

South African Dance Company to perform at UCSD, Feb. 26th

February 8, 1988

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EMIGRE SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY U-ZULU TO PERFORM AT UCSD ON FRIDAY, FEB. 26

The U-Zulu Dance Theatre of South Africa will present their dazzling portrayal of the songs and dances of African village life, at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Mandeville Center Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The group originally performed in the controversial South African musical "Ipi Tombi," which was brought to the United States in 1980. The U-ZULU dancers remained in this country after that show concluded, and settled in San Francisco. Their performances for American audiences speak out against the South African apartheid policies, exemplified in a story called, "Our Pride" ("Igugu-Lethu").

The story is about a young Zulu man who leaves his small village to seek a better life in Johannesburg. There he suffers the pain of repressive authority, loses his way in the urban maze and is ultimately expelled from the city because he has no pass. He returns to his village to be welcomed back by his family and friends.

The story, as presented by U-ZULU, is sung, danced, beat out on drums and spoken in vibrant African dialects, including the "click" dialect, first made famous in the United States by African folk singer and political activist Miriam Makeba.

Company member Dingane Ielokoane says, "We sing when we are working, when we are happy and even when we are sad. We have included examples of work songs, church singing and the songs of performers who work in clubs in Soweto."

The dances also represent different villages and include warrior dances of the Zulu tribe. One dance, called "Cans-Cans," is an urban refinement of a village dance. In the village young girls would hold smooth stones in each hand and clap them together rhythmically while they dance. In the cities, they use soft-drink cans.

In a fast-paced dialog in "click" between a young man courting a young woman, he points out all the cows he owns on a nearby hill. She expresses little interest, showing him all the cows her father owns on a different hill.

Tickets for U-ZULU are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for students; purchases may be made at the UCSD Box Office, (534-4559) or from TicketMaster outlets.

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