

# Kure Kure/Faraway

presented by

## Tambai Theatre

Contact: Daisy Lees 07990 802776

Touring 2020 // Small Scale Venues/Festivals

### Promoters' Pack



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Arts La'Olam**  
Artists, Events, Expertise and Advocacy

Norwich  
Arts  
Centre.

**ANNA MUDEKA**  
**KURE KURE / FARAWAY**  
Directed by David Farmer

A Tale of Ancestors, Identity, Atavism, Migration and DNA

# INTRODUCTION

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**MUDEKA HAS TAKEN THE WORLD BY  
STORM BY TELLING THE 'TRUE' AFRICAN  
STORY THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE**

## - THE STANDARD, ZIMBABWE

**Running time 55 minutes**  
**Age recommendation 11+**

**[www.annamudeka.co.uk](http://www.annamudeka.co.uk)**

***"I am a proud Bantu, Munhu,  
Ubuntu - human being. My  
identity, my history, my  
ancestral beliefs, my DNA  
has made me who I am. I am  
everything and everyone who  
has lived before me!"***

**Kure Kure/Faraway** is a multi-dimensional show that showcases Anna's traditional skills as a highly talented mbira (thumb piano) player, drummer, singer and dancer. Set alongside multi-media imagery and video, the show chronicles the Great Migration of the Bantu Tribe (Anna's ancestors) across central Africa and frames it in her personal struggle to balance a quest for global adventure with remaining true to the traditions of her dynastic forebears. It's a story of identity and assimilation and raises questions about the challenges faced by migrant people; as relevant in ancient times as they are today.

**Kure Kure/Faraway** is told through the storytelling, music and dance of the Shona people. An epic odyssey tracing the origins of the African diaspora, the play celebrates Anna's strong female lineage; from those women who led the first Chimurenga War to her Grandmother and on to the new generation of her daughters, building connections between ancestral and modern identities. From the fabled great march of the Bantu Tribe across the Tanganyika and Baka regions to Zimbabwe some 5000 years ago, Kure Kure/Faraway explores seismic shifts in the region's cultural history. Homage is paid to the spiritual deity and fierce woman warrior Nehanda who united the tribes to rise up against western colonialists in the late 1890's - and whose brutal execution has defined Zimbabwean nationalism ever since. Anna conjures the sensory influence of her grandmother in a deeply personal soundscape, contrasting this with the emotional jolt of moving to a new country and finding herself alone and vulnerable, but excited and empowered.

**Watch the Show Trailer: [https://youtu.be/Yl9vwkX7\\_XU](https://youtu.be/Yl9vwkX7_XU)**

*"An overwhelming and magnificent introduction to the beautiful music and dance of Zimbabwe, as well as cultural artefacts and historic tales. Magnetic and warm... a skillful and exciting musician."*

Carla Phillips, Eastern Daily Press.





# KEY POINTS/THE COMPANY

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## *Key reasons to book Kure Kure/Faraway*

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- 1 This is an ancient story relevant to today's lives
- 2 Exploring and challenging issues of identity
- 3 One woman show celebrating female power, influence and success
- 4 Showcasing traditional African dance, song and mbira playing
- 5 Multimedia production: video, live storytelling, poetry and performance
- 6 Culturally relevant to those living in all diasporas
- 7 Demonstrating positive aspects of migration
- 8 Embracing all cultures
- 9 Showing strong pride in Africa
- 10 Connecting with the ancestors, earth and humanity

## *The Company*

**Artistic Director:** David Farmer

**Tour Manager:** Steve Louis

**Stage Manager:** Rosy Mason

**Sound Technician:** Gerry England

**Producer:** Daisy Lees of Arts La'Olam

**Script Writer:** Belona Greenwood

**Song Writing:** Anna Mudeka

**Movement Director:** Tina Omotosho

**Lighting Designer:** Nikk Turnham

**Studio recording:** John Vigar of Tontena Music

**Photographic Visuals:** Simon Bright, National Archives Zimbabwe, Springboard TV, Gideon Graylyons, Niamh Gallagher

**Visual Designer:** Dom Thorby

**Photography:** Gideon Graylyons, Richard Selman, Banning Ayre

**Stage Props:** Steve Louis, Mark Gorton

**Costume Design:** Sheilla Mandeya

**Voice Over:** Butshilo Nleya

**Poem:** Tendai Bvasvi

**Japanese Flute:** Joseph Sanger

**Research:** Anna Mudeka, Chartwell Dutiro, Millicent Chapanda, Sean Dewah, John Vigar, Saki Mafundikwa

*Kure Kure/Faraway is an original theatre work devised by Anna Mudeka and a talented team of associate artists, supported by Pasco Q Kevlin from Norwich Arts Centre*

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# THE OPENING OF THE SHOW

**The audience enters** to the aroma of African smells: cloves, frankincense and geranium oils are released before the doors open. Anna enters and blows the kudu (antelope) horn. She listens for the ancestors. She begins the story of her people - the biggest ancestral migration of the Bantu tribe from the Tanganyika and Baka Tribal regions.

Anna introduces her ancestor, Nehanda, who walked out of Guruuswa, the tall dense grass at the centre of the earth, seventy thousand years ago. The people followed Hungwe, the Fish Eagle to the site of present-day Zimbabwe. Backed by colourful video, Anna tells the history of her people and how the spirit of Nehanda was passed on through women through the generations, embodied by many mediums in a long line.

Anna conjures up a thunderstorm and drums the Mhande rain dance rhythm. She tells of gallivanting British Adventurer Cecil Rhodes' arrival in Zimbabwe: *"Dear Fellow, remember you are an Englishman and have consequently won first prize in the lottery of life!"*

Soon the British imposed a Hut Tax - *"just like the bedroom tax here in 2012 it really didn't go down well!"* And so the first Chimurenga War began. Anna acts out the dialogue between a British Military Officer and Nehanda, leader of the people. She dramatically dances a loud and vibrant Zulu war dance.

As battle ends and Anna leaves the stage to change costume we hear how Nehanda and Kaguvi, another tribal leader, faced their execution with grim courage. They walked heads bowed, hands bound. Nehanda's last words were: *"My bones will rise again! My bones shall rise again! My bones will rise again!"* The British in their fear and savagery cut Nehanda's head from her corpse and sent it as a gift to Queen Victoria.

A haunting poem/song with live backing by Anna on the mbira (thumb piano) transports us from the harsh origins of Zimbabwe to the summer of 1976, when Anna Mudeka was born. The tech team cue the beginning of an Abba track but Anna hastily shushes them as she begins the story of her own family origins.



# FEEDBACK

## Audience feedback

### Venue/Booker feedback

*'It was an absolutely brilliant performance, I loved it! It really spoke to me (and my Bantu DNA), it was so enlightening, inspiring and engaging. I've had nothing but positive feedback from people I have spoken to.'* - Midland Arts Centre, Birmingham

*'We'd love to have you back and it would be good to explore with you about further workshops/projects, particularly linked to ancestry and the young unaccompanied asylum seekers (they loved the show, I hear they had pictures with you at the end!)* - Sir John Mills Theatre, Ipswich

*'We had so much fun with you guys, and love to have you back.'* - Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate

*'...moving and thought provoking. Every member of the audience was intimately engaged and carried along by Anna's story and her powerful solo performance. A well balanced combination of a historical story of immigration alongside the experience of living in modern day Britain.'* - The Exchange, Twickenham

*'Thank you for such a powerful and moving piece, and for the team's calm and efficient professionalism during the day. Do please return with your next project and good luck with the tour.'* - Wells Maltings

*'A slick performance... Wow! The audience indicated that they were happy and privileged to have witnessed such a vibrant, polished piece of great entertainment. They really were the best cast and crew that we've ever hosted.'* - Rural Touring Promoter, Whittingham

*'Anna's personality, her ability to make the universal connection amongst all humans was very moving'*

*'Really enjoyed her comic acting - she is brilliantly funny'*

*'Hearing your history from a black perspective was very moving'*

*'I felt your connections to the earth, rhythms, sounds of Zimbabwe that give you such dignity and confidence and feed your understanding of humanity. What a wonderful gift to your audiences.'*

*'Spoken and sung and played and danced, in the real African storytelling tradition'*

