Erik Ponder
African Studies Librarian
Michigan State University

STAIRWAY TO SOUTH AFRICA SERIES

MAY EDITION

Election Day, Freedom Day, Miracle Day

Monday, 20th May 2024

5:00 PM South African Standard Time
(10 PM ICT | 5 PM CET | 11 AM EDT | 8 AM PDT)

Zoom Registration Link:
https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYocuGqqjsoH9SGHChxGI_joY7EjSW6BZun
(The event Zoom link will be sent after registration)

Overview

As South Africa marks its 30th year of democracy, and with elections taking place at the end of this month (29 May), in this interactive film showing and discussion, we reflect on the nation's first historic democratic elections and the global anti-apartheid movement that preceded it. Filmmaker and International Election Observer, Erik Ponder, will lead a discussion that places his short documentary—Election Day, Freedom Day, Miracle Day—in conversation with the award-winning seven-part documentary Have You Heard from Johannesburg.

Attendees are encouraged to watch part five of the documentary, titled From Selma to Soweto, prior to the event. We recommend that registrants pre-check to see if they can access the documentary—many US institutions provide access to the film via Kanopy.

Virtual Film Viewing (Optional)

There will be a one-time Zoom showing of From Selma to Soweto, for those who cannot otherwise access it.

Wednesday, 15 May, 2024 @ 5 PM South African Standard Time

Zoom Link:

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85040782031 (Meeting ID: 850 4078 2031)

(the documentary lasts 90 minutes)

About Mr. Ponder

Erik Ponder is an African Studies Librarian at Michigan State University Libraries. His research interests cover contemporary southern African politics and more specifically topics related to issues of democracy, democratization, and transitions towards democracy in South Africa. He was an international observer for South Africa's historic democratic elections in 1994. He has over thirty years of experience researching in South Africa. And has traveled extensively throughout the African continent. Erik's current research explores the political history of Chicago's global Antiapartheid movement leading up to South Africa's democracy

About the Stairway to South Africa Series

Stairway to South Africa is part of RIM's Global Dialogues Speaker Series. It consists of monthly online events leading to the 2025 RIM Research Forum in South Africa. Each event discusses race and markets in the context of South Africa or the African continent. Learn more @ https://www.rimnetwork.net/stairway-to-sa

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