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**06 December 2012**

## **UCT to honour pioneers in arts, economics, science, law and medicine**

**More than 100 PhDs to be awarded in 12 ceremonies over six days**

The University of Cape Town will award honorary degrees to a selection of experts chosen not only for what each has contributed to his or her respective area of expertise, but to society as a whole. Along with students who will receive their degrees on stage at Jameson Hall, this year's honorands are:

- Pioneering physicist Jonathan Ellis
- Cape Town-born, world-renowned artist Marlene Dumas;
- UCT alumni Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones of the Handspring Puppet Company, one of the world's best known and respected puppet companies; and
- Legal expert Nicholas Haysom

These recipients will be honoured at the graduation ceremonies taking place from Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012. All ceremonies will be streamed live online. The streaming can be accessed on: <http://www.uct.ac.za/students/graduation/>

### **Jonathan Ellis: Doctor of Science – 13 December at 10h00**

Born in 1946 in London, England, Jonathan Ellis earned his PhD in theoretical particle physics in 1971 from Cambridge University. After post-doctoral positions at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and the California Institute of Technology, he joined the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was deputy leader of the Theoretical Physics division from 1979 to 1982 and from 1984 to 1987, and leader from 1988 to 1994. He is currently the Clerk Maxwell Professor of Theoretical Physics in King's College, London.

Ellis is one of the pioneers of research at the interface between particle physics, astrophysics, cosmology and quantum gravity. Our understanding of the world and its origins has changed forever under his influence. In 1976 he proposed searching for gluons, the carrier particles of the strong interactions via 3-jet events in electron-positron annihilation. This search was then carried out three years later at the DESY laboratory in Germany, resulting in the discovery of the gluon.

UCT will confer an honorary doctorate in recognition of Ellis's exceptional and ground-breaking contributions to the understanding of fundamental physics and astrophysics, and for the numerous contributions he has made over the past decade to promote physics in South Africa, including the South Africa-CERN programme and the series of African Schools of Physics.

### **Marlene Dumas: Doctor of Fine Arts – 15 December at 15h00**

Widely regarded as one of the most influential painters working today, Marlene Dumas has continuously explored the complex range of human emotions, often probing questions of gender, race, sexuality and economic inequality. Born in Cape Town in 1953, she completed her fine arts studies at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art in 1975, before attending the Ateliers '63 in Haarlem, Netherlands, for two years. In 1979-80 she studied at the Psychological Institute at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Dumas' distinctive interest in and use of photographic sources in her painting practice has enjoyed sustained critical reception, as has her courage in handling sensitive topics of racial and sexual violence and mortality. Her work consistently explores constructions of identity and the fluid distinctions between the public and the private. Dumas' achievements were capped most recently by her major retrospective exhibition, "Measuring Your Own Grave", at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Her work is in collections in many countries, including South Africa, the United States, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Japan.

Dumas possesses a rare generosity and commitment to art students and emerging artists alike. She has maintained a strong interest in young artists in the country of her birth over the years, and has initiated many important events and supported many young artists materially, by mentoring and in other ways. When she received the prestigious David Röell prize by the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund in 1998, she chose to share her winnings with the South African National Gallery, it to initiate Fresh, a developmental programme focusing on promising young artists throughout the country.

### **Adrian Kohler & Basil Jones: Doctor of Literature – 15 December at 15h00**

UCT will honour Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones for their outstanding contribution to contemporary theatre through the medium of puppetry. Both graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT in 1974. In 1981 they established the Handspring Puppet Company (initially with two other Michaelis graduates). It has since become

one of the best known and respected puppet companies in the world, with a wide international reputation.

The special genius of Jones and Kohler's work has been to bring their training at Michaelis and their imagination as artists and sculptors to bear on their interest in theatrical and performative traditions. Their collaboration with artists such as William Kentridge and, more recently, with the Royal National Theatre's *Warhorse* project has brought their work to international attention. The accolades they have received reflect the astonishment with which audiences have encountered the powerful assimilation of animated puppet-character, sculpture, puppet mastery, and performance.

Their work represents an original integration of art and performance that has come about through a formal understanding of three-dimensional art and a deep engagement of the power of sculpture and performance in Africa, rather than anywhere else in the world. Their ability to load the objects they make with extraordinary emotional range and dramatic power makes theirs a truly unique and innovative contribution to creative work in South Africa.

### **Nicholas Haysom: Doctor of Law – 18 December 10h00**

Nicholas Haysom has devoted his life to public service and the vindication of human rights, both in South Africa and internationally, particularly in Africa. He graduated with a BA Hons in 1975 from the University of Natal and an LLB from UCT in 1978. He was admitted as an attorney in 1981 and joined the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand – a pioneer institute engaged in academic research and education, but also in bringing precedent-setting cases in human rights. He published important research into the legal rights of farmworkers and the violence employed by the security forces during the states of emergency. He was detained on several occasions and banned.

In the 1990s Haysom was directly involved as both a negotiator and an advisor in the negotiation of South Africa's interim and final constitutions. He was appointed to represent the Constitutional Assembly and brief the legal team in the Certification of the Final Constitution proceedings in the Constitutional Court. Between 1994 and 1999 he served as President Nelson Mandela's legal advisor and, at his (Mandela's) request, worked as a peace facilitator in Burundi. He was subsequently called upon to assist in facilitating the peace talks in Sudan. He helped draft and negotiate the ground-breaking Machakos Protocol, which formed the basis of the other protocols on wealth sharing, power sharing and security, and ultimately the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005.

In 2005 Haysom joined the United Nations to head its Constitutional Support Unit in Iraq, and in 2007 he was appointed Political Director in the Office of the Secretary-General. He has advised missions on conflict in Afghanistan and Kosovo, and advised on constitutional processes in Tunisia. He continues to lecture and write on issues relating to conflict resolution and constitution making, of which he is now regarded internationally as a leading expert.

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