*'Captivating, sparks so many conversations, was inspiring - personal - I loved the music'*

*'It was the journey of ancestors, family, Anna's children and reconnected back to the ancestors. Travelling in time and place, growing as a person'*

*'Visually spectacular, musically interesting and varied with a good story to tell. Thanks so much for coming - a perfect community event in our somewhat out of the way village!'*



*'What I loved was her showing that it is possible to have pride in your origins and your culture without saying that it's better than anybody else's.'*  
- Audience member

## *Tambai Theatre 2020 and beyond*

**Tambai Theatre** is developing a 5-year programme of shows tackling issues about migration and women. **Kure Kure** continues to tour through 2020 as we start researching and developing our next show, which will preview in **September 2020** and tour widely from **May 2021**.

The new theatre piece is based on the extraordinary story of a courageous Angolan refugee who uses Siri to learn to read and write and to translate the world around her. Now resident in the UK, she uses her photographic memory to tell her harrowing yet life-affirming stories to her hairdressing clients.

**2022/23** will see the development of **Black Anna**, the story of an Italian landlady in Norwich who ran and sang in her pub entertaining America GI's in the 1940s. She was also unusually considerate of her many homosexual customers. Other future shows include a retelling of the story of the late South African singer **Miriam Makeba**.

*"I identified with the story, relating to my immigrant parents, I could feel the isolation and missing mother country."*

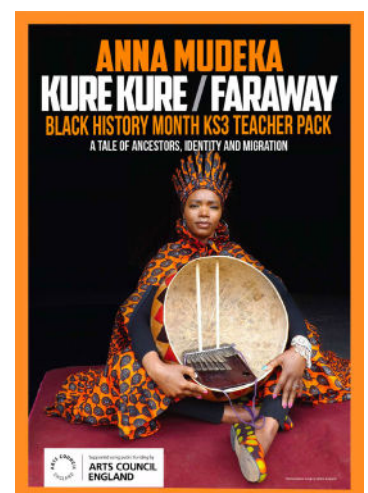
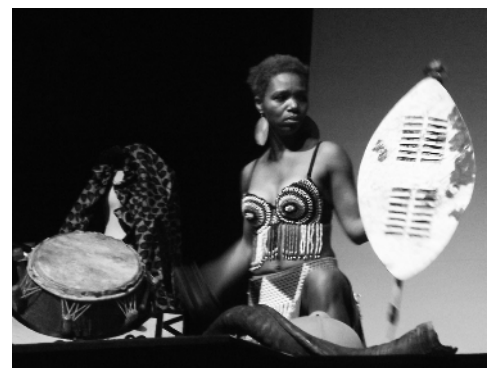
### *Audience comment*

## *Workshops and Resource Pack*

Tambai Theatre offers **interactive and immersive workshops** alongside Kure Kure on Zimbabwean songs, dances and traditions. Open to **all ages and communities**, these sessions aim to educate and share aspects of Shona culture. An invitation to remember ancestors, their wisdom and stories, these sessions offer an insight into the uplifting and soulful spiritualism of a Shona celebration.

We offer a specially commissioned **Resource Pack** for **High Schools**, an **assembly presentation** and full programme of activities. Anna often visits schools as part of Black History Month and Refugee week.

Our workshops are available to **Primary and SEN schools** and we offer **inspirational talks** and **workshop packages** to businesses and other groups.



*Teachers' Resource Pack*





# Anna Mudeka

**Anna Mudeka: one of Norfolk's Top 100 Women (Eastern Daily Press Awards, 2019)**

Anna Mudeka grew up in a musical family in Zimbabwe, training and touring from a young age with such giants of world music as Thomas Mapfumo, Stella Chiweshe, Ephat Mujuru and Chartwell Dutiro. She is a virtuoso performer on the mbira, accompanying this soul-enriching sound with her deep and haunting voice.

In 2020, Anna is appearing in the West End as the musician in the RSC's 'Kunene and the King' alongside John Kani and Anthony Sher. As a dancer she has toured with Adzido Dance Ensemble and as a performer in 'The Greatest Drummer in the World' – 'the astonishing Anna Mudeka's sheer delight and passion floods across the stage'.

