

ARTS



A CLASSY-CAL ACT. Students from WitsMusic performed with the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra in the Great Hall last Sunday. From left to right: Priya Munsamy, Karen Meyer's and Mary Tennant vowed audiences with their solo performances.

Art winners feel no pain

SEBABATSO MOSAMO

IT is official: None of the five winners of the Grand Pa art competition held at Student Village last block are Wits students.

The competition was held by Student Village and Grand Pa to showcase South Africa's young talent and celebrate the brand's 90th birthday.

Each student received a cash prize of R10 000, the privilege of having their artworks in a calendar for 2008 and a three-year road show for exposure.

Art pieces were expected to incorporate brand attributes, the Grand Pa logo, visually depict "90" and celebrate the Grand Pa heritage and artistic ability.

The competition was held at various South African campuses and the winners consisted of students from Tswane University of Technology (TUT) and Durban University of Technology (DUT).

Bongumusa Hlongwa from DUT said he was very happy to be one of the winners and would use the money to further his art and pay for his learner's licence.

"I didn't expect it at all," said Jessica Le Cararise from TUT.

She said she would use her winnings to pay off her student loan.

The other three winners were not available for comment at the time of print.

It's like music to my ears

ERICA DREIJER

MUSIC students at Wits had an opportunity to launch their music careers by performing with the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra in the Great Hall last Sunday.

The event, which forms part of the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra's (JSO) bi-annual Young Artists' Concerto Festival, has been used as a platform for the debut of many of South Africa's established musicians – both vocal and instrumental – since 1948.

Highlights on Sunday included solo performances by Mary Tennant (violin) and Karen Meyer (piano), both first year BMus students, described by conductor Pienaar Fourie as "masters" in their field.

"They played their hearts out. Wits can be proud of the students they produce here," Fourie said.

The concert also consisted of performances of arias and songs, by Mozart, Handel, Lloyd-Webber and Schumann.

"It's a great joy to become a part of these students' lives when they first start out and then see where they end up 20 years later. Deon van der Walt performed on this stage," Fourie said. Van der Walt was one of the world's leading tenors, and performed in all the world's major opera houses and in many international music festivals, but tragically died in 2005.

Tennant has been playing violin for over 10 years. It started as "a decision to play the violin as part of group classes at school and not to become famous".

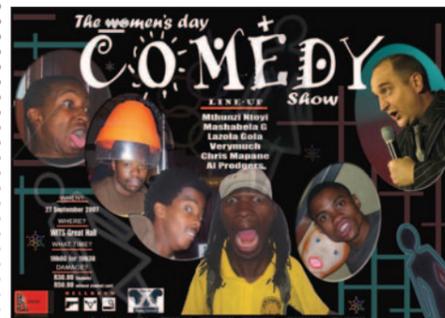
She delivered an outstanding solo, performing the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, and was drawn back three times by applauding audiences.

For her, it is important to "put all you have into the stage. You are happy when you know that you are getting to the end, so it is best that you make [the finale] big."

Fourie loves working with youth. "I really enjoy working with young, fresh talent. They still deliver music very emotionally, and I enjoy seeing their passion," he said.

Fourie has been the conductor for the JSO for 31 years. He is also involved with many of the youth orchestras across Gauteng and is co-founder of Youth Symphony Africa, an association overseeing 17 youth symphony groups from the Western Cape and Gauteng.

The Johannesburg Symphony Society was founded in 1934. Under the chairmanship of Dr Crinsoz de Cottens, the society set out to establish a symphony orchestra to serve the community of Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra was only registered in 1945 as a company.



THE MEN'S DAY COMEDY SHOW: join witsie and other well known comedians as they celebrate their "special day"

The Wits Déjà Vu poetry society is declaring September 27 "Men's Day" and are celebrating with a tongue-in-cheek comedy show at the Great Hall, East Campus.

The lineup includes Witsies Mashabela G, Verymuch and Lazola Gola, as well as comedians Chris Mapane, Al Progdgers and Mthunzi Ntoyi. It'll be at 7pm for 7.30 at R30 for students, and R50 otherwise. Celebrate "Men's Day" and check it out! For info contact Mashabela Galane at sabimashabela@yahoo.com or 073 551 6113 / 072 529 5952.

DVD REVIEWS

**JUMA FORD
SUNSHINE**

DIRECTOR: Danny Boyle

STARRING: Rose Byrne, Cliff Curtis, Chris Evens, Troy Garity, Benedict Wong, Gillian Murphy.

From the director of *Trainspotting* and *28 Days Later* comes a new drama-thriller. The sun is dying so a group of scientists are sent to detonate a bomb in the sun in hopes of saving it. They take a detour and everything goes wrong from there. Not a lot of action or aliens but definitely worth watching.

SHOOTER

DIRECTOR: Antoine Fuqua

STARRING: Mark Wahlberg

This movie delivers what it promises to, great action. It's also a thriller, which makes it that much more enjoyable. If you like *The Bourne Identity* films you'll love this movie. Although Fuqua's last film, *Training Day*, is a better film overall *Shooter* hits the target. Rent now before your DVD store's copy becomes too scratched.

THE NUMBER 23

DIRECTOR: Joel Schumacher

STARRING: Jim Carrey, Victoria Madsen, Logan Lerman

This movie makes you happy Jim Carrey has not been typecast. This is a thriller about a man who begins to see the number 23 everywhere, driving him crazy in the process. The twist at the end is great. Warning: if you become paranoid easily then watch with caution. Count the words in this review, divide it by two and you get 23 backwards.

Watch out, they are watching you

MOVIE: Day Watch
DIRECTOR: Timur Bekmambetov
STARRING: Konstantin Khabensky
VUVU VERDICT: Can't wait for more.

JUMA FORD

DAY Watch is the long awaited sequel to the Russian film *Night Watch*. The movies are based on the ideas in Sergei Lukyanenko's *Watch* series books. Although the movie shares its name with the second book in the series it is actually loosely based on the end part of the first book, *The Night Watch*.

The movie is a horror-fantasy-thriller. The plot revolves around the Others, made up of vampires, shape shifters and other supernatural beings. There are Light Others and Dark Others. A truce between the two sides is formulated so that peace will be kept between the two sides. This includes allowing all new Others the choice of choosing which side to be on.

The *Night Watch* was formed to watch the Dark Others and the *Day Watch* to watch the Light Others, to make sure that the truce is kept. However, there is a prophecy that says that a powerful Other will come along and his choice of choosing the dark or light side will tip the balance and may possibly lead to a final battle.

Anton, the main character of the movie, is a vampire who is accused of murder. This threatens to break the truce, since the leader of the Dark Others wants him to be punished, while the Light Others believe in his innocence. They refuse to turn him over to the neutral Others that are in charge of handing out justice to those who break the truce.

A sub-plot revolves around Anton's son, who is a Dark Other, and Anton's trainee, both of whom are suspected of being great Others that could cause a war if they ever meet. This problem is compounded by the fact that both of them are trying to fight for Anton's affection. This means that there are two issues that could cause the truce to be broken.

Yet another sub-plot is the search for a piece of chalk that can be used to change time when used to write down what one wishes, such as avoiding death. Naturally the chalk ties into the rest of the story.

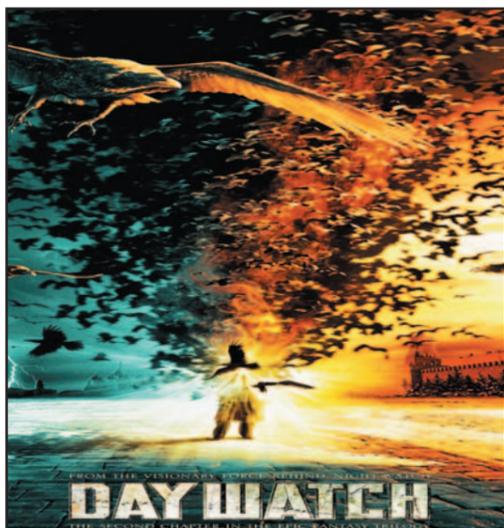


Photo Courtesy: www.movieweb.com

This is a very good movie and provides action, comedy and horror that will keep one glued to the screen and happy on the ride home. For those who wish to watch this movie, which should be everyone, it is suggested that they first watch *Night Watch* or they will be confused.

The film is subtitled. However, even the subtitles are done in a unique manor. If the word blood shows up it is coloured red or if someone is talking while the car they are in is shaking, the subtitles will also shake. For those who cannot deal with subtitles they will have to wait till *Day Watch* comes out on DVD so they can watch the dubbed version, which the *Night Watch* DVD offers.

The biggest question is what the third movie in the trilogy will be about? This question is particularly puzzling and up for a lot of debate because of the fact that the second movie is loosely based on the end of the first book. However, this is the film industry and if more *Rocky* movies can be made and *Eddie Murphy* can still get away with playing half the characters in his films then a way will be found. And it is sure to be just as good as the first two.



If you haven't had enough cricket action from the T20 tournament head down to UJ's main oval this Sunday to watch the Wits cricket team take on UJ. After the winter break this game sees the restart of the Gauteng Premier League. The game will start at 09:30.

Ouch! Wits (sun)burnt 3-1



ESH: The clever boys lost 3-1 to the Brazillians on Wednesday night

Photo: Nondlela Maponya

Settling it in the ring

NONDLELA MAPONYA
THE WITS Boxing Society will be hosting a tournament featuring amateur boxers from all the clubs that form part of the Johannesburg Amateur Boxing Union (JABU).

Winston Nxumalo, chairperson of the Wits Boxing Society, said the tournament will provide fighters with experience, and prepare them for the professional world.

He said this would give boxers first-hand experience, "a chance to become boxing champions".

This is the second tournament that Wits will be trying to organise. The first one, which was scheduled for earlier this year, did not happen as the fighters from the other clubs failed to arrive.

Siyanda Mthembu, deputy chairperson, said the problem with organising tournaments is that you are not guaranteed that the opponents will show up.

Wits will be including 12 fighters from their side. The Wits team will be made up of seven male boxers and five female boxers. The tournament will be held at the Old Mutual Sports Hall on Saturday, September 22.

Wits cricket on winning streak

ERICA DREIJER



WITS students won against the Old Boys in the annual Walter Milton Memorial match hosted at

Wits on September 9.

At this year's event, Old Boys that played included Richard Snell, Adam Bacher and David Terbrugge. Matches were officiated by Cyril Mitchley and Barry Lambson, who provided an international air to the event.

Two of Wits' teams played on the day and in the main match, the Wits students won by 25 runs.

Top scorers for Wits were Andrew Kirkland 79 and Russel Tindale 72 while Richard Snell scored 77 and Jon Buxton-Forman scored 71 for the Old Boys.

The event was attended by the Registrar, Dr Derek Swemmer, who welcomed all VIPs and guests. After the event, everyone recounted the day's events over a drink and talked about the "old days".

Wits' first team also played a friendly warm-up match against Wanderers this last weekend. Wanderers scored 185/6 in their allotted 45 overs. Wits scored 186 for seven in the 42nd over to win by three wickets. Top scorer was the new player-coach that recently joined Wits, Aldo van den Berg, who scored 36.

NONDLELA MAPONYA

BIDVEST Wits' hopes of adding Mamelodi Sundowns to their conquest list was dashed on Wednesday night at Milpark Stadium when the newly crowned SAA Supa 8 champions continued their good form by beating Wits 3-1.

Wits had successfully managed to beat the two Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in two of their last three Premier Soccer League (PSL) matches.

Wits fans were silenced within the first minute of the game when Josta Dladla scored for Sundowns.

Noah Chivata brought back a smile when he scored minutes later to level

the score.

Poor defending by Wits allowed Lerato Chabangu to score the second goal and put Sundowns ahead again.

The man responsible for scoring the winning goal against Pirates in the Supa 8 final, Brent Carelse, continued his fine form by scoring the third goal after being set up by Dillion Shephard. Sheppard too was in fine form, and received the man of the match award for his effort on the night.

Wits have been playing well lately and tried very hard to come back into the game.

They showed good skill and pace but they could not match the pace of the Sundowns players.

Wits striker Calvin Sosibo lacked confidence and failed to capitalise on the chances that were created.

David Radebe was on form for the night but just needed someone to support him.

Sundowns were playing without their number one striker, Surprise Moriri, who was injured minutes before the game during the warm-up session.

Sundowns coach Gordon Igesund almost joined suspended Wits coach Roger De Sa in the stands when he angered the referee by kicking an extra ball onto the field while play was in progress.

Play had to be stopped while the

referee, Jonas Nhlapo, reprimanded Igesund.

De Sa was watching the game from the stands because of the three-match ban handed down by the PSL disciplinary committee for swearing on the field.

De Sa said he swore at a player out of frustration and did not know it would cause offense. "I said son of a bit%\$ to a player because I was frustrated at what he was doing but [it] must have touched a nerve."

De Sa did not lose his grip on the game entirely as he was giving instructions via cell phone to his assistant, Eric Tinkler, from the stands.

Boat Race a rough ride for Wits

ERICA DREIJER

THE Wits University Boat Club (WUBC) ladies' crews outshone the men's crews in the annual Mutual and Federal University Boat Race held on the Kowie in Port Alfred last week.

The ladies' A8+ came second to Rhodes University, in the closest Wits-Rhodes ladies A final race in recent years. The ladies' B8+ also came second to Rhodes, while the men's A8+ placed fifth overall and the men's B8+ sixth.

The event is divided into two races: a heads race-time trial on Thursday followed by finals on Saturday.

Each crew's time is recorded in the heads race and used to rank and place them into finals.

The finals are based on the Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race, with two crews racing each other for final standings. The men's crews race over 6km and the women over 4km.

On both days, opposing winds and tides over the Kowie created rough conditions, making rowing difficult. On the day of the heads race,



WORKING AGAINST THE ODDS: Wits men's A crew battling it out in the C-final. Photo courtesy of Stephen Coomber

enormous waves crashed into the boat in certain sections, especially in the notorious Bay of Biscay adding up to an extra 100kg dead-weight to the boat.

After a very tightly contested men's A head race, separated by only 33 seconds between first and fifth place,

the men's A8+ crew were placed against the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in the C final.

They dominated the race from the start, beating UKZN by four boat lengths.

The ladies A8+ came second to Rhodes by 24 seconds in the heads

race.

In the A final, Wits managed to get a healthy lead early on, but could not hold off Rhodes who crossed the finish line first.

While it's the coxswain's job to encourage the crew and steer the fastest possible course, the rowers push themselves to their physical extremes.

Training for the race takes serious amounts of dedication and time management skills.

Wits' rowing WUBC's president, Murray Taylor, estimates that the men's A crew did about 30 minutes of practice for every one of the 600-odd strokes taken during the race.

Training began in April with two sessions training during the week. Morning training consists of 90 minutes in the gym or on rowing machines and afternoon sessions involve rowing or more gym training. In addition, the men's A crew would travel to the Vaal River on Saturdays and Sundays, starting training at 8am and rowing over 20km a session.

Innovative planet saving solutions

ERICA DREIJER

INVASIVE alien plants can pose a huge threat to a country's ecosystems, affecting its natural water supply and agriculture.

Prof Marcus Byrne from the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental sciences will take a look at these issues during a discussion he will host at the Roots and Shoots Environmental Exhibition held at Wits from October 2 to 4.

The main theme for this year's exhibition is *Fighting Climate Change from a South African Perspective*.

The exhibition will take a look at how population growth and mobility have changed the world we live in and how these will affect things like water, food security, biodiversity and energy going forward.

Other key speakers from Wits' School of Animal, Plant and Environmental sciences include Dr Barend Erasmus, Theresa Bird and Prof Mary Scholes.

Most invasive plants spread beyond their natural borders through commerce and human transportation. Due to a lack of natural predators

in the new environment, often these plants reach pest proportions. This, in turn, has had a negative impact on the ecosystem.

The US government alone spends in the region of US\$120 billion a year to control weeds in agriculture.

Invasive plants pose a large threat to our water supply, as "seven percent of South Africa's mean run-off rainfall goes down the throats of alien invasive plants", said Byrne.

Biological control is one of the solutions available to help control invasive plants from becoming pests.

One of the examples he will be showing during his presentation is how a dam contaminated by Red Fern was cleared within a six-month period using insects.

This initiative forms part of the government's "Working for Water" campaign, which aims to save natural water supplies as well as serve as a social upliftment programme.

Bird will use excerpts of Al Gore's film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, to discuss the effects of global changes on the climate and look at how we can help save Mother Earth.

She hopes to demonstrate that climate change is not a political agenda

and to raise awareness of how we can preserve our own species.

Roots and Shoots is a global programme that was started by the Jane Goodall Institute to help youth become involved in and aware of environmental issues. Goodall is world-renowned for her research on wild chimpanzees.

The exhibition starts on Tuesday, October 2 at 9.30am at Senate House Concourse with the Dean of Science, Prof Ramesh Bharuthram, delivering the opening talk.

Other talks include: Global Climate Change (by Theresa Bird, daily at 10am), Climate Action Now (by Richard Worthington from Earthlife, Thursday at 5.30pm), Invasives and Biocontrol (by Prof Marcus Byrne, Tuesday at 12.15pm) and

Environmental Management (by JM Schepes, Wednesday at 12.15pm).

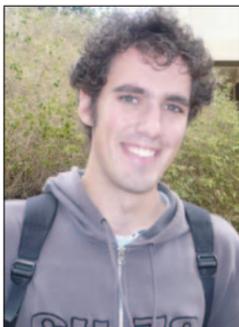
An Inconvenient Truth will also be shown on Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 5.30pm.

For more information contact Ishan Singh at rootsandshoots.wits@gmail.com or 072 122 6239.



YOUR VOICE

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO KILL A PARKTOWN PRAWN?



They are impossible to kill, I'm thinking nuclear warhead!

Shaun Bennie, BSc Applied Maths, 3rd year



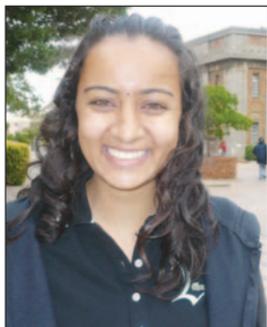
The phone book. The white pages.

Grace Gilfillan, Bcom, 1st year, 19



Light a candle and spray deodorant behind it. It will work, I've seen someone do it.

Gabriella Fienberg, Bcom, 1st year, 19



Boil it!

Bhavika Chotulal, Law, 1st year, 18



Stamp on it, spray it with doom, braai it!

Praveer Parbhoo, Civil Engineering, 1st year, 18



Potassium Chloride. It dies before it flies away.

Lydia Mathobela, BA International Relations, 2nd year, 19



It demands a skill to do that.

Rhulani Nkolele, BA Social Sciences, 4th year, 22



ARTS ALIVE 2007

Vuvuzela Supplement

Come alive with Joburg this weekend

JACKIE BISCHOF

WHILE YOU might not agree with vice-chancellor Professor Loyiso Nongxa on fee increases or the speed of university transformation, here's one thing you might find difficult to tackle him on. In an interview with Joburg City's website, joburg.org.za, vice-chancellor described why he liked living in Johannesburg. Nongxa praised Joburg as a city with "so much to do", attracting leading artists and hosting numerous concerts.

Vice-chancellor Nongxa couldn't have been more right. For the month of September, the Arts Alive Festival has brought a host of international and national artists to clubs, theatres and museums around Johannesburg. The line up has been fantastic and the Festival a showcase of the city's ability to host a world class arts festival successfully.

For the last few weeks, *Vuvuzela* has been bringing you stories from the festival and now we're proud to end off the festival with this supplement. Organisers have decided to structure the last weekend of the Festival specifically for students. The Lockdown Festival is happening on September 28 and 29. Tickets costing R100 will get you access to all events happening over these two days. This includes parties at Mary Fitzgerald Square, Carfax and Fuel Café in Newtown, which will host a number of international and national artists. *Tradition through Rendition* workshops are included in the Lockdown price, but *Speak the Mind* poetry sessions are R30. So make your way to Newtown this weekend to see Johannesburg transform into a truly cosmopolitan city. And if you see vice-chancellor Nongxa there, don't forget to say hi.



INTERNATIONAL STYLE HEATS UP JOZI: Mozambiquan / Brazilian band Napalma, seen here at the 88 Lounge, commemorated the first days of spring with a scorching performance at the opening of the Arts Alive festival
Photo: Lenyaro Sello

Arts Alive Festival opening makes temperatures soar

LENYARO SELLO

LIVELY stage presence and crowd participation characterised the Arts Alive Festival opening at Bassline, Newtown.

This was a music extravaganza that started at 9pm and that was probably the last time the audience checked their watches. First act of the night, Napalma dazzled the audience with

their retro-fusion of Brazilian and African beats. Their sound is fresh and contemporary yet stays true to the sultry sounds of traditional Brazilian and Mozambican music.

You can tell how in tune band members are with one another.

They manage to play such succinct rhythms, while seeming to foretell each other's next hand move. The

music remains fluid and organic.

They got the crowd singing along and begging for more. Napalma comprises Ivo Maia, the vocalist, drummers Sid Travaglia and Rafael Garacia, and Ben Amato, the programmer and sax flute. Band members come from Brazil, Mozambique and South Africa.

