



PRESS RELEASE

9 August 2023

**Concert for schools and families, in cooperation with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra: a Namibian-German musical narrative for children
21–23 September 2023, Humboldt Forum, Hall 2, 8/4 euros**

Premiere: children's opera *Hijangua*.

A Journey into the Desert

***Hijangua. A Journey into the Desert* is an adaptation for children from 6 years of the first Namibian opera, *Chief Hijangua*. It is produced especially for the Humboldt Forum and features singers from Namibia, dancers and a chamber ensemble of the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. A narrator guides the audience through Namibia's nature, history and world of myths. The opera's composer will conduct the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra.**

Namibia's first opera, *Chief Hijangua* premiered at the National Theatre of Namibia in 2022. The Namibian-German joint project, initiated by composer Eslon Hindundu and director Kim Mira Meyer, is an example of the multilingual and intercultural exchange between the two countries.

The artists have developed a new version of the opera for children from 6 years of age especially for the Humboldt Forum. *Hijangua. A Journey into the Desert* was conceived by Munich-based Momentbühne in cooperation with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and will be premiered on September 21 in the Humboldt Forum. The story line is based on a tale which is passed on from one generation to the next in Namibia. A narrator, two singers, two dancers and puppeteers guide the audience through the story and the world of Namibian myths. They will be accompanied by the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, with this being one of the projects with which it celebrates its 100-year anniversary.

Hijangua and Matjiua have always been best friends. Now Hijangua is supposed to learn how to become a king. But who wants to be a king when you have best friends? Together, Hijangua and Matjiua sneak out of their village and go out into the desert so they can stay together forever. But the desert of Namibia is really big; what adventures will await the two there...?

The Artists

Eslon Hindundu, composer and conductor

Nikolaus Frei, libretto and narration

Kim Mira Meyer, director

Janice van Rooy, soprano

Galilei Njembo, tenor

Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra

Dates 21 September, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
 22 September, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
 23 September, 2 and 4 p.m.

Venue Humboldt Forum, Hall 2

Admission 8 / 4 euros

Programme humboldtforum.org/hijangua

Hijangua. A Journey into the Desert has been produced by Munich-based Momentbühne in cooperation with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. Support has been provided by LOTTO-STIFTUNG Berlin and the Siemens Arts Program. With kind support of the Federal Foreign Office, the German Embassy in Namibia and Goethe-Institut Namibia. Media partner: Deutschlandradio.

Hijangua. A Journey into the Desert is an adaptation of the opera *Chief Hijangua*. In a multilingual and intercultural exchange, the work deals with the common history between Namibia and Germany during the colonial period. The European premiere will take place at Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin on 15th September 2023. For additional information: www.rsb-online.de/konzerte/oper-chief-hijangua/ and www.momentbuehne.com/pages/opera-namibia

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