

# Motion Picture Mind Blast

The National Video and Film Foundation proudly presents:

## **Ubuntu's wounds**

The disturbing emotional journey of a Black South African as he tries to come to terms with the decision of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to grant amnesty to the man responsible for his wife's death. A chance meeting in Los Angeles between the two men and the result of this encounter provides valuable insights into questions of memory, history and reconciliation. 1 hr 40 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 16h00-17h30 (A & B); Thurs 10 July @ 14h00-15h30 (C)

**Venue:** Barratt 2



## **The Backyard Shorts**

The Backyard Shorts were produced by Anamazing Workshop through their internship programme, the Animation Production Training Initiative (APTI). This ground breaking internