

MCH91-45-5-3



# soft vengeance

by **april de angelis**

adapted from the book  
***the soft vengeance of a freedom fighter***  
by **albie sachs**

This information is also available in braille, large print and on tape

Registered Charity Number: 294589



## INTRODUCTION

On the 7th April 1988, Maputo, Mozambique, exiled South African Lawyer, prominent member of the African National Congress and author of the famous Jail Diaries, Albie Sachs opened his car door to begin a trip to the beach for a leisurely jog.

After the publication of his jail diary and its subsequent dramatisation, he had become something of an international celebrity as well as being a leader in the African National Congress.

A massive explosion threw Sachs thirty feet in the air destroying his right arm, embedding shrapnel in his body and causing him to lose the sight of one eye. The bomb planted by agents of the Apartheid Regime, who had assassinated his friend Ruth First, nearly took Sach's life away. Miraculously he survived.



As Sachs heals physically, he struggles mentally to adjust to his injuries and disabilities and renews his political battle. And it is a declaration of faith in the power of the spirit when, seven months after the bomb goes off, he reaches the beach and runs again.

That he survived such an explosion is astonishing: that he survived with renewed faith in the possibility of human progress and an unshaken commitment to the search for a peaceful solution to violent problems is a miracle.

For Graeae - Britain's most distinguished theatre company of disabled people - the personal becomes political in the search for common ground and solidarity. Graeae brings a special intelligence to the Albie Sachs story.



## **DISABLED PEOPLES INTERNATIONAL**

First in Canada in 1980, then in Singapore in 1981, hundreds of disabled people from around the world overcame barriers of nationality, tradition and distance to assert their shared conviction that disabled people must have an international voice and a movement through which to take action to ensure equal opportunities and human rights for disabled people.

With this conviction and with these goals, Disabled People's International (DPI) was born. It has often been described as "the last civil rights movement".

Today, the DPI network has over 100 national assemblies, more than half of which are in developing countries. National affiliates aim to be cross impairment, grassroots organisations.



The segregation, discrimination and lack of access suffered by disabled people amounts to a form of apartheid. DPI maintains that all people are of equal value and is working to ensure a "Society for All". DPI is particularly concerned with the status of disabled women, disabled refugees and disabled people living in rural areas. It believes that universal and lasting peace can only be established through social justice and full human rights for everyone.

This year, the 3rd of December is the first International Day of Disabled Persons, an opportunity to celebrate and promote human rights for disabled people everywhere.

For more information contact:  
DPI-ECC, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1V  
1RB Tel: 071 834 0477.



# SOFT VENGEANCE

by April De Angelis  
adapted from the book *Soft Vengeance of a  
Freedom Fighter* by Albie Sachs

Directed by  
Assistant Director  
Designer  
Stage Manager  
Stage Manager  
Lighting Designer

Ewan Marshall  
Saffron Myers  
Anabel Temple  
Helen Gaynor  
Debie Sawyerr  
Jenny Cane

## Cast

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Albie  | Ray Harrison Graham |
| Albie 2  | Ewan Marshall       |
| Ivo Garrido, Mother,<br>Woman ironing, Margit,<br>Woman in bath, Limb fitter | Sarah Scott         |
| Dr Olga, Nurse, Policeman,<br>Melba, Father John, Zuma,<br>Lecturer          | Deborah A. Williams |



Graphic Design  
Press

Shape of Things Design  
Joy Sepieka Associates  
(071 383 5877)

Set built by

LeeStevenson  
(Woodwork)  
Louis Calmel  
(Metalwork)

Set Painted by  
Voice Coach

Doug Wort  
Kate Edwards

Photographer

Patrick Baldwin

Personal Assistant

Gary Barker

Sound tape by

Pete Barnett

Design Assistant

Fay Saxty

**The following have provided particular support:**

Royal Shakespeare Co  
Mandla Langa  
Tiffany  
Lester , Peoples Show  
The Mayibue Centre  
Gill Furmanovsky

