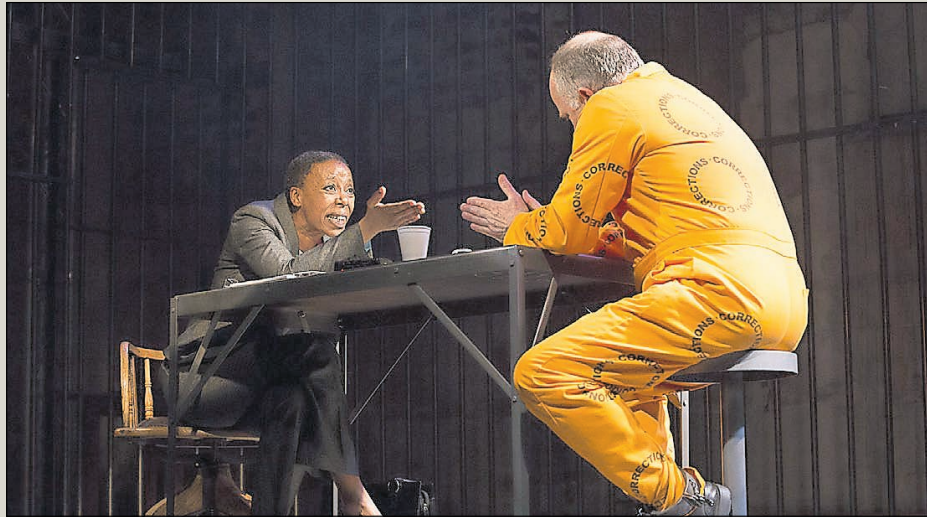


Thought-provoking encounter with a killer



■ Noma Dumezweni (Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela) and Matthew Marsh (Eugene de Kock) in *A Human Being Died That Night*
Picture: Jesse Kate Kramer

A HUMAN BEING DIED THAT NIGHT
Hampstead Theatre
★★★★

Are those who commit atrocities inhuman? It's reassuring to put distance between ourselves and these 'monsters', but no such comfort is offered in Nicholas Wright's riveting, must-see play. Evil has a name, and a face, and maybe even a soul worth saving.

In 1997, South Africa's infamous Eugene de Kock, serving a 212-year prison sentence for unthinkable crimes, was visited by psychologist Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. This representative of Mandela's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission came not to blame, but to understand, even forgive – while remaining emotionally detached. Jonathan Munby's electrifying

production begins in classic horror territory, our devil in orange jumpsuit shackled to the floor – until de Kock himself references *Silence Of The Lambs* with wry irony.

We're primed for savagery, but presented with an articulate tutor, peppering his lecture with self-effacing humour. How reasonable it all is: bombing for a boss demanding results, torture that gives politicians and voters the security they desire.

"The dirtiest war is the one fought in the shadows," he reminds us, the unwitting collaborators. What abominable action is taken in our name? Is de Kock right to believe he's just a scapegoat, a cog in the machine?

His fury's reserved for "lies" told by the press and politically savvy wrongdoers escaping justice. He's scornful of their

euphemistic language, but uses it himself, chillingly – "pre-emptive killings". Gobodo-Madikizela expertly draws his confession, yet with each word, de Kock reclaims the narrative.

In this charged two-hander, Noma Dumezweni conveys the struggle of conflicted empathy, while Matthew Marsh is wonderfully ambiguous, leaving us unsure whether his anguished remorse is genuine or masterful manipulation.

It's a searingly intelligent study of a society struggling to heal, placing collective responsibility and reciprocal clemency against an endless cycle of recrimination. Yet Gobodo-Madikizela is adamant that "forgiveness is not forgetting". Monster or not, de Kock remains caged.

Until June 21.

Marianka Swain

LJCC: Recital: **The Nash Ensemble**. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of one of the major forces in music. £20. 3.30pm. Sunday, June 8. **Exercise for cancer patients**. With Lizzy Davis. Exercise is a critical and often overlooked component of a cancer patient's recovery. £10 per session. 1pm-2pm. Monday, June 9. **Film screening: The SS St Louis**. Marking the 75th anniversary of the sailing of the ship. Guest includes Rolf Allan, who escaped the Nazis on the SS St Louis. £12 in advance, £15 on the door. 7.30pm. Tuesday, June 10. **The 70th Anniversary of D-Day**. With Helen Fry. Welcoming Second World War veterans for an afternoon looking at their recollections of D-Day and its impact on the final stages of the war. £15 in advance, £20 on the door. 1pm-3.30pm. Wednesday, June 11. **Comedy: Andrew Watts and Friends**. Edinburgh Fringe preview. Lawyer-turned-comedian canters through challenging subjects. £10 in advance, £12 on the door. 8pm. Wednesday, June 11. **Talk: Innate Health**. With Lior Pollack & Dana Arenson. Introducing three fundamental principles at play behind every human experience, enabling the audience to see their lives and circumstances in a new way. £10. 10am-11.30am. Thursday, June 12. **Guided Walk: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**. With Mark King. Enjoy the transformed scenery and new

amenities at Europe's largest new urban park for 150 years. 10.30am. £45, includes walk, lunch at 1pm and tour around H. Forman & Son. Pre-bookings only. Thursday, June 12.