With the *Anna Mudeka Band*, Anna has toured across the UK and internationally to WOMAD and dozens of other noteworthy festivals. She engages youngsters and adults

alike through workshops worldwide in conjunction with schools, festivals and communities. At her lively stage performances and workshops one can really experience the uplifting atmosphere her music, song, dance, storytelling and performance creates.

Anna has received many awards, including *Africa's Most Influential Woman in Business and Government (Arts and Culture)*, *Norfolk's Top 100 Women* and she was shortlisted as *Tesco Mum of the Year* and *Norfolk Arts Awards (People's Choice)*. In 2005, Anna founded the *Mudeka Foundation* to build and fund schools for disadvantaged children in Zimbabwe.

**Watch 60-second taster video about Anna Mudeka:**  
<https://youtu.be/Bf-ohp2JkmE>



# MARKETING INFORMATION

## Brochure Copy

### 35 words

The multi-talented Anna Mudeka takes audiences on an exhilarating, inspiring and thought provoking journey to ancient and modern-day Zimbabwe, and speaks of the challenges and opportunities of starting a new life in a different country.

### 50 words

The multi-talented Anna Mudeka takes audiences on an exhilarating, inspiring and thought provoking journey to ancient and modern-day Zimbabwe, and speaks of the challenges and opportunities of starting a new life in a different country.

*'Beautiful theatre relevant to today's lives'* - Audience Comment

### 170 words

A tale of ancestors, identity, atavism, migration and DNA – featuring storytelling, projected visuals, songs, music and dance.

Zimbabwean born multi-instrumentalist, dancer and actress, Anna Mudeka, brings her tour de force one woman show, Kure Kure/ Faraway, to audiences across the UK over summer and autumn 2019.

Kure Kure/ Faraway chronicles the mass exodus of Anna's ancestors, the Bantu tribe, across central Africa and frames it in her personal struggle of balancing a quest for global adventure while remaining true to the traditions of her dynastic forebears. It's a story of identity, assimilation, and challenges faced by migrants, as relevant in ancient times as they are today.

Told through the music, dance and mesmerising ululation of the Shona people, accomplished mbira player Anna sets the scene for an epic odyssey traversing legends of the African diaspora, evoking ancestral and modern identities. From the fabled great march of the Bantu Tribe across the Tanganika and Baka regions to Zimbabwe some 5000 years ago, Kure Kure/ Faraway, explores seismic shifts in the regions' cultural history.

## Online

Website: <https://annamudeka.co.uk/kure-kure-faraway/>

Promo Video: [https://youtu.be/Yl9vwkX7\\_XU](https://youtu.be/Yl9vwkX7_XU)

## Age Guidance

11+

## Target Audiences

Audiences with an interest in cross art forms: dance/theatre/comedy

Audiences with an interest in African history/politics

Audiences with an interest in African dance and music



# 2019 TOUR DATES

## KURE KURE/FARAWAY TOUR DATES

**THURSDAY 5 SEPT WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION 12.45pm**  
Free Event  
UEA DRAMA STUDIO, NORWICH  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES  
info@annamudeka.co.uk

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER SHOW 7.45pm**  
NORTHERN STAGE,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
TEL: 0191 230 5151

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER SHOW 7pm**  
SIR JOHN MILLS THEATRE, IPSWICH  
TEL: 01473 211498

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP 1pm**  
ART EAT FESTIVAL, IPSWICH WATERFRONT  
TEL: 07990 802776

**SATURDAY 28 SEPT WORKSHOP 2pm SHOW 7.30pm**  
MAC, BIRMINGHAM TEL: 0121 446 3232

**SATURDAY 5 OCT WORKSHOP 2.30pm SHOW 7pm**  
ST ANDREWS CHURCH HALL,  
SOUTHEND ON SEA  
TEL: 01842 751975 www.leapinghare.org

**SATURDAY 12 OCT SHOW 7.30pm Doors open 6.30pm**  
THE OLD TOWN HALL, BOURNE  
TEL: 01778217030 www.bournetownhall.org.uk/events

**FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER SHOW 7pm**  
THE CURVE, SLOUGH www.thecurveslough.com

**SATURDAY 19 OCT FREE WORKSHOP 3.30-4.30pm**  
booking essential, limited spaces. 07757 014154 **SHOW 7pm**  
CLOVER HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE NORWICH  
TEL: 01842 751975 www.leapinghare.org

**SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER WORKSHOP 2pm**  
TRINITY CENTRE, BRISTOL  
TEL: 0117 2034040 www.afrikaeye.org.uk

**SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER SHOW 7pm**  
ZION BRISTOL TEL: 0117 923 1212

**TUESDAY 22 OCT WORKSHOP 3pm SHOW 7.30pm**  
COAST ARTS FESTIVAL, CROMER  
COMMUNITY CENTRE www.coastarts.co.uk

**THURSDAY 24 OCT WORKSHOP 2pm SHOW 7pm**  
FIRSTSITE GALLERY, COLCHESTER  
TEL: 01206 713700

**FRIDAY 25 OCT WORKSHOP 2pm SHOW 7.30pm**  
ST GEORGE'S GUILDHALL,  
KINGS LYNN  
TEL: 01553 764864

**SATURDAY 26 OCT WORKSHOP 4pm SHOW 7pm**  
POWERSTOCK HUT, BRIDPORT, WEST DORSET  
TEL: 01308 485474 www.artsreach.co.uk

**SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
PORTMAN HALL, SHILLINGSTONE  
TEL: 01258 860319 www.artsreach.co.uk

**FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
THE EXCHANGE TWICKENHAM,  
75 LONDON RD, TWICKENHAM  
TEL: 020 8240 2399

IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNITY IN DIVERSITY  
**SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER WORKSHOP 4pm-5pm £4**  
**SHOW 7pm with after show discussion**  
CARNEGIE HALL, CAGE LANE, THETFORD  
TEL: 01842 751975 www.leapinghare.org

**THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
TOWN HALL, ALSTON  
TEL: 01434 382244 www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

**FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
MELMERBY VILLAGE HALL, PENRITH  
TEL: 01768 881291 www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

**SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
WARK TOWN HALL & MECHANICS  
INSTITUTE, HEXHAM  
TEL: 01434 230180 www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

**SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER SHOW 7.30pm**  
WHITTINGHAM MEMORIAL INSTITUTE,  
ALNWICK  
TEL: 01665 574384 www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

**THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER**  
**WORKSHOP 2pm SHOW 7pm**  
DISS CORN HALL  
TEL: 01379 652241

**FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 7pm**  
SEAGULL THEATRE, LOWESTOFT  
TEL: 01502 589726 www.seagull.co.uk

**SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 7.30pm**  
HOLT COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLT  
TEL: 01362 822194 www.annamudeka.co.uk

Technical specs and staging

Technical Rider (Document Date April 25, 2019)

### **Load in/Sound Check/Load Out**

1. Our load in and stage set up is approximately 4hrs
2. Sound check will take approximately 1hr 30 minutes (*contained within the 4hrs above*)
3. Load out is approximately 1 hour
4. Venue to provide helpers could be tech to help with loading equipment in and out of the venue (*where applicable*)
5. Venue Techs to be present during sound check and performance (where applicable)
6. Lights, projector and sound to be set up and ready before sound check or pre-rig.
7. When any of the above is not available please notify tour manager (Steve Louis)

### **Kure Kure-Stage Requirements provided by the company**

1. Riser: 1800mm x 600mm x 300mm height
2. Dance area 2500 x 2000
3. Back stage area at least 1800mm x 1800mm SL and SR
4. Riser Plinth x2 300mm width x 300mm depth
5. 1 x lavalier/fixed boom radio mic
6. Projector and screen if venue doesn't have one

### **Kure Kure Venue Requirements**

1. Stage dimensions must be minimum 4000 mm width x 3000 mm depth
2. Mac book 10.10 Yosemite program to run Qlab, *please contact us if you don't have one*
3. PA minimum 6 channel
4. 1 x lavalier/fixed boom radio mic (as above, not in addition to)
5. Space for lights 4000mm width x 400mm depth
6. Stage access (2) stairs with rails either side of the stage(*where applicable*)
7. Dance area 2500 x 2000



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Stage\_Manager:  
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|       |
|-------|
| stage |
| space |
| riser |