Cheap Romantic  
Gary Carter  
Ethel De Keyser  
Rachel Hurst  
Joy Sepieka  
Ben Webster



|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Penny Tackaberry  | Palladin Press   |
| David Edgar   | Richard Jones    |
| Dave Kent   | Emma Pennery     |
| Greenwich Hospital                                      | Vicki Willing    |
| Homerton Hospital                                       | Brenda Williams  |
| Ballet Creations  | Edward Draper    |
| Jane Dedge, Physiotherapy, The Royal<br>London Hospital |                  |
| The Body Shops,   | Islington Branch |
| Bold Street Branch,                                     | Liverpool        |
| Royal Exchange Branch,                                  | Manchester       |
| New Street Branch,                                      | Birmingham       |
| Coventry 1 Branch,                                      | Coventry         |
| Briggate Branch,  | Leeds            |
| East Bargate Branch,                                    | Southampton      |
| Mozambique News Agency                                  |                  |

## **For Graeae Theatre Company**

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Artistic Director        | Ewan Marshall  |
| Administrative Director  | Steve Mannix   |
| Training Dev Coordinator | Carolyn Lucas  |
| Administrator (p/t)      | Cherilene Chan |
| Trainee Administrator    | Penny Goater   |
| Finance Worker           | Iris Tomlin    |



Financial Consultant  
Management Consultant  
Sign Language Tutor

Stephen Penty  
Larry Reynolds  
Carole Tweedy

Accountants  
Solicitors

T.J. Pinton and Co  
Ivor Walker and Co

## **Board of Directors**

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Caroline Parker  
Barbara Lisikci  
Chris Davies  
Sian Vasey

Elspeth Morrison  
Rachel Hurst  
Roger Robinson  
Gary Carter  
Maggie Hampton  
Neil Jarvis

## **A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Neil Fox, Mark Babbitt, Gary Barker  
Audio Tape information recorded by Local  
Radio Workshop - Interchange Studios, with  
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Graeae are active members of the following organisations:

British Council of Organisations of Disabled People

The Independent Theatre Council

Assitej - the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

Nasen - the National Association of Special Educational Needs

London Arts Alliance

National Disability Arts Forum

Graeae are active on the following Panels:

Arts Council Employment Initiative

Arts Council Drama Projects Panel

Jacksons Lane Theatre Training Scheme

London Arts Board - Theatre For Young People

Camden Arts Education Forum

Graeae's aim is to present theatre which is accessible to all members of our audience.



The following have provided support towards reaching this goal:

Sennheiser Ltd - For donation towards the purchase of Audio Description Equipment

Duxbury Ltd - for support towards braille Translation Software

Peter Minet Trust - for support towards the purchase of Braille Printer

Cannon Ltd - for their support of our Sign Language Communicated Performances

### **Audio Described Performances:**

Describers      Gary Carter  
                      Nicki Baldwin

Advisors: RNIB, National Sound Archives



## **Sign Language Communicated Performances:**

Communicater  
Advisor

Matt Stringer  
Carole Tweedy

**GRAEAE** are Britain's leading theatre company of disabled people producing a wide range of work throughout the year, including national and international touring productions, theatre in education productions and community drama projects and training programmes.

**GRAEAE's** aim is present high quality, innovative theatre that reflects the disability experience.

The demand for Graeae's work increases year by year, with the company having doubled in size over the past two years. Graeae's current programme is our most ambitious yet. Watch out for news of our exciting new projects planned for 1994:



**Borderlines** - Our new community drama project for the Autumn when disabled people come together to devise and perform an original piece to celebrate International Disabled People's Day on 3rd December. Performances are at The Oval House Theatre, London 2- 4th December.

**Autumn/Winter Training Workshop Programmes** - Our Training Programme offering skills workshops to all disabled people is back this season, with even more sessions on offer. Courses are being offered in singing, voice, workshop leading skills and writing.

**Taking Issue** - our Theatre In Education Programme for 1994 visiting mainstream and special schools.

**Ubu Roi adapted by Trevor Lloyd** - A new musical adaptation of this classic text by Alfred Jarry is Graeae's National Tour for 1994. If you, would like this production to visit your region, please contact us.



## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **EWAN MARSHALL - Director/Performer**

Ewan is the Artistic Director of Graeae and has directed the company's last two productions, Hound by Maria Oshodi and A Kind of Immigrant by Firdaus Kanga in 1992. He trained at Bretton Hall College and has worked both as a director and as an actor. He has worked with such companies as Interplay, Theatre Venture, The London Bubble and Hoxton Hall. Film and television appearances include: Derek Jarman's War Requiem and Changing Step for the BBC.