In contrast to these exotic sounds, South African Kid Fonque heated the

dance floor with club fusion beats. He was followed by performances by Fredric Galliano from France and Pat Heart the Czech Republic Afro Pop. The performances reflected a mix of cultures from different corners of the world, to kickstart the month-long Festival.

Napalma has been around the world and performed in Europe and South

America. Their music is a mix of cultures and beats.

"We work together towards creating this music. One person comes with an idea and we all contribute," says Travaglia.

A great start to the festival with the promise of an even greater ending. Check www.artsalive.co.za for details of the Festival Lockdown celebration.



AFRICAN STYLE: Dancer Kitty Phetla shows her stuff in *Jukebox Gentleman*
Photo: John Hogg

Three heads are better than one

SEBATSO MOSAMO

THREE South African theatres have pooled their talents to create a performance workshop that celebrates the country's diversity through dance.

The Arts Alive Festival brings this variety of dance forms and styles to audiences with the *Dance...Power of Three* performance workshops.

The theatres will be displaying what has been termed "a new model in the arts". Ballet Theatre Afrikan, will premier *Jukebox Gentleman* by Andrea Schermoly, a local dancer trained at home and abroad.

Moving into Dance Mophatong presents *Flesh* by choreographer,

Gregory Maqoma, and The South African Ballet Theatre (SABT) presents *Neon Flight*, also choreographed by Maqoma. It premiered in Moscow last year as part of the SABT's historic tour to Russia.

The workshop promises "to showcase South African's diverse dance aesthetics filled with glamour, escapism and magic", according to the organisers.

Performances

September 27 – Alex San Kopano (Alexandra), at 11:30am

September 28 – Dance Factory (Newtown), at 19:30pm (Opening Night)

September 29 – Dance Factory (Newtown), at 19:30pm

September 30 – Dance Factory (Newtown), at 14:30pm

For more info contact Gerard Bester on 0837249307 or gerardb@mweb.co.za

Jozi embraces the word

ERICA DREIJER

VERSE will speak for the people in a *Speak the Mind* poetry session that will be hosted on September 28 and 29.

The theme for this year's poetry sessions is Harare or Darfur – Eyes on Us.

Some of the well-known artists like Ishle Yi Park from the United States, Samm Monro from Zimbabwe, and local poets Mzwakhe Mbuli and Pops Mohamed will be performing.

Events will be hosted by Julius "Makweru" Moeletsi from Yfm.

You can also attend the *Tradition through Rendition* writing and performance workshops and learn more about poetry's role – both past and in the present - in society.

The *Tradition* workshops "have been created to allow artists to share what's behind their material", explained organiser, Zweli Twalo.

For Teba Shumba, previously of kwaito band Skeem, these sessions are part of a movement in which "cultural activists [like himself] use art to better the communities they live in and which will help to develop people's lives."



LIVING THROUGH WORDS: Artists Teba Shumba and Zweli Twalo will be at the poetry and writing workshops this weekend.
Photo by: Erica Dreijer

The *Speak the Mind* Poetry Sessions will take place at the Market Main and Laager Theatres, at 7.30pm on September 28 and 29. The entry fee is R30 per person. For more information contact Langa at 083 317 6232 or langa@lmmmentertainment.co.za.

Tradition through Rendition writing and performance workshops will be hosted at the Laager Theatre from 3pm to 6pm on both days.

Entry is free. For more information contact Teba at 083 758 2136 or teba205@yahoo.com.

ARTS ALIVE 2007

Vuvuzela Supplement

Who's afraid of the truth?

Writer: Edward Albee
Director: Janice Honeyman
Producer: Regina Sebright
Cast: Fiona Ramsay, Sean Taylor, Nicholas Pauling and Erica Wessels

VUVU VENA

TRUTH AND ILLUSION - one must always be able to tell the difference. This is a constant theme in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Showing at the Market Theatre, the play is a puzzle of games, rituals, fantasy and reality. It is a story of the emotional burden between two couples. The story takes place in the living room of an older couple, George and Martha.

George (Taylor) and Martha (Ramsay) live in a world of games and vices that is dictated by pain and misery. One night they invite a young couple over for drinks. They are new in town and employed by Martha's father, who is president of the local university.

Nick (Pauling) and Honey (Wessels), the young couple, pay their visit in the early hours of the morning after a

long party they had all attended.

From the time they step through the door to the time they leave they are confronted by a confusion of words between the hosts and a whole lot of alcohol between the four of them.

The one thing they have in common is a joke they shared at the party. In a melodic voice, someone sings: "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf, Virginia Woolf, Virginia Woolf." When the games and words become too much, they use it to break the tension.

The couples begin revealing secrets about their spouses and the information they leak starts to become dangerous to their relationships. George and Martha have learnt to tell truth from illusion.

They manage to give the audience the sense that they have the ability to.

People who invent the game always manage to play it best. Or at least seem to.

The play premiered in October 1962 in New York, 45 years ago.

Since then it has also been turned into a movie. The long-lasting quality of Albee's work is credited to the

subject of the play - the universal nature of human emotion.

Decades ago, Albee said of the play: "If there is a history years from now, and if I am a footnote in it, I daresay *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* will be the play identified with my name (or my name with it), and I, in my shallow grave, will not cavil much."

Honeyman described Albee as a "forthright and unapologetic writer" and this is evident in the play itself.

