

The waiting game is a sad way of life

A standing ovation is what she received, and a standing ovation is what she undeniably deserved.

Thembi Mtshali's inimitable solo performance in this original one-woman drama will whisk you away, put a smile on your face and touch your heart.

She pays tribute to the women of South Africa in the most honest and accurate way by telling her own story.

And by telling her one story, Thembi tells many more. Waiting is what most women in this country painfully know all too well.

The waiting of the rural child to see her parents every Christmas while they work from sunrise to sunset in the city.

Working as a domestic worker, a mother rears a white family's child while her children back in the town-

A WOMAN IN WAITING

Reviewer: **Nazma Dreyer**

DIRECTOR: Yael Farber

CAST: Thembi Mtshali

VENUE: Nico Arena (until October 26)

ship wait and long for her, only to see her every weekend.

Mothers wait with unequivocal patience and dignity at TRC hearings to hear what had happened to their children and husbands years before.

But there are humorous moments in the play which highlight the embodiment of the South African spirit.

With director Yael Farber, Mtshali wrote about these faces of waiting. The result is that *A Woman In Waiting* refuses to allow us to suffer from apartheid amnesia.

The character and the audience live the present, embrace the future, but remember the past.

Mtshali has an astounding presence. Her performance engulfs her audience often gripped in empathy as a result of her wonderful storytelling ability.

After being on local and international television and stage for 30 years, it is no small wonder that this acclaimed actress hijacks her audience with such success – and makes them laugh and cry from one moment to the next. Her leading role in the film *Mapantsula* earned her an FNB Vita Award for Best Actress and she has shared the stage with such acclaimed artists as Dizzy Gillespie, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela and Abdulla Ibrahim.

Both Farber and Mtshali deserve an award for this performance as well.

Argus Tonight 8/10/99



Thembi Mtshali