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HUGH MASEKELA AND VUSI MAHLASELA COLLABORATE IN SHELDON PERFORMANCE TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents the world premiere of Hugh Masekela and Vusi Mahlasela’s, “20 Years of Freedom: featuring South Africa’s Freedom Songs” tour, Saturday, October 4 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Two of South Africa’s renowned musical icons come together to honor twenty years of democracy and the official end of apartheid in their native country. In a collaborative performance, jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela and vocalist Vusi Mahlasela pay homage with a collection of “freedom” songs, including many of their own, on their first-ever joint tour.

Best known for his Grammy-nominated single “Grazing in the Grass,” **Hugh Masekela** is a world-renowned flugelhornist, trumpeter, band leader, composer, singer and defiant political voice who remains deeply connected at home, while maintaining a successful international career. Born in the town of Witbank, South Africa in 1939, the agony, conflict and exploitation South Africa faced during the 1950s and 1960s inspired Masekela to make music and spread political change. He was an artist who, in his music, vividly portrayed the struggles and sorrows, as well as the joys and passions of his country. His subsequent solo career has spanned five decades, during which time he has released over 40 albums and has worked with such diverse artists as Harry Belafonte, Dizzy Gillespie, The Byrds, Fela Kuti, Marvin Gaye, Herb Alpert, Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, and Masekela’s former wife, the late Miriam Makeba.

Vusi Mahlasela is simply known as “The Voice” in South Africa. He grew up in the Mamelodi township, just outside of Pretoria, South Africa, where he still resides. Since the release of his first album, Mahlasela has traveled the globe sharing his songs of truth and hope, and sharing his country’s past and promise for a better future. He has shared the stage with Dave Matthews Band, Sting, Josh Groban, Paul Simon, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Hugh Masekela, Angelique Kidjo, Béla Fleck, Ray LaMontagne, Amos Lee and many more. He performed at Nelson Mandela’s inauguration and continues to spread Mandela’s message as an ambassador to his HIV/AIDS initiative.

Tickets are \$75 VIP orchestra/\$45 orchestra/\$40 balcony, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon’s website at TheSheldon.org, or in person at The Fox Theatre Box Office, 534 N. Grand Blvd. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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