Albee does not seem to have concerned himself with who might be offended while watching his play, or it would have distracted him from the point he was making.

Honeyman describes the play as being "at once disturbing and entertaining, comic and compelling, with battles which are played out in the living room of an ordinary middle-class home as it examines the savagery of human emotional war".

The last performance during the Arts Alive festival is at 3pm on Sunday September 30 at the Market Theatre - Main Theater.

For ticket prices and other information, call 011 832 1641.

Transpose yourself

ERICA DREIJER

THE ETERNAL love triangle, which crosses all cultural boundaries, is the basis for an Indian play's exploration of love - how much is real and how much an illusion - during this year's Arts Alive Festival.

Transpositions is part of the Shared Histories - Celebrating India in South Africa Festival that aims to bring Indian art, culture and cuisine to South African audiences.

The festival started on August 23 and will run until October 31.

The play is based on Tashna Imhasly's book *The Psychology of Love - Wisdom of Indian Mythology* and is enacted using puppets and masks, dancers and digital projections.

The music for the performance was composed by Sawan Dutta and directed by Dadi Pudumjee.

It explores transcendental questions of life, loss and purpose and looks at the duality that exists within each person in the realms of illusion and reality.

The story is about Nanda and Shridaman, two friends who are bound together by their dissimilarity. Nanda is an athlete and Shridaman a priest.

They both love the beautiful Sita, whom they meet at the temple of Kali, the Goddess of Destruction. Sita marries Shridaman, but longs for



PUPPET LOVE: Two characters in *Transpositions* explore universal questions of love and life

Photo: *Transpositions* production

what she hasn't got - Nanda.

When Shridaman discovers the affair he commits suicide by cutting off his own head.

Nanda, feeling guilty and saddened by the loss of his friend, follows his example and does the same. When Sita discovers their bodies, she switches their heads around by accident.

Shridaman awakes with Nanda's athlete body and Nanda with a priest's body. Who is her real husband? Does the mind rule the body? Or does the body rule the mind?

Sita asks the goddess for an answer. They discover that only when mind and body are one are we part of the universal order.

Transposition will be showing at the Wits Theatre on September 28 at 6pm. Tickets cost R50 and are available at Computicket.

Indian textiles and history celebrated

FARHANA ISMAIL

A DISPLAY of 12 colourful, intricately embroidered parasols, suspended wide-open and upside down from the ceiling, will be your first glimpse of an exhibition called *Threads in Time* at MuseumAfrica in Newtown this month.

The exhibition, consisting of textiles, photographs, jewellery and crafts from India, forms part of the Arts Alive Shared Histories initiative.

"The textiles of India are particularly renowned for their beauty and vibrancy," says producer of the Shared Histories festival, Ila Gupta.

This longstanding textile history is significant and many of the techniques and crafts used in their production have been preserved. The exhibition showcases unusual and intricate pieces from the different regions of India.

There are kutchi embroidered wedding bags from Rajasthan, zardozi gold work that adorned the costumes of royalty from Uttar Pradesh and merino wool Kashmiri shawls on display.

Many of the textiles have religious or traditional significance. A wall hanging made by Parsi (Zoroastrian) women and a kutchi shawl border woven for a bride on the event of one year of successful marriage can be seen.

A throw of kantha embroidery on tussar silk from West Bengal depicts scenes from the Ramayana (the holy epic of Hindus).

"Many of these products are made by India's different communities towards the revival of the traditional craft forms. Though they are traditional in form and execution they have been

contemporised for today's market," says Gupta.

The idea is to make the products more affordable to the public by using less expensive fabrics and threads, in order to create employment, says Gupta. In the process, the customary craft forms are also revived and maintained.

"Do not Touch" signs are abundant at the museum. Admittedly, the assorted textures and richness of the fabrics does give you the urge to run your fingers over them.

The Shared Histories element of the exhibition can be seen in early photographs of Indians in South Africa. Rediscover the history of indentured Indian labourers in Natal as well as the history of the Newtown area. It was here that many Indian South Africans lived during segregation.

If you take a quick ramble through the Newtown area today, you will get a glimpse of many of the Indian businesses and flats portrayed in the photographs. Also on display are Victorian era, chunky Indian chains, bangles and earrings. These were originally brought to South Africa from India by the British colonisers. The exhibition runs throughout September.

29 Sep	30 Sep
<p>Event: The Images of Truth "Satya ki Pratiroop" The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust, India</p> <p>Time: 18:00</p> <p>Venue: Wits Theatre</p> <p>Fee: R50.00; Full Price, R30.00; Students, Pensioners & Block Bookings</p> <p>Artists: Concept & Direction: Dadi D. Pudumjee</p> <p>Contact: Nazeem Pather Tel: 011 482 8484 Cell: 072159 5778</p>	<p>Event: Dance...Power of Three</p> <p>Time: 19:30</p> <p>Venue: Dance Factory</p> <p>Fee: R50.00; Full Price, R30.00; Students, Pensioners & Block Bookings</p> <p>Artists: Ballet Theatre Afrikan (Jukebox Gentleman by Andrea Schermoly), Moving into Dance Mophatong (Flesh by Gregory Maqoma) & The South African Ballet Theatre (Neon Flight by Gregory Maqoma)</p> <p>Contact: Gerard Bester - 083 724 9307 gerardb@mwweb.co.za</p>

Wafts of jazz fill Newtown

NONDLELA MAPONYA

SPRING was welcomed in, not just with the smell of jasmine, but with the sounds of jazz at The Bassline in Newtown, on September 1.