Film screening: His Girl Friday (1940). Highgate Film Society, Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, Highgate, N6. Starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. Details on 020 8340 3343. 8pm. Thursday, June 12.

Fair in the Square. Pond Square/South Grove, Highgate, N6. Performances in Pond Square feature local groups and schools and the swing band from the production *The Blonde Bombshells of 1943* at Upstairs at the Gatehouse. Local charities, Highgate shops and small businesses contribute to the 100-plus stalls, selling crafts, plants, clothes, books and food. The Country Fair, with real sheep, returns to the forecourt of St Michael's Church to showcase the best of Highgate's baking and horticultural skills. Children can enjoy Punch and Judy shows, board the train, enjoy fair rides, learn circus skills and have their faces painted. Details at www.fairinthesquare.co.uk. Free. 12.30pm-5.30pm. Saturday, June 14.

Comedy

Monkey Business. The Oxford, 256 Kentish Town Road, NW5. Ro Campbell, Lee Kern, Pam Ford, Jack

Grant, Anthony Lyall, Fraser Perry, Alistair Williams, Scott Ambrose, Natasha Alexandra, Cio Dau, Miles Beckworth, Katie O'Brien, Daniel Sherlock Paul Risebury-Crisp, Sam Ward, Darren Maskell, Sonia Atise and Madeline Carrick, with MC Martin Besserman. £10 (concs £5). 8pm. Thursday, June 5.

Fosters Comedy Live. Jongleurs, 11 East Yard, Chalk Farm Road, NW1. Friday, June 6: Mike Wilkinson, Jim Campbell, Mark Simmons and Jeff Innocent. Saturday, June 7: Mike Wilkinson, Jamie Dalgleish, Stuart Goldsmith and Jeff Innocent. 8pm.

Monkey Business. The Sir Richard Steele, 97 Haverstock Hill, NW3. The Noise Next Door, Jay Foreman, Jonny Awesum and guest MC Andy Zalzman. www.monkeybusinesscomedyclub.co.uk. £12.50 (concs £10). 8.45pm. Saturday, June 7.

Weekly Clubs and Classes

Hampstead Photographic Society. The Crypt, St John's Church, Church Row, Hampstead, NW3. This week: End of year competition prints. With judge Darren Pullman. 8pm. Tuesdays.

■ To get your event or class featured on the *Ham&High's* event listings pages, email events@hamhigh.co.uk

Odeon Camden Town
Week commencing: Film times for Friday 6th June to Thursday 12th June
Cinema opening times:
Fri 14:30, Sat-Sun: 12:00,
Tue-Thu: 14:30

22 JUMP STREET (15)	W/CHAIR	1H52M		
FRI	15:10	17:40	20:40	
SAT/SUN	12:30	15:10	17:40	20:40
MON-THU	15:10	17:40	20:40	

A MILLION WAYS TO DIE IN THE WEST (15)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1H56M

FRI-WED	15:20	18:00	21:00
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EDGE OF TOMORROW (12A)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1H33M

FRI	17:50		
SAT	12:40	17:50	
SUN	12:40	17:50	17:50
MON	17:50		
TUE-THU	17:50		

EDGE OF TOMORROW (12A) 3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1H33M

FRI-MON	15:20	20:30
TUE	15:20	20:30
WED-THU	15:20	20:30

GODZILLA (12A)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2H03M

FRI	15:30	
SAT/SUN	12:50	15:30
MON-WED	15:30	

GODZILLA (12A) 3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2H03M

FRI-WED	18:10
THU	15:30

MALEFICENT (PG) AUDIO DESC 2H20M

FRI	17:30	
SAT/SUN	12:20	17:30
MON-THU	17:30	

MALEFICENT (PG) 3D AUDIO DESC 2H20M

FRI	14:50	20:10
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MT LIVE: A SMALL FAMILY BUSINESS (12A)
CULTURE W/CHAIR 3H0M

THU	19:00
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X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (12A) 3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2H07M

FRI	15:00	18:00	20:50	
SAT/SUN	12:10	15:00	18:00	20:50
MON-THU	15:00	18:00	20:50	

For details and bookings visit www.odeon.co.uk or call 0871 2244007
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