



## NICHOLAS ELLENBOGEN

**Height:** 1.73cm  
**Language:** English

**Eyes:** Green/Brown

**Hair:** Grey

NICHOLAS ELLENBOGEN is an internationally recognised playwright and director. With over 140 of his own works having been produced for the stage, he is certainly the most prolific African playwright. In addition to his stage work, he has directed film and television. He both created and directed the acclaimed feature film *THE ANGEL, THE BICYCLE AND THE CHINAMAN'S FINGER*. In partnership with Neill Solomon he has written many songs. The CD, *GATHERING OF THE BEASTS*, won awards for popular music, and some of their songs are on the sound track of *JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD*.

NICHOLAS created and ran the AMSTEL PLAYWRIGHT awards for eighteen years, which helped many new writers. He was also a committee member of the GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL, helping to bring the festival from its Euro-centric focus, into a truly African event. He was the Artistic Director of Drama for NAPAC from 1984, and was the founder of the LOFT THEATRE COMPANY. This company was the first truly integrated performing arts group to create new repertoire for an ensemble. Nicholas founded the now internationally recognised THEATRE FOR AFRICA in September 1989. This company has performed all over the world, winning awards and fulfilling its promise to bring a new AFRICAN theatre to the world stage, while honouring its commitment to social change and the environment. This company has performed in many villages on its travels.

NICHOLAS had a highly successful career as an actor before becoming a director, training at UCT, ARTS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (London), and THE NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL. He won awards both as a Television and Stage Director. He has also won awards for prop design, theatre design and costume design. His interest in Economics at university, led to his appointment on the Board of THE MARKET SOCIETY, which was an important part of South Africa's RDP programme. With aid from foreign donors, a highly successful cultural programme has been established in rural regions of South Africa.

THEATRE FOR AFRICA has performed for Her Majesty QUEEN ELIZABETH II and her family at Balmoral Castle in Scotland in August 1992. Nicholas was awarded a citation by the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, International President of the WWF, in recognition of his innovative approach to environmental education by founding many environmentally orientated theatre companies in central and southern Africa, combining the vitality of the theatre and dramatic art with the vital issues of conservation and the environment.

More recent achievements have been the election as chairman of the Southern African branch of SASUSG (Southern Africa Sustainable Use Specialist Group); World Bank President's nomination for Best Project in Africa; in August 2002 he toured ten countries around the world to source actors from fishing communities, resulting in the production of *GUARDIANS OF THE DEEP*, which was performed at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg. Nicholas won a FLEUR DU CAP for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Sir Toby Belch in William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at Maynardville 2006/2007. In May 2008 he worked on tiger and rhino poaching in Nepal and performed the play, *THE SILENCE OF BARDYA* at the London Zoo in September, as well as the IUCN World Congress in Barcelona in October 2008. In February 2009 he won the Best Theatre Design and Props for *RAIDERS, THE DAILY LAMA*. He recently wrote the script, and the music with Dave Ornellas, for the new UShaka World dolphin show in Durban, South Africa, called *SHAKA'S TEARS*.

In July 2009, performed in David Kramer's musical, THE BALLADE OF KOOS SAAS at the Tricycle in London, performing and singing the part of Scotty Lennox. Directed the Alexander McCall-Smith operetta OKAVANGO MACBETH for the opera house in Gaborone.

#### FILM & TELEVISION

Origins Series

Zandile's Birthday

The Perfect Wave

Felix

Konfetti

#### ROLE

Ace

The Bishop

Mr Soames

Colonel Cedric

#### PROD COMPANY/ DIRECTOR

Film Africa II(Pty)Ltd

Still Water Cinema

Bruce Macdonald

Penguin Films

Light & Dark Films

#### THEATRE

Murdering Agatha Christie (2016)

Cattle Drive (2016)

Raiders the Moon Rock Musical  
(2016)

Logengula Street Hard Cover Book  
Club (2016)

Bulawayo Boogie (2016)

No 1 Ladies Detective (The Musical)  
(2015)

Raiders the Musical (2015)

The Music Shop (2015)

Ebola (2014)

Raiders The Great War (2014)

Silly Mid On (2014)

Live with Ivy (2013)

#### ROLE

Inspector George Coburn

Various Characters

Steve Taylor

Ben Armand

Various Characters

Anthony "Lasher" Dawkins

Rex Saunders

#### PROD COMPANY/ DIRECTOR

Written & Dir. Nicholas Ellenbogen

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Written & Dir. Nicholas Ellenbogen

Dir. Nicholas Ellenbogen

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#### COMMERCIALS

Migros (Supermarket)

Telenor

Schneider Cold Meats

Hagebaumarkt

McDonald's "Family"

Maple Leaf

Buxton Water

Spec Savers

Bakers Mini Cheddars

B & Q

A1 Telekom

Telenor

Bells Whisky

Truvia

Take 2

#### COUNTRY

Switzerland

Norway

Canada

Germany

Germany

Canada

UK

Scandinavia

SA

UK

Austria

Norway

SA

UK

SA

#### VOICE OVER

BMW

Lindt

Douglas Green

Ok Foods

Principa

Shoprite

Sanlam

N'Lighten

**AWARDS**

**Cattle Drive** – Standing Ovation Award at Grahamstown Arts Festival

**Raiders the Musical** – Standing Ovation Award at the Grahamstown Arts Festival