Organisers of the event, *Jazz @ The Bassline*, said the night was all about giving people a taste of jazz from different cultures.

Performers, Cuban born Omar Sosa, Mrigaya from India and South African Carlo Mombelli and Prisoners of Strange entertained the crowd until the early hours of the morning.

Sosa, who is well known for playing two pianos at the same time, was visiting the country for the second time.

This time around, Sosa wanted his performance to contain a little bit of the local groove.

He included a Xhosa hip hop artist to add some flavour. He said he chose Xhosa because he loves the way it sounds.

Sosa said it did not matter whether he understood Xhosa or not because he believed jazz was part of the common language. "Jazz is everything. Improvised music, it comes from the earth, from the ancestors."

Indian jazz group Mrigaya also brought a bit of different jazz culture. Their jazz is a fusion of traditional

Indian Sufi classic and rock and roll.

It was the band's first visit to the country. Gyan Singh, who plays the tabla, a popular Indian drumming instrument, said: "I think South Africa is beautiful. We were, however, scared on arrival because of what we heard about the crime situation in the country."

Locals, Carlo Mombelli and Prisoners of Strange received appreciative applause when they performed. Trumpeter and composer,

Marcus Wyatt included unusual elements like playstation sound effects. During one of the songs, sounds from the game *Star Wars Battle Front* added a bit of space effect.

However, there were moments when sound was a problem during the group's performance. Singer Siya Makuzeni said there were moments when the sound overrode her voice. "I felt like I was swimming in a cosmic trip."

Organiser, Brad Holmes, said they were having technical problems that night. There was a problem with the sound devices.

Holmes said, despite the technical glitch, the night was a success.

"It was a great show, a killer show, nice," he said.

FEATURES

Wits artists spread their wings

SEAN RITCHIE

ON Heritage Day three enterprising fourth-year Fine Arts students put on an art exhibition, to showcase work done by them and their classmates, in a semi-constructed house.

The exhibition, Work In Progress, included installations, paintings and performance art. It was organised and curated by Anthea Pokroy, Candice Hirson and Louise Ross.

The house in Athol lacked doors and windows and the walls were unfinished which made an excellent setting for the 23 artists to display their work. All the artists were current or ex-students of the Wits School of Arts. Pokroy explained, "We are emerging from our institution. We are very grateful to that institution but it is time to spread our wings."

The event follows from an earlier successful exhibition, Collaborations, held in May. "The show was a success and everyone asked when the next show was going to be," said Pokroy.



PROGRESSIVE ART: Attendees of the exhibition were impressed with the unusual space in which the art works were displayed.

Photo: Sean Ritchie

The house belongs to Hirson's parents and she decided they had to have an exhibition there before it was completed. She said they will continue to put on events like Work In Progress.

The rationale for the event was posted at the entrance to the house and explained, "(t)his

exhibition intends on showcasing the works of emerging young artists from all around the city. Work In Progress functions as a platform for exposure outside of the institution."

Ross said they called for entries and approached some people to get work for the exhibition. "We're really happy with the way things turned out," said Ross.

The exhibition was an initiative from Art Up, an organisation started by Ross and Hirson at the end of last year. Ross and Hirson were frustrated with the small and incestuous nature of the art community and wanted to come up with a way to get alternative exposure for their works. "We are promoting ourselves and other young artists," said Ross.

Music by the Sporadic Nomads lent atmosphere to the evening. The three young musicians from Hyde Park High School gave an enjoyable performance for their first live set. They described their music as "structureless, experimental stuff".

The exhibition was supposed

to be opened by performance artist Johan Thom but he was unable to arrive at the beginning of the evening as he had trouble finding the house in Sandton.

Thom is one of the only practising full-time performance artists in the country.

His work draws from his experience of life in South Africa and from different cultural traditions.

When he did arrive Thom spoke about the need for events like Work In Progress. "These kinds of events and initiatives are more important than ever. It is an occasion for celebration, young artists holding an exhibition outside the confines of the establishment."

"There are many great commercial art galleries. It is very hard for young artists to break into these hallowed halls. This is a real cause for concern," said Thom.

"I applaud this initiative and hope there will be many more in Johannesburg as it is desperately needed."

Yearning for a son

Writer: Federico Garcia Lorca
Director: Leila Henriques

VUVU VENA

BEING barren in a farm community makes life miserable for Yerma. She is a kept wife. According to her husband, her joy in life ought to come from sitting at home, sewing and making lovely embroideries while he labours in the fields.

However her only want in life is a son, and her husband cannot bear her need. They talk about nothing else. Two-and-a-half years she has been waiting. And it seems to her that all of nature wakes up to mock her.

Yerma is a semi-musical. Characters sing in the sidelines throughout the show, and the singing voices seem to emphasise and enhance the sorrows that the central characters are feeling.

Left with few options, Yerma meets all kinds of women and takes their advice.

When her childhood love leaves the community to go take care of his family, Yerma feels deserted and takes an option that most women would not. She sneaks out in the darkness while her husband is out and visits a practitioner of black magic. Darkness is a theme in the play, whether it is night time darkness or spiritual darkness.

Annually the community has a festival where barren women come to sleep with other men. Even married and fertile women come to the festival. There Yerma is confronted with a bargain that could change her life for ever. However she chooses another route that brings about a greater change.

Yerma will be showing until October 6. For further information contact Cathy Pisanti on 011 717 1376.

