

For release: 9 January 2018

## London based, Zimbabwean choreographer Bawren Tavaziva interprets his own experiences in IZINDAVA...

Artistic director, choreographer and composer **Bawren Tavaziva** has been producing and touring **contemporary dance** productions with his company of dancers since 2004, supported by the Arts Council England. He has produced a number of key works including *My Friend Robert* (2009), *Wild Dog* (2010), *Sensual Africa* (2012) and *Africarmen* (2015) and is known for his unique style that seamlessly synthesises ballet, contemporary and African dance.

Bawren tours his latest piece ***Izindava*** as the nation of **Zimbabwe** jubilantly celebrates the fall of **Robert Mugabe**, marking the end of a 37 year rule. This timely new work takes a bold look at human fragility within our changing world and explores his upbringing in Zimbabwe against a backdrop of colonialism, persecution and power hungry tyrants.

***'It is not about fear, it is about strength and humanity'***

Beautiful, haunting and provocative, *Izindava* unearths raw emotions that are unsettling and unforgettable. Extraordinary sculptural costumes extend and abstract Bawren's choreography with astonishing results.

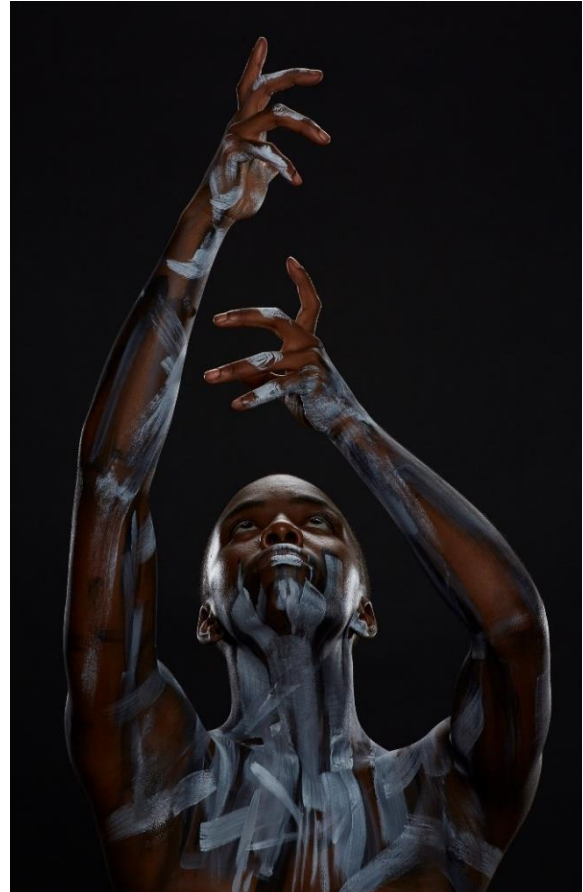
This is a very personal piece reflecting the choreographer's childhood in Zimbabwe, including traumatic religious fears and the loss of close friends. *Izindava* also brings out Bawren's redemptive sense of music and Rastafarianism.

*Izindava* translates as 'news' in the Zimbabwean language Ndebele.



*"I wanted to create this work to explore why it is that the world we live in gives us so much fear. It is important for me to re-visit my past and give hope to future generations. I have got back in touch with my soul, and have my spirit back. When I got it back, it was so refreshing to be human"* **Bawren Tavaziva**

*"At times reflecting post-colonial Zimbabwe as well as portraying today's conflicts, greed and corruption around the world, Bawren speaks out for injustice. At the same time we witness his inner-most demons and fears"* **Beth Cinamon, Creative Producer**



Photoshoots with the company, plus press and radio interviews with Bawren Tavaziva can be arranged on request and more images are available. You are also invited to attend rehearsal of *Izindava* during the week commencing 12 March 2018, please be in contact to arrange a suitable time.

Bawren Tavaziva was born in a rural village near Masvingo in Zimbabwe. At the age of 12 Bawren Tavaziva attended an outreach ballet project with the National Ballet of Zimbabwe at his local community centre. From day one, his determination and talent led him to a life-long passion for dance. He danced with Tumbuka for five years and toured Africa. He came to England to join Phoenix and Union dance.

After this, Bawren formed his own company and became Artistic Director of Tavaziva Dance. He produced Umdlalo Kasisi 2004, Soul Inspired 2005, Bophelo 2006, Chatsva 2007, Heart of Darkness 2009, Wild Dog 2010, Double Take 2011, Sensual Africa 2012, Greed 2013 and in 2014 celebrated the Company's 10 year anniversary with a national tour of Tavaziva Ten. His last work Africarmen, created in 2015, was Bawren's most ambitious work to date.

#### Cast:



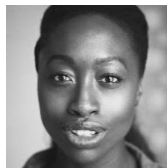
**Lisa Rowley**



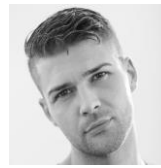
**Luke Crook**



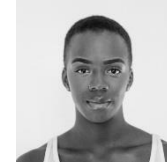
**Tom Shale-Coates**



**Yaa Appiah-Badu**



**Andy Race**



**Asmara Cammock**



**Nicole Victor**

#### ARTISTIC and CREATIVE TEAM

**Artistic Direction and Choreography:** Bawren Tavaziva

**Music:** Bawren Tavaziva

**Lighting Design:** Sherry Coenen

**Costume design:** Ben Voorhaar and Sabrina Zyla of Karisma Costumes

**Dramaturge:** Peter Glanville

**Rehearsal Director:** Joanne Bernard

**Rehearsal Assistant:** Lisa Rowley

**Production Manager:** Christopher Silvester

**Creative Producer:** Beth Cinamon

For full tour dates see below or [www.tavazivadance.com/izindava](http://www.tavazivadance.com/izindava) for more information

#### IZINDAVA Tour Dates

22 March 2018

**Bernie Grant Arts Centre, London**

3 April 2018

**Mercury Theatre, Colchester**

12 April 2018

**DanceCity, Newcastle**

14 April 2018

**Barnsley Civic, Barnsley**

18 April 2018

**Jersey Arts Centre, Jersey**

30 April 2018

**Southill Park, Bracknell**

#### For further information contact:

**Emily Winfield**

**Company Manager, Tavaziva**

[emily.winfield@tavazivadance.com](mailto:emily.winfield@tavazivadance.com)

020 8237 7010 /07977936488

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