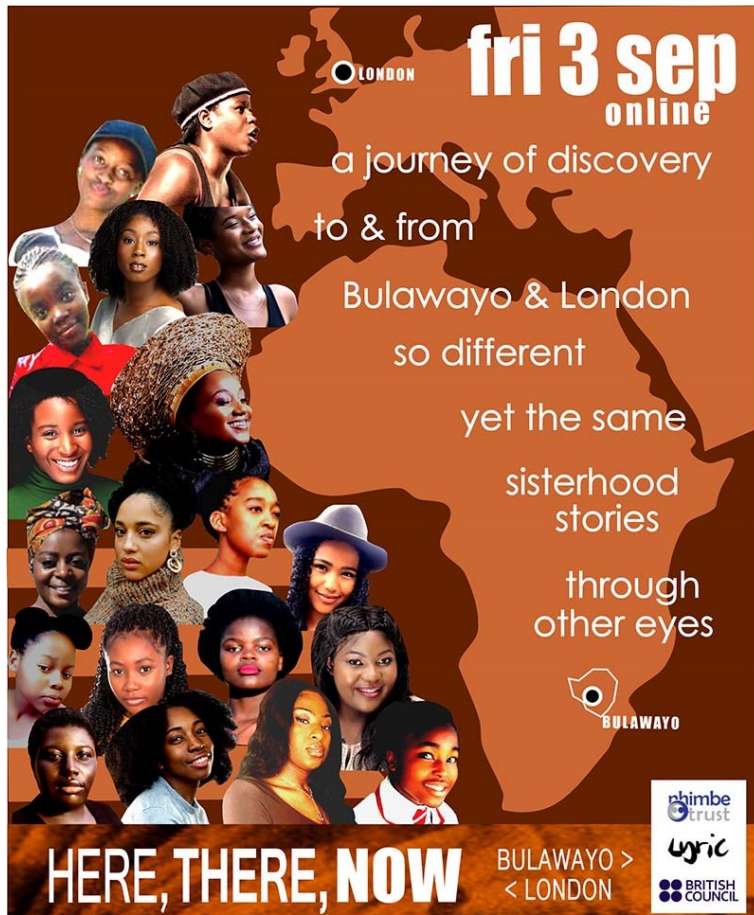
HERE, THERE, NOW

A Digital Storytelling Collaboration

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE | LONDON, UK

Newsletter #4

SEPTEMBER 2021



#blacklivesmatter #blackwomen #SHEroes

See more at www.nhimbe.org

[f here-there-now](#)

info@nhimbe.org

Far from the bright lights...

Far from the bright stage lights and the energy of real live audiences in rows of seats, HERE, THERE, NOW brought women actors of Bulawayo and London together in virtual spaces, exchanging experiences over thousands of miles, in homes and studios in the two cities, listening and understanding each other.

In response to Black Lives Matter and events of 2020 including the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the online collaboration was created to provide young women the agency, power and platform to share their voice and stories with others who are experiencing the same issues from the other side of the globe.

Led by award-winning artist Lady Tshawe in Bulawayo, and UK-based theatre direc-

tor Monique Touko in London, the project brought twenty young women together online through a series of workshops to create new stories exploring womanhood, identity and race that are written and performed by the company and shared digitally in both nations.

The artists' monologues, inspired by their individual experiences and created through the workshops, are performed by their overseas counterparts, filmed and shared online by Nhimbe Trust and Lyric Theatre on YouTube, and social media.

In spite of the huge differences between the two groups, a common and recurring theme emerged: *So different and so much the same.*

Lady Tshawe said it has been an interesting experience using the 'new normal' format of work being done online.

“It has been a huge learning curve for everyone, but this exchange, I believe, will inspire the participants to explore and challenge themselves creatively”
- Lady Tshawe

UK participant Felicia Akin-Tayo, a student at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, said:

“Here, There, Now is everything and more than what I expected it to be. From the first session on zoom, I immediately felt comfortable, safe and empowered amongst the group of females present. What excites about the project is that I don't know exactly how our piece will come out but I am certain that everything we put into the project from our discussions, text, skills and our voice will be from a place of truth because that is what the project has allowed us to be. Truthful. So I am excited because I hope that our truth will not only be watched and heard but will inspire other females, not just in the UK, to feel more comfortable and confident in their own truth.”



Zimbabwean participants directed by Lady Tshawe, are Getrude Munhamo-Pfumayaramba, Thandy Dhlana, Privilege Mathema, Sidumisile Mtethwa, Pamela Mnkandla, Laura Ngwenya, Hazel Moyo, Antonatte Maphosa, Shammah Banda and Edith Masango.

UK participants directed by Monique Touko, are Hannah Balogun, Amaliyah Allison-Pounder, Na'eemah N'Diagne, Felicia Akin-Adaramola, Yiga Gaolou, Taga Obano-Cox, Hannah Balogun, Deja Linton, Joanita Markin and Nyasha Hernandez.

Women in Theatre & Television HERE, THERE, NOW is one of the recent activities of the Women in Theatre & Television project by Nhimbe Trust, which has developed and staged several stirring and highly acclaimed musical productions in the last few years, including 'Tellers – The Musical' in 2017 and 'Blood Tongue – THE Musical' in 2018. WiTT has been strongly supported by a long-term partnership with Africalia, Belgium, and has seen the rise of women artists of the city in theatre, poetry, music and dance, some of whom have reached award-winning status and birthed their own creative initiatives.

Watch the exchange of stories at [Here, There, Now – London > Bulawayo](#).

Partners



Nhimbe Trust Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Based in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Nhimbe Trust is an arts education organisation and a leader in cultural policy research, training, advocacy and defending freedom of creative expression. Nhimbe's *Women in Theatre and Television (WITT)* programme provides vocational training and resources to emerging women writers, actresses, directors and producers. WITT regularly presents the work of these women and empowers women's voices on stage. The programme has grown through the support of Africalia, Belgium over a number of years.

www.nhimbe.org



The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre - London, England

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is one of London's leading producing theatres. For a hundred and twenty five years, they have welcomed some of the world's finest writers, directors, actors and theatre companies to their stage. Right in the heart of Hammersmith, they produce bold and relevant world-class theatre, committed to being vital to, and representative of, their local community and to being a major force in London and UK theatre. They develop and nurture the next generation of talent, and provide opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to discover the power of creativity.



The British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. They build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Last year they reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, and through broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 The British Council are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

www.britishcouncil.org