Blink - and it changes

ERICA DREIJER

BLINK – and before you know it, a familiar route appears to be new, because of all the buildings that were erected since you last took that route.

All the changes and the restless energy that are part of life in Johannesburg helped to inspire Wits music lecturer Clare Loveday to compose *Blink*, which will be performed by two of the world's best saxophonists in Vienna next week.

For Loveday, this is a great honour, as it is the first time that one of her compositions will be performed internationally, which she describes as "an enormous rite of passage into the international music arena".

Loveday, Michael Blake (South Africa) and Justinian Tamasuza

(Uganda) were the only three composers from Africa that were commissioned for a piece that will be performed by Ensemble Reconcil.

The concert marks the opening of the Arnold Schoenberg symposium and is the pre-opening concert of the International Society of Contemporary Music (Austria) to celebrate its 85th anniversary.

Loveday describes the composition as having "a fast underlying rhythmic pace with loud punctuations to show the contrasts of the city" that is "right in your face" and wrote it specifically with the two saxophonists that will be performing it in mind.

She is very interested to see how they will respond to her music, as they generally play music that tends to be more structured and

"Germanic in nature" versus *Blink* which is more "frenetic and has a humorous side to it".

Loveday fell in love with the saxophone ten years ago, when she was commissioned to write a piece for the piano and saxophone, but believes that her inability to play it has "continued the love affair".

Loveday strives for "effect" in her compositions, rather than looking for ideas or evoking an emotion, and the versatility of the straight saxophone, which "can be anything you want it to be", helps her to achieve this.

It took six months for her to complete writing the piece.

Loveday lectures in Music Theory and Composition at the Wits School of Arts and has been permanently employed at Wits from 2004.



THE KNOCK OUT

The Clever Boys will be looking to maintain their winning ways when they take on Jomo Cosmos in South Africa's richest Knockout competition, the Telkom Challenge. The must win encounter will be held at BidVest Wits stadium on Friday, October 5 at 8pm in what promises to be an entertaining encounter.

Boxing ring frustrations



Preparing for a no show: Witsies strike a pose before the start of the tournament that saw invited clubs absent

Photo: Nondlela Maponya

NONDLELA MAPONYA

It was a disappointing Saturday for the Wits Boxing Club as some of the clubs invited to take part in the tournament failed to show up.

The club had arranged an amateur boxing tournament for all Johannesburg amateur boxing clubs. Only six out of the ten invited clubs managed to commit to the invitation.

Only one boxer from Wits managed

to have a match, with the rest of the fight being between the visiting clubs.

Winston Nxumalo, chairman of the Wits Boxing Club, said he was disappointed that the other clubs had failed to honour their commitment and that it was not the first time that other clubs failed to show up as arranged.

He said the reason might be because there was another tournament that

took place before Saturday.

Winston Thwala, one of the boxers from the Wits club, said he was very disappointed that he did not have an opponent to fight on the day. "I was very prepared and looking forward to my match."

To be told at the last minute that I have no opponent was quite disappointing," he said.

Mbongisi Dyantyi, the Wits boxing coach, said it was very disappointing

for the fighters because they were very charged up for the tournament.

Dyantyi said that although not fighting brings a bit of relief, you are nevertheless prepared, and not fighting takes more out of you than when you actually fight.

"The fight is like a compensation for all the trauma and hard work that went into preparing for the fight," he said.

Dyantyi said he was particularly

disappointed because preparation for a fight is emotionally and physically demanding and a fight would have made all that worthwhile.

Sports officer Dennis Tshabalala, the club's coordinator, said the club's organisation had been fine and the no-show was just one of those unfortunate things that happen in sports. "There is nothing you can do; you just have to deal with it," said Tshabalala.

Bowled out

ERICA DREIJER

WITS' cricket team lost in their first league match of the season against University of Johannesburg on Sunday.

Confusion reigned when both teams were told upon arrival that they were playing a day game and not a one-day cricket match. UJ won the toss and Croxley Wits batted first. Wits were bowled out for 168. UJ went ahead and won on their first innings with a total score of 305 all out.

Player-coach Aldo van den Berg told *Vuvuzela* that the Croxley Wits team "did not apply themselves. It was as if we didn't have the patience to see the match through." Even though they were relatively well prepared and came out "tops in all their friendlies".

The misunderstanding that it was a one-day match complicated play, since both teams thought they had 45 overs.

He also believes that a lack of fitness was a contributing factor in the outcome of the match.

The top scorer for Wits was Russel Tindale at 62.

Croxley Wits will be playing their next league match against the Old Parktonians at their fields on Sunday at 9.45am.



War games of the mind

NONDLELA MAPONYA

WITS engineering student David Vannucci represented Wits at the figure games tournament on Saturday, September 22.

The figure games form part of the War Games, but are electronic or board games played using no guns or weapons.

Vannucci was the only representative from Wits that entered the games last Saturday.

There were no Wits students represented at morabaraba and drafts. He said that most of the students were busy studying and could not make it to the games.

He said the games attracted a lot of participants, though, and were tough. Vannucci obtained 12 points out of the maximum 25 and unfortunately did not make it onto the top three.

He said the games were fun and that he enjoyed himself. He said the event venue, Harrismith Girls School, was

a good venue.

Vannucci along with two other Wits engineering students formed part of a team that won the silver award at the international software conference earlier in the year. They took a centuries-old African game, morabaraba, and turned it into an innovative cell phone game.