

Princess Magogo goes to Oslo

Norwegians lay out the red carpet treatment for Zulu royalty

OLIVER Tambo Airport will be the meeting point tomorrow for 70 of Opera Africa's artists leaving for Oslo to present the acclaimed opera production, *Princess Magogo*, under the auspices of Africa Renaissance Opera Productions.

The Zulu opera has received rave reviews from press and public nationally and internationally, from Amsterdam to Chicago, and is now invited to perform in Oslo's prestigious Den Norske Opera house.

Mzilikazi Khumalo, a linguist, composer and choirmaster, has composed the music, orchestrated by Michael Hankinson, around the

snip *PRINCESS Magogo* is an opera based on the life of Zulu princess, Constance Magogo kaDinuzulu, a revered singer, composer and historian who has for many years been recognised as the greatest living authority on Zulu music.

poetry of Themba Msimang.

Sibongile Khumalo returns to perform the title role that she created in this production staged by Themba Venturas, and including the designs of celebrated artist

Andrew Verster.

Sixteen Zulu and Shembe dancers join 10 solo singers, including Stefan Louw, Kelebogile Boikanyo and Ntsikelelo Mali (who recently received standing ovations in Opera Africa's *Opera Extravaganza* at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre).

Accompanying them will be a chorus of 34 young development artists, who came from all over South Africa to rehearse at the SA State Theatre in Pretoria.

The production is made possible by the generous support of the NAC, Den Norske Opera and Norwegian Foreign Affairs.