### **APRIL DE ANGELIS - Writer**

April worked as an actress, mainly in women's theatre and young people's theatre before writing her first play Breathless which was produced at The Albany Empire.

Since that time she has written a number of



plays including: Women In Law and Ironmistress for ReSisters Theatre Company, Me for Breakout TIE and The Life and Times of Fanny Hill for Red Shift Theatre Company.

April was writer in residency for Paines Plough Theatre Company for whom she wrote Crux.

Her most recent work has included Hush for the Royal Court Theatre, produced in August last year.

Her work for Radio includes Visitants, winner of the BBC Young Writers Festival Radio 4, The Outlander a two part serial for Radio 5 and winner of the Writers Guild of Great Britain Best Childrens Radio Programme Award 1991.

She is currently commissioned to The Royal Court Theatre and Sphinx Theatre Company



## **SAFFRON MYERS - Assistant Director**

Saffron has worked as a director for The Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich (RTYDS), The Old Red Lion, Red Ladder, Moving Parts, Babel Theatre Company and the Plymouth Theatre Royal. She spent a short time as Literary Manager at Hampstead Theatre and has run New Writing and Drama Workshops nationwide. She also spent two years as Paines Plough's Associate Director where she directed Crux at The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. Recently she has had a son - Harry, the most challenging production to date.

## **DEBORAH A. WILLIAMS - Performer**

Deborah is 24, from Walsall in the West Midlands. At 16, Along with fellow students she started a Theatre Company called "K"atch 22, working in the community and the West Midlands Police Force



She has LAMDA qualifications in "Speaking Verse and Prose", "Public Speaking and Acting".

In 1991 Deborah graduated from ARTTS International, a multi media skill centre in Yorkshire. Since then she has worked constantly as both an Actress/Workshopper and Stage Manager with London Bubble, Talawa Theatre Company, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Theatre Foundry and Graeae.

In addition, Deborah has participated in workshops with Beijing Opera. RSC and Black Mime Theatre's Women's Troop.

## **RAY HARRISON GRAHAM - Performer**

Ray trained at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. Directly from drama school he spent a season with Playpus Theatre Company.

His other theatre credits include Barbarians,



Oxford, a national tour of *Sus*, *Macbeth* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest* for the Northcott, Exeter, Alex in the stage adaptation of *A Clockwork Orange* and *Les in East - English Touring Company*. He played the lead in *Children of a Lesser God*, Oxford and *Mobote* in *Indigo* at the Almeida Theatre.

Whilst resident director for the Oxford Youth Theatre for three years he directed a wide range of productions including several of his own, *Yop*, *a Way of Life* and *Breaking Free*. As founder member of Basic Theatre Company, Ray wrote, directed and performed in their award winning production *Gary*, and most recently choreographed and danced in the National Tour of *Sign of the Times*.

His television work includes *As the Beat Goes On* and *The Bill* for Thames TV. He has performed and choreographed sign songs for *Over the Edge*, *See Hear and Hand in Hand* which he also co-presented. Ray also presented and helped devise *D'Art* for



Channel Four.

## **SARAH SCOTT - Performer**

Sarah trained at Elmhurst Ballet School, Guildford School of Acting and the National Theatre of the Deaf, Conn U.S.A. Her first major role was in the West End where she played Lydia and later Sarah Norman, the lead role in Children of a Lesser God. After a national tour, she travelled in the USA to work with the well known deaf theatre company Musign specialising in sign song and on her return played the lead in Thumbs Up at the Unicorn Theatre.

Other theatre credits include Taking Steps - Northcott Theatre, Exeter, Children of a Lesser God - Pegasus Theatre, Oxford - a lead role in Basic Theatre's award winning production, Gary, and most recently a national tour of Sign of The Times.

Her film and television work includes Ken Russell's Isadora Duncan, Help, a profile for



Thames T.V., Victoria Wood, Cinderella and Integration Street for See Hear BBC TV, and sign song performances for Over The Edge, One in Four and Channel 4's Hand in Hand which she also presented. Sarah also performed and presented on D'Art, a series of deaf performing arts for Channel 4.

