

For Immediate Release

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A.R.T. presents the return of South African satirist Pieter Dirk Uys in

ELECTIONS & ERECTIONS

A Chronicle of Fear and Fun

written and performed by Pieter-Dirk Uys

April 3 – May 4

Zero Arrow Club – Harvard Square – Cambridge

Cambridge, Mass. – The American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) is pleased to announce the return to Cambridge of the fabulously funny performer/satirist **Pieter-Dirk Uys** with his new show, *Elections & Erections: A Chronicle of Fear and Fun*. Presented at the A.R.T.'s Zero Arrow Club, at the corner of Arrow Street and Mass. Ave, Cambridge, *Elections and Erections* runs from Thursday, April 3 through Sunday, May 4. The Zero Arrow performance space will once again be transformed into the intimate Club, the cabaret setting with tables and a cash bar previously used for *The Onion Cellar*, *A Marvelous Party*, and *Skip's Hour of Charm*.) The production will be available for press viewing beginning Sunday, April 6 at 7:30pm.

Pieter Dirk Uys inaugurated the A.R.T.'s Zero Arrow Theatre to enormous critical and audience success with his show *Foreign Aids*, presented as part of the A.R.T.'s *South African Festival* in 2005. One of the world's great political cabaret performers, he has been raising laughs and AIDS awareness in South Africa and worldwide. Uys brings with him a host of special guests, all of whom he performs with uncanny accuracy and deep affection, including Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and his most outrageous creation – the

glamorous Evita Bezuidenhout, the self-described “most famous white woman in South Africa.” His new performance piece, *Elections & Erections* – coming to us during our own election year – is his latest, most outrageous attack on political outrage, which underlines the “mock” in democracy and exposes the “con” in reconciliation. With his chorus line of monsters, masters, and madams, Uys uses humor to puncture state hypocrisy and to speak truth to power.

In Pieter Dirk-Uys’ own words about this show: “*Elections & Erections* is a journey through the minefields of fear and fun from the point of view of a white South African who saw the light early on in his restricted society and didn't close the curtains. That light was the weapon of humor against bad politics. Democracy and sex were illegal during the apartheid years, and so with this as a basis, I pitch my satirical tent at the crossroads of two impending elections - the U.S. Presidential Election in November and the next South Africa General Election in April 2008. Some have suggested that the show in Cambridge can only be about Hillary and Bill Clinton. *Elections & Erections* is not a Clinton family copyright. ANC President Jacob Zuma, heir apparent to the presidency of South Africa, recently admitted having unprotected sex with a woman who was hiv-positive - but was in no danger as he had a shower afterwards!” Uys brings 6 different characters to his stage to illustrate various aspects of our shared fears and fun - from affirmative action as inspired by the U.S., to freedom of speech in both SA and the U.S., where terms and conditions apply more and more.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1945, Pieter-Dirk Uys has been in the theatre since the mid-1960s and was closely associated with both the Space Theatre in Cape Town and Johannesburg Market Theatre during the 1970s and 1980s. He has written and performed twenty plays and over thirty revues and one-man shows throughout South Africa and abroad. His plays *Paradise is Closing Down*, *Panorama*, *God's Forgotten*, *Faces in the Wall*, and *Just Like Home* have been performed internationally, and his one-man shows *Adapt or Dye*, *One Man One Volt*, *You ANC Nothing Yet*, *Truth Omissions*, *Live from Boerassic Park*, *Dekaffirmated*, *Foreign Aids*, and *Elections & Erections* have

been presented in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Holland, the USA, and Canada. He received an Obie Award for his 2004 performance of *Foreign Aids* at La Mama ETC in New York City. Most of his satirical work is available in South Africa on video, which, in spite of government censorship during apartheid, allowed him to build up a very large multiracial audience (members of the present democratic Parliament remember seeing his videos in prison and in exile!). He has been seen on South African television since the late 1970s in a variety of programs, has written numerous books including *Elections & Erections*; premiered his new play *Auditioning Angels* in July 2003, and his satire celebrating ten years of democracy, *The End is Naai*, was performed throughout South Africa and abroad. He was awarded South Africa's prestigious Truth and Reconciliation Award in 2001, honorary degrees from several universities; and Evita Bezuidenhout proudly received the Living Legacy 2000 Award in San Diego, U.S. During the last six years he has been traveling around South Africa, visiting over 500 schools and one million school children, as well as prisons and reformatories, with a free AIDS-awareness entertainment called "For Facts Sake!" He has also released corporate AIDS-information videos ("Having Sex with Pieter-Dirk Uys" and "It's just a Small Prick") as well as one for the family ("Survival Aids"). The 2007 Australian documentary directed by the 17-year-old Julian Shaw, *Darling: The Pieter-Dirk Uys Story*, is being shown at festivals worldwide and this month it was awarded one of the three top prizes for documentary films at the Berlin Film Festival.

Single ticket prices for *Elections & Erections* range from \$15 - \$52 with student, senior, and group discounts available. To learn more about this production and the A.R.T.'s current and upcoming season, connect to the A.R.T. website at www.amrep.org or call the **A.R.T. InfoLine** at (617) 547-8300. The **InfoLine** is also available 24 hours a day to provide directions to the theatre; to order brochures, calendars, and newsletters; and to allow direct access to the A.R.T. Box Office (hours are noon to curtain time on performance days, noon to 5 pm on non-performance days, closed on Mondays). Deaf and hard-of-hearing

patrons can also reach the A.R.T. by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Zero Arrow Theatre – located at the corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, near Harvard Square – is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating or first-floor restrooms. The Box Office opens one hour before curtain.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.

For discount parking information near Zero Arrow Theatre, visit our website at www.amrep.org

High resolution photographs of Pieter-Dirk Uys can be downloaded from www.amrep.org/media