



NELSON MANDELA  
FOUNDATION

*Living the legacy*

## **JONAS GWANGWA COLLECTION**

**NMAP 2011/52**

Dates: 2010-2011

Bulk: 2011

Extent?

ACQUISITION: Donation Sam Shakong

ACCESS: Restricted

PHOTOGRAPHS: none

VISUAL MATERIAL: none

AUDIO MATERIAL: yes

LANGUAGE(S): English

PRINTED MATERIAL: yes

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Shakong

SERIES: Nelson Mandela Associated Papers

PROCESSED BY: Lucia Raadschelders, date: 10 October 2011

## **History**

Jonas Mosa Gwangwa is a South African instrumentalist, composer, band leader and musical director. Born in Orlando East, Johannesburg on 19 October 1937, his musical career started with the Father Huddleston Jazz Band in the early 1950s. Gwangwa went to London in 1961 with the musical King Kong and moved to the New York later that year. His musical career blossomed, reconnecting with other South African musicians and linking up with American jazz musicians. He also studied at the Manhattan School of Music and became involved in anti-apartheid activities. Whilst living in Botswana, being part of the Medu Cultural Ensemble, he was asked by the then ANC President O.R. Tambo, to write a memorandum for a cultural policy for the ANC, together with Lindiwe Mabuza. From there he moved to Angola to form the ANC Cultural Ensemble Amandla, touring the world to spread the message of the ANC. He returned to South Africa in 1991 where he continues to work.

Sam Shakong is a South African sociologist and independent researcher.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory at the Nelson Mandela Foundation commissioned Sam Shakong in September 2010 to research the life of Jonas Gwangwa in the contexts of struggle in South Africa and to conduct interviews with Jonas Gwangwa, members of his family, comrades and colleagues.

The Interviews have been conducted between October 2010 and July 2011.

The NMF digitised the taped interviews by Sam Shakong and there are 42 CDs in total of which 17 of interviews with Gwangwa covering his life from the early 1950s onwards.

Several transcripts and the draft narrative *The Life and Times of Jonas Gwangwa* are included in the collection.

The interviews will form the basis of a monograph on Jonas Gwangwa and the materials collected will be further used for other biographical products. Sam Shakong is working together with Elinor Sisulu on these projects.

Digitised interviews by Sam Shakong  
MK names are in between brackets behind the real names

Date(s)	Interviewee	# of CDs	Transcript	#
<b>Jonas Gwangwa:</b>				
5/10/10	Early Years (tape 1)	2	N	1A
6/10/10	1950s (tape 2)	2	N	1B
7/10/10	King kong (tape 3)	2	N	1C
9/10/10	Going to USA (tape 4)	2	N	1D
10/10/10	Going to USA part 2 (tape 5)	1	N	1E
17/11/10	Going to USA part 3 (tape 6)	2	N	1F
02/11	Cry Freedom (tape 7)	2	N	1G
18/05/11	Sophiatown	2	Y	1H
21/05/11	Stories behind songs	1	Y	1I
6/07/11	People played with	1	Y	1J
<b>Family members</b>				
5/01/11	Violet Gwangwa	3	Y	2
9/02/11	Keituletse/Keitu and Malosi Gwangwa	2	Y	3
9/02/11	Mojalefa Gwangwa	1	Y	4
11/03/11	Lesibana Gwangwa and Clement Mazibuko	1	Y	5
18/06/11	Spunki and Mpho Gwangwa	1	Y	6
<b>Comrades and Colleagues</b>				
16/11/10	Willie Kgositsile	1	Y	7
20/11/10	Caiphus Semenya & Letta Mbulu	2	Y	8
10/02/11	Lefifi Tladi	1	Y	9
10/02/11	Lindiwe Mabuza	2	N	10
17/02/11	Billy and Yolisa Modise	1	Y	11
17/02/11	Steve Dyer	1	Y	12
18/02/11	Johnny Meko	2	N	13
11/03/11	Wally Serote	2	Y	14
21/04/11	Daisy NompumeleloTshiloane (Fortune Nda), Amandla Cultural Ensemble	1	Y	15
29/04/11	Mapule Pitsi (Dikeledi Mokoena), Amandla Cultural Ensemble	1	Y	16
1/05/11	Khulu Radebe (Sandisile Mtoti) , Amandla Cultural Ensemble	1	Y	17
7/07/11	Glen Mafoko	1	Y	18

#### File 1 4 items

Narrative and transcripts by Sam Shakong

Narrative <i>The Life and Times of Jonas Gwangwa</i>	91 pages
Jonas Gwangwa: Sophiatown The stories behind the songs of Jonas Gwangwa Interview about people he has played with	14 pages 10 pages 7 pages

**File 2 15 items**

Transcripts continued

Violet Gwangwa	14 pages
Malosi and Keitu Gwangwa	12 pages
Mojalefa Gwangwa	6 pages
Lesibana Gwangwa and Clement Mazibuko	5 pages
Spunki and Mpho Gwangwa	12 pages
Willie Kgositsile	4 pages
Caiphas Semanya and Letta Mbulu	7 pages
Lefifi Tladi	5 pages
Billy and Yolisa Modise	6 pages
Steve Dyer	8 pages
Wally Serote	8 pages
Daisy NompumeleloTshiloane (Fortune Nda)	9 pages
Mapule Pitsi (Dikeledi Mokoena)	7 pages
Khulu Radebe (Sandisile Mtoti)	7 pages
Glen Mafoko	7 pages