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Four shows are being staged at Harare’s Reps Theatre this week, each with a different theme and format and each with a broad appeal to Harare audiences.

On the Reps Main Stage, the week is dominated by two productions from Zambia: a children’s folklore tale called Panali Panali and a comedy for mature audiences called Married Versus Singles. They are presented by Dinaledi Productions and directed by Zimbabwean actor-director Tsungai Garise, who is now based in Lusaka.

Panali Panali features a selection of African traditional children’s stories, and is being staged at 3.30pm each afternoon this week up to and including Saturday October 22. Married Versus Singles is a comedy with a morality angle, focused on married women and single women and looking at their relationships with men. It is on stage each evening at 7pm until Saturday October 22.

The shows have a cast of Zambian actors and, should these productions gain popularity while here, Garise will consider bringing more productions to Harare.

Also on stage this week and next in Theatre Upstairs at Reps is a tragi-comedy, The Memory of Water, which was written by Shelagh Stevenson and directed by Jamie McLaren. A joint venture between The Repertory Players and McLaren’s Under The Affluence group, the play is about a group of women who gather after their mother’s death and has a mix of poignancy and humour that will have broad appeal. It carries a PG15 advisory.

The Memory Of Water has a preview on Wednesday October 19 and opens on Thursday October 20, running until Saturday October 29.

A one-off show will be featured on the Reps Main Stage on Sunday October 23 (2pm). It is called Floriano and is a flower show in which the Zimbabwean floral artists who recently took part in the World Flower show in Boston, USA, will recreate their works for local audiences to see.

Booking for all these productions is now open at The Spotlight, which can give details of performance times.

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