



For immediate release

Sophiatown's Removal Commemorations goes back to the future through music February 9-19th 2018

Exhibition and Walking Tours 9-19th Feb
Children's Music Workshops 18-19th Feb
Sophiatown Jazz Encounter 16th Feb

Bookings and enquiries: Rinkie 083 550 7130

February 9th is the day when we traditionally remember the forced removals from Sophiatown (which began in 1955) and this month the Fr Huddleston centre team at the **Sophiatown National Heritage House** are commemorating through music.

In the face of recent losses of great cultural icons, most recently Bra Hugh Masekela, whose very first trumpet was a gift from Fr Trevor Huddleston, actor David Pheto, and Poet Bra Willie Kgositsile, remembering becomes an act of cultural preservation.

For this 63rd year of Commemoration, the Huddleston Centre is hosting Raph Clarkson, trombonist, composer and educator, who will be collaborating with South African musicians, celebrating the historic partnership between South African and UK Musicians over the decades since the first major export of South African music, 'King Kong' went to London in 1961 - and with it Bra Hugh Masekela, Ntate Jonas Gwangwa, the late Miriam Makeba and many more of South Africa's young and rising stars at the time, including the musical's composer Todd Matshikiza.

The Sophiatown National Heritage House, also marks the Commemoration of Removals with the continuing **exhibition "Uprooted" by Cornell Tukiri** - a New Zealander who captured stories of former residents of Sophiatown in (August 2014) and who has loaned the collection to the Sophiatown venue.
Exhibition open Monday-Saturday 9-4pm until February 19th.

The Heritage Exhibitions **and Tours** hosted in the original 1930s Sophiatown house include iconic black and white photographs of Sof'town's cultural activists and reflections on major musicians in an article by Chris McGregor's brother, Tom McGregor. **TOURS** can be booked every day by calling 083 550 7130

In looking to the future for this Commemoration, Raph will run Children's Music Creation workshops on Saturday February 18th with a concert performance on Sunday Feb 19th at 4pm suitable for families.

Bookings for all events : 083 550 7130/011 673 1271
Venue: Sophiatown the Mix 71-71 Toby Street Sophiatown
More info: www.sophiatownthemix.com

Notes for Editors: About Raph Clarkson

Alongside his performing activities, Raph's experience as a workshop leader (which has led him to work with major UK arts organisations and orchestras including English National Opera and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra) will see him lead workshops at The Mix -Sophiatown , helping children and adults to create new music and perform it alongside professional musicians.

Raph Clarkson is best known as trombonist for jazz-punk ensemble WorldService Project, who have toured all across the globe, and release their fourth album 'Serve' on Rare Noise Records in May. He also leads his large ensemble The Dissolute Society, which he writes words and music for; they also release their debut album, Soldiering On, in May. www.raphclarkson.com

About the Sophiatown National Heritage House

A partnership between the City of Joburg Community Development Department (heritage) and the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre, the original Sophiatown home of Dr A B Xuma is now a national heritage site and cultural hub. Open every day except Sundays, you can visit to see the exhibitions, hear the stories and take a guided walk around Sophiatown.

Details

Bookings: info@sophiatownthemix.com or call : 083 550 7130/011 673 1271

*SophiatownMotswakoEnterprises(Pty) Ltd (SME) registered company number:2014/073307/07
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