

World Cup opening ceremony a sellout

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Rehearsals for the opening ceremony of this year's ICC Cricket World Cup ended at Youngsfield Military Base on Sunday and all equipment for the Olympic-style spectacular will be moved to Newlands on Monday.

More than 5 200 volunteers will take part in the showcase at Newlands on February 8, a day before the opening game of the World Cup, also at Newlands.

Rehearsals started at Youngsfield in June last year, but more than 20 tons of equipment will now have to be moved to Newlands in preparation for the big day.

The ceremony, with a distinctly South African flavour, will feature six scenes choreographed by stadium theatre expert Doug Jack from the United States. Jack has worked on the Olympic Games opening ceremonies in Atlanta, Barcelona, Sydney and Salt Lake City, and won several Emmy Awards for the television specials produced in association with these ceremonies.

Tickets for the ceremony have been sold out, but a final dress rehearsal will take place at Newlands on February 5 for which tickets will go on sale from January 16. Said Penny Jones, executive producer of the ceremony: "This will be a real stadium theatre production celebrating Africa, South Africa and Cape Town." - Mercury Correspondent