

# MY FATHER'S COAT

FIVE MEN AND THE GREAT STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NEW STORY BY MICHAEL CHARTON



A PROUD **INHERIT** PRODUCTION  
SOUTH AFRICA

**MZILIKAZI KRUGER RHODES SMUTS MANDELA**

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### BACKGROUND:

“MY FATHER'S COAT,” the new story by Michael Charton, is the culmination of his decade-long ambition to make the incredible story, that is South African history, more accessible to South Africans and visitors alike.

His idea was to condense the epic narrative of South Africa into a bite-size story which is both compelling and accurate. A colossal, time-consuming challenge for Michael; but one which has given rise to a very unique product, providing order and meaning to a notoriously complex subject.

But importantly, this is no history lecture. Instead, this is a story. A human story, told by climbing into the boots of five prominent and directly interlinked protagonists spanning 200 turbulent years: Mzilikazi, Kruger, Rhodes, Smuts and Mandela.

So, while historians actively try to eliminate the biases so prevalent in our story, Michael embraces

them. And as he introduces you to each of his five characters, he allows them to lure you under their spell by subtly endorsing their beliefs and biases.

But with the introduction of each subsequent character, new facts are carefully leaked into the narrative, undermining previous biases and providing a new depth of understanding; until a balanced view eventually emerges.

Further, and because the lives of these characters overlapped, Michael finds unique opportunities to tell the same pivotal moments in the story through more than one set of eyes, so providing a powerful reminder of our heavy biases and the absurdity of our historic attitudes. Those attitudes ultimately responsible for South Africa's catastrophic 20th century.

Never before has our South African history been told in this manner.

### MICHAEL CHARTON & “INHERIT SOUTH AFRICA”:

Michael is a Capetonian whose enthusiasm for the story of South Africa has gradually lured him away from his corporate career. Having qualified as a chartered accountant and spent time in a financial advisory role in the United States, Michael returned to Cape Town in 2007 where, during a short career in advertising, he was awoken to the art and power of storytelling.

In 2010, following an unorthodox project for an advertising client, Michael began telling stories. And by 2015, Michael had developed and told a number of original non-fiction stories; drawing inspiration from South Africa's history, which he studied through UNISA.

Michael's passion for South Africa's past eventually saw him resign his role as a financial director; throwing caution to the wind, and founding **INHERIT SOUTH AFRICA**: An enterprise aiming to expose untold stories from the past for entertainment and nation building.



INHERIT  
SOUTH AFRICA