

THE STAGE
17 AUGUST 2000

Assembly Rooms

A Woman in Waiting

Oh no, not another one-person biog-show from a remarkable woman with a story to tell, I hear you cry. Well yes, since you ask, and it's rather good.

In a career that has taken her from the original production of *Ipi Tombi* to a role in Spielberg's *Deep Impact*, Thembi Mtshali has a performing pedigree that's longer than the Queen Mum's gin tab. But she also comes from humble beginnings loaded murderously against her attaining anything more than her mother's status of betrodden household menial.

Through words and song, using the minimum of props and costumes to Tardis-like effect, Mtshali retraces her life as a gradual awakening from a childhood of apartheid-inspired slumber to the release of a life unfettered on the international stage.

With Yael Farber as co-writer, Mtshali takes the format to new heights. Her achievements are second to none but because she is no over-exposed celeb, her personality is enabled to propel her story, instead of vice-versa – and that's the secret behind any autobiography that has aspirations to truly reach out.

To judge from this middle of the week crowd's reaction, it will be standing ovations only.

Nick Awde