The wonderful works of GCina Mhlophe

Biography

Nokucinta Mhlophe was born in Hammarsdale near Durban on 24 October 1958. In 1979 she matriculated at Mfundisweni High School in the then Transkei. She worked for a short time as a domestic worker before enrolling as a certified journalist at Rhodes University.

Influenced by the stories told to her by her grandmother, Gcina Mhlophe became a storyteller, a multilingual actor, poet, playwright, composer and director. Her talent as a writer and performer has transported her from South Africa to South and North America to Europe, Great Britain and Japan. Her books have been translated into many languages and are sold at schools and universities around the world. For her work in theatre, she received an OBIE Award in New York for her performance in Zandile at the 1986 Edinburgh Festival. Kinyagho for Radio Drama from BBC Africa, and the Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago. In 1992 she founded and directed the Kwandlikile storytelling company. In 2012 she was awarded the Single First Award at the Edinburgh Festival. Song Ama for radio Drama from BBC Africa, and the Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago.

In 2014, Dr Mhlophe was awarded her sixth honorary doctorate by the University of Johannesburg. She has released several CDs including Songs & Stories of Africa which won a SAMA award and the IsiZulu version of the same CD won the PanSA Cultural Heritage Award. In 2007, she collaborated with Shikholile Bhengu, Mxolisi Mphahlele and Lonwabo Maduna on a children’s CD that formed the joyful soundtrack of the movie The Kabo. Her latest works include Africa Only to be opened Memory House (Oral History Museum for ordinary South Africans).

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Dr Mhlophe is due to receive the Kennedy Centre International Artists award as well as her seventh Honorary Doctorate from the Nelson Mandela University in April 2018. September 2018 will see her receive the International Artists award as well as her seventh Honorary Doctorate from the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, in April 2018. September 2018 will see her receive the International Artists award as well as her seventh Honorary Doctorate from the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth.
I truly believe that every living being has a story to tell, so I tell stories in order to wake up stories in other people...