

PRESS RELEASE



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AFRICAN SPIRIT

WORLD PREMIERE

2 – 26 August at 12 noon
Assembly Hall, EDINBURGH

WINNERS 2006 Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music
Album

SUPPORT ACT for Red Hot Chili Peppers June & July 2007

Edinburgh has always had a special place in the hearts of **Soweto Gospel Choir** members, so it's no surprise that they have chosen to perform the world premiere of their new show, AFRICAN SPIRIT, at this year's Festival. The recent **Grammy** award winners will perform at the Assembly Hall 2 – 26 August at 12 noon each day. The Choir will also tour in the UK in February & March 08, as well as performing as the support act for the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** in June & July this year. They have just finished recording with **Robert Plant** in New Orleans for the **Fats Domino** tribute album.

For the first time the Choir will not only perform *a capella* in this new show but will also be accompanied by their four piece band and will feature costumes and dance routines not previously seen. Repertoire will include songs that deal with the many different aspects of the human spirit, whether the religious spirit (gospel songs), the spirit of love for another (**Bob Dylan's 'I'll Remember You'**) or the spirit of living in harmony together (*'World in Union'* and **Bono's 'One Love'**). Featuring 26 incredible singers, dancers and drummers, **AFRICAN SPIRIT** is guaranteed to stir your soul and capture the beauty and passion that is Africa.

'Wonderful ... you have never seen or heard such infectious joy' Brian May

This exciting new show coincides with their new album of the same name, launched earlier this year. The album is a warm and exotic collection of moving traditional South African spiritual music, South African pop, American gospel and popular inspirational songs from around the world.

'Spectacular' New York Times

Since their sell-out debut at the Fringe in 2003, Soweto Gospel Choir have won critical acclaim and performed to full houses around the world, sung alongside **Bono**, **Peter Gabriel** and **Jimmy Cliff** and been heralded as the most exciting group to emerge in world music in recent years. This was confirmed when they picked up their 2006 Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Album (for their second album 'Blessed').

David Mulovhedzi, Choirmaster, comments: *'We are thrilled to be premiering our new show African Show in Edinburgh prior to taking it back home for our first major South African Tour and then taking it on our 2008 world tour'.*

For further information

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

2 – 26 August Assembly Hall, The Mound
All performances at 12 noon
Box Office: 0131 623 3030
Tickets: from £12
www.assemblyfestival.com

UK tour 08:

1 Feb – 2 March Details to be announced

**New Album 'AFRICAN SPIRIT' now out
through Shanachie Entertainment www.shanachie.com**