



truth and reconciliation

by debbie tucker green



DRAMATISTS
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truth and reconciliation was first performed at The Royal Court
Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, Sloane Square, London on 1 September 2011.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION received its world premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in London, England, on September 1, 2011. It was directed by debbie tucker green; the set design was by Lisa Marie Hall; the lighting design was by Matt Haskins; and the sound design was by Gareth Fry. The cast was as follows:

SOUTH AFRICAN MAMA Pamela Nomvete
SOUTH AFRICAN NANA Cecilia Noble
SOUTH AFRICAN SON Fiston Barek
SOUTH AFRICAN DAUGHTER Vanessa Babirye
SOUTH AFRICAN SISTER Susan Wokoma
SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICER Chris Reilly
RWANDAN WIDOW (TUTSI) Wunmi Mosaku
RWANDAN BROTHER (TUTSI) Ashley Zhangazha
RWANDAN GRANDDAD (TUTSI) Louis Mahoney
RWANDAN MAN (TUTSI) Ivanno Jeremiah
RWANDAN HUSBAND, MOSES
(TUTSI, DEAD) Richie Campbell
SERBIAN MAN 1 Aliash Tepina
SERBIAN MAN 2 Aleksander Mikic
BOSNIAN WOMAN Izabella Urbanowicz
BOSNIAN WOMAN'S FRIEND
(FEMALE) Wanda Opalinska
ZIMBABWEAN WIFE Petra Letang
ZIMBABWEAN HUSBAND Don Gilét
ZIMBABWEAN WOMAN Sarah Niles
NORTHERN IRISH WOMAN Clare Cathcart
NORTHERN IRISH WOMAN A Joyce Greenaway
NORTHERN IRISH MAN A Colm Gormley
NORTHERN IRISH MAN B Ruairi Conaghan

CHARACTERS

SOUTH AFRICA

MAMA

NANA

SON, 15

DAUGHTER, 16

SISTER, 14, dead

OFFICER, white

RWANDA

WIDOW, Stella, Tutsi

BROTHER, older than Widow, Tutsi

GRANDDAD, Tutsi

MAN, Hutu, has a visible scar

HUSBAND, Moses, Tutsi, dead

BOSNIA

SERBIAN MAN 1, ex-soldier

SERBIAN MAN 2, ex-soldier

BOSNIAN WOMAN

BOSNIAN WOMAN'S FRIEND, female

ZIMBABWE

WIFE

HUSBAND

WOMAN

NORTHERN IRELAND

WOMAN

WOMAN A

MAN A, Shane

MAN B

The South African family and Zimbabwean characters are Black. Bosnian, Serb, South African Officer and Irish characters are white.

Places and dates should be shown.

“/” marks where dialogue starts to overlap.

Names appearing without dialogue indicate an active silence between those characters.

Words in (brackets) are intention only and not to be spoken.

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SOUTH AFRICA 1998

Three wooden chairs face one solitary wooden chair.

Nana, Mama, Son and Daughter watch the empty seats.

Nana is not impressed.

NANA. ... Not even a cushion.

Nana slowly sits in one of the three.

The kids take the other two seats. The chair opposite remains empty.

Not even a soft to soften the seat.

Not a little something to ease my sitting – leave a seat for your
mama –

Daughter stands. Mama doesn't move.

let her come and sit and share the harshness of the – (*To
Mama.*) not even a cushion –

Son stands – looks at his sister.

SON. Mama you can sit / here.

DAUGHTER. She can sit here –

SON. Mama?

Mama stays standing.

NANA. She needs only one seat so one of you stop standing and
sit down.

SON. Mama?

NANA. I do not need –

SON. Mama – here – you can sit / here.

Daughter re-sits.

NANA. I do not need to sit here on these harsh seats alone.

DAUGHTER. What if it's a she?

... What if it's a / she?

SON. It won't be a / she.

NANA. She needs to sit –

DAUGHTER. it might / be a –

SON. It won't be a / she.

NANA. She needs to sit down by me – standing will stand for nothing.

DAUGHTER. (*To Son.*) You don't know if / it's –

SON. Their women aren't on the front line –

NANA. standing is not a statement.

DAUGHTER. Theirs might / be.

SON. They don't let their women on their front / line.

NANA. Tell your mama to sit.

Daughter gets up again. Mama doesn't move.

DAUGHTER. Mama. (You can) sit here

NANA. by me

DAUGHTER. by Nana ...

Here.

Son re-sits.

NANA. A mama next to a mama – a mama next to her mama.

SON. What women of theirs do you know that stand and fight?

DAUGHTER. You don't know about their / women.

SON. Know that their women don't work

DAUGHTER. you / don't know –

SON. know that their women don't have to work, that their women live leisurely, know that their women don't do anything they don't have to – know that their women don't fight. That their women don't have to fight. That their women wait for their men to return and give them kisses and hot tea when they are back and ask about their day but don't ask about their day.

DAUGHTER.

SON.

SON. I don't want to talk about their women.

 Their women aren't like our women. I don't want to know about / them.

NANA. Tell her let us sit together as mamas.

SON. Mama?

Daughter doesn't know whether to stay standing or sit, looks between Nana and Mama, Daughter sits.

DAUGHTER. If it is a woman –

SON. it will be a man.

DAUGHTER. But if it is a woman –

SON. it won't be a / woman.

NANA. As the nana –

DAUGHTER. if it's a / woman –

NANA. as her nana

SON. if it is a woman that would be worse.

NANA. As the mama – as her mama ...

DAUGHTER. Mama?

NANA. As your mama we should sit. Side by side. In ... solidarity.
 Or something. This hard chair –

DAUGHTER. could it / be a woman?

NANA. on this hard chair –

DAUGHTER. could it be a / woman?

NANA. in this hard place. In this hard place they want to tell me

about my granddaughter? Eh? *Tell* your mama to sit down –
DAUGHTER. Mama –
NANA. give her room ...

Daughter stands.

Give her room so she can sit down on this hard chair ... by me.
Mama doesn't move.

RWANDA 2005

Brother at the end of a cigarette smokes. All are standing.

WIDOW. You smoke like you are nervous –

BROTHER. I'm not nervous.

Beat.

WIDOW. You smoke like you / are (nervous.).

BROTHER. I am not nervous

WIDOW. like you are afraid

GRANDDAD. he is not nervous

BROTHER. I have nothing to be afraid of.

Beat.

WIDOW. I would have come on my own –

BROTHER. you can't drive

GRANDDAD. she can't drive.

WIDOW. I could have come on my own –

GRANDDAD. you couldn't

BROTHER. I wouldn't let you.

WIDOW. You wouldn't "let" me.

GRANDDAD. *I wouldn't let you. I wouldn't let him let you.*

BROTHER. ... I wouldn't want you here on your own.

WIDOW.

GRANDDAD. We wanted to come.

BROTHER.

GRANDDAD.

Brother draws on his cigarette. Widow sees.

WIDOW. I could have come on / my own.

GRANDDAD. I wanted to come – you would deny me coming?

He wanted to come whatever he says and however hard he smokes he wanted to be here.

Brother has started another cigarette.

WIDOW. You wanted to / come?

He smokes.

GRANDDAD. He wanted to come.

He wanted to drive.

He wanted to drive you.

WIDOW. ... You smoke like you are nervous.

BROTHER. You can't drive.

WIDOW. I needed to / come.

BROTHER. You can't drive.

GRANDDAD. You are smoking like you are afraid.

BROTHER. I am not afraid.

There is nothing to be afraid of.

truth and reconciliation

by debbie tucker green

11M, 11W

*"I will not stay standing to have you accuse me.
And I will not sit there and be accused."*

From Rwanda to Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe to Bosnia, answers are demanded, reconciliation hard to hear and the truth reluctant to be told.

"In quick, interwoven succession, Tucker Green spins us around the aftermath of some of the most brutal conflicts of recent years ... never lets up in power, pathos or atmosphere."

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"[Tucker Green's] work is driven by an urgent need to bear witness, in which theatre itself becomes the platform, and this extraordinary play is perhaps her greatest fusion of remembrance and testimony."

—**Metro (London)**

"An extraordinary and moving piece of theatre."

—**The Financial Times**

Also by debbie tucker green
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