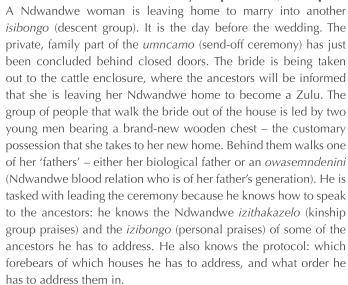


## FIELDWORK, KILLING TIME AND ACCIDENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS

## Mbongiseni Buthelezi

## Mahhashini, Nongoma, northern KwaZulu-Natal. Friday 4 April 2008, 4.04 p.m.



The bride follows her 'father'. She is surrounded by her other 'fathers' and her 'brothers' as well as her *izimpelesi* (bridesmaids). She is in traditional or Zulu dress, as it is commonly called: an *isidwaba* (cowhide skirt), a piece of leather hanging from her neck that covers her breasts, and an *inhloko* (headdress with tassels hanging down the front) covering her face. The group sings 'Inj' emnyama', the *ihubo lesizwe* (national hymn) of the Ndwandwe as they walk out of the house. It is a very solemn moment. All of us loitering in the yard, who are forbidden the privilege of taking part in the ceremony indoors, must now be quiet and orderly. Those

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