### **HELEN GAYNOR - Stage Manager**

Helen trained at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and has worked extensively in all aspects of theatre - from an understudy on a West End production to overseeing the building of The Pit Theatre for the R.S.C. at the Barbican Centre. She previously worked for Graeae on the Tour of A Kind of Immigrant

### **DEBIE SAWYERR- Stage Manager**

Deb has worked as a teacher, stage manager, technician and lighting designer. Previous productions include Hound and A



Kind of Immigrant for Graeae, The Crucible and Absent Friends with The Venturers, Sexual Perversity in Chicago (Swallow This Theatre Company), The Cynic Springboard Theatre Company, Kafka's Dick (Splendid Theatre Company) and with the Chou Chou Ballet Company

## **JENNY CANE - Lighting Designer**

Jenny Cane began her career at The Open Space. Jenny's career has varied through plays, musicals, dance and finally to opera last year.

Internationally she has worked in Italy, Yugoslavia, Germany and Holland designing tours for both dance and theatre. Nationally, she has enjoyed doing a variety of work at Plymouth, Birmingham, Clwyd, Leeds and the Edinburgh Festival

She has lit several national tours including Lenny Henry, Victoria Wood, Hamlet, The Cherry Orchard and Kiss Me Kate. This year



has seen successful tours of The Pirates of Penzance, Ricochet, All's Wells That Ends Well, The Rivals and The Corn Is Green.

In London her work includes lighting for Dave Allen, Victoria Wood, Iolanthe, The Yeoman of the Guard, Our Country's Good, Cafe Puccini and Journey's End. Most recent work in the West End Blood Wedding - The Opera, Mad Bad and Dangerous To Know and Trelawny of the Wells.

### **ANABEL TEMPLE - Designer**

Anabel trained at Birmingham University and the ENO Design Course with Percy Harris and Hayden Griffin.

Her design work includes productions for the Embassy Theatre - Cymbaline, The Bacchae, Twelfth Night and Measure for Measure. Work for the Royal Court Theatre includes: Rock in Water, Woman and Sisters, Chelsea Borough, Build on a Sand, My Heart's a Suitcase and Top Girls and a co-



production with Royal Court and Bristol Old Vic, Inventing a New Colour. For the Tricycle Theatre, nativity and for the Lyric Theatre, Long Time Gone. Other theatre work has included productions with Theatre Royal Stratford East and The Liverpool Everyman.

Her work in Opera includes productions for the Opera Factory, Women and Men for Opera London, a Mid Summers Nights Dream at Sadlers Wells. Her film work includes The Little Prince and Ulysses.

### **MATT STRINGER - Sign Language Communicator**

Matt was awarded his Diploma in Theatre of the Deaf from Bulmershe College in 1987. Since then he has worked as an actor and director for various companies, including: Co-Sign Theatre Company, Token Gestures, Derby Playhouse, Octagon Theatre, Bolton. Matt also works as a drama workshop leader and has been a researcher for Channel 4.



Working with Graeae, Matt has led drama projects, as well as being a Sign Language Communicator for projects with the Beijing Opera and the R.S.C. In the past, Matt has toured with both Hound and A Kind of Immigrant and looks forward to visiting Belarus this Autumn with Soft Vengeance

## **FUNDING INFORMATION**

Despite the prevailing economic situation in the arts, Graeae is determined to match its renowned artistic vitality with future financial security. For such a specialised company to plan its future without guaranteed support is difficult.

Graeae is revenue funded by The London Arts Board, London Borough Grants Scheme and the London Borough of Camden, accounting for 32% of our income. The remaining 68% is supported by Trusts, Foundations, earned income and corporate sponsors.



We are grateful to the following who have supported the development of our work over the past year:

### **Major Project Supporters:**

The Arts Council of Great Britain  
Carnegie UK Trust  
London Arts Board  
London Borough Grants Scheme  
London Borough Camden  
Sir John Cass's Foundation  
South West Arts Board  
North West Arts Board  
N. Ireland Arts Council  
The British Council

### **Project Supporters**

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
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### **Corporate Supporters:**

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Increasingly, Graeae are the recipients of smaller donations from individuals, voluntary organisations, schools and colleges. For these we are most grateful and continue to develop events and information to show our appreciation.

If you, or your company would like further information, or would like to make a donation, please contact Graeae. Donations can be made through Deed of Covenant and Gift Aid. We welcome enquiries regarding sponsorship of productions and events throughout our season with a range of packages available.



For further information about Graeae Theatre  
Company please contact:

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Remember, if you would like information  
about future projects, please join our free  
mailing list.