

## AngloGold Ashanti Choir Performs at Colorado Festival of World Theatre

In a great honor, the AngloGold Ashanti Choir was invited to be the finale performance for the inaugural full season of the Colorado Festival of World Theatre (CFWT). The CFWT is the brain child of Colorado Springs and Woodland Park theatre patrons, who have developed their dream into a two week festival of theatre performances from all over the globe. This year's performances featured acts from Ireland, Great Britain, China, Israel, Italy and South Africa.



The positive economic impacts to the area for this first year have been huge and hopefully will continue to grow into an important part of the community economy. The future plans for the event include growing the festival event, along with an educational component for youth interested in theatre. The CFWT is looking forward to a permanent facility in Woodland Park, used by the CFWT and available for the community during the balance of the year.

The AngloGold Ashanti Choir was invited to create an exciting finale to this year's event, as well as a kick off for next year, which will feature South African performers. The trip was quite exciting for all of us, including the Choir. In our own version of travel purgatory, the Choir's travel coincided with a strike by South African Airlines. When the Choir was finally able to board an airplane, routing gave them a more extensive tour of American airports than most Americans have had. Only one Choir member got lost in the process, missing a connecting flight, but the full Choir and their manager, Larissa LaGrange, were united in Colorado Springs on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The choir performed Saturday evening with South African artist Tsidii Le Loka for a small crowd at the Broadmoor Stars Bar. Tsidii is best known for her contributions to the Grammy Award-winning album of the Lion King. The intimate group enjoyed a special collaboration between these dynamic South African performers.

At the CFWT finale on Sunday, the AngloGold Ashanti Choir brought down the house that was literally packed to the rafters in the Woodland Park tent venue. The evening included a gumboot dance, a traditional South African dance with its roots in the historic mining operations. The laborers were not allowed to talk, whereby they created the rhythms of the gumboot dancing as a form of communication. The dance has become a part of urban South African working-class culture.

For those hearty souls who stayed after the “official” performance, the Choir continued the evening by performing nearly another hour outside the tent on the lawn. This performance was highlighted by the South African national anthem, a unique piece of music, sung in four different languages representing the diversity of South Africa.

The Choir served as excellent ambassadors for Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co. and AngloGold Ashanti. We were able to touch many people who otherwise might not be aware of CC&V’s operations, nor our importance to the community. We are also proud of our participation in the Festival, an event that shows all signs of being a long-term venture, creating continuing economic advantages to the region. Participation in sustainable projects such as the Colorado Festival of World Theatre help CC&V ensure that the community will be better off for our having been here following operations.