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Baxter's hit play *Mies Julie* comes home after international success

The Baxter Theatre Centre's hit play *Mies Julie*, written and directed by Yael Farber, has come home from a record-breaking international tour to sell-out performances on its home turf.

Since *Mies Julie's* first run at the Baxter Theatre last year (and a run at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival), the production has played to full houses at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, St Anne's Warehouse in New York, and the Riverside Studios in London.

In Edinburgh, it beat 2600 other shows on the fringe festival to scoop three prestigious awards, and in New York it was listed by the New York Times as one of the top ten theatre productions of 2012. In London, more than 20 000 tickets were sold while it received 10 five-star ratings.

It has also amassed 30 international and local five-star reviews, and seven top theatre awards. These include four Fleur du Cap awards: Best Supporting Actress (Thoko Ntshinga), Best Director (Yael Farber), Best Lighting Design (Paul Abrams) and Best Original Score and/or Sound Design (Daniel and Matthew Pencer).

"It has been tremendously exciting to work with Yael again and to be part of bringing to life her incredible vision and interpretation of this classic, aptly transposed to contemporary South Africa," says Lara Foot, Director and CEO of the Baxter Theatre Centre and international producer of *Mies Julie*.

"The journey so far is nothing short of overwhelming and exhilarating. Yael has brought together an absolutely amazing cast and creative team to present a fresh take on this play which made theatre history in South Africa in the 1980s. We are truly grateful for and proud of our partnerships with the National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, the Edinburgh Festival and the South African State Theatre, who all share in this phenomenal success," adds Foot.

In a contemporary reworking of August Strindberg's classic *Miss Julie*, Farber has transposed the 1888 parable of class and gender to a remote, bleak farm in the modern day Karoo. Farber's interpretation tackles the deeper complexities of South African society.

The production continues its international tour when it transfers to the Galway Arts Festival,

Ireland (July), Tampere Festival, Finland (August), Oxford Playhouse, UK (August), Washington, USA (November), Boston (November and December).

Mies Julie runs at the Baxter Golden Arrow Studio from 19 June to 6 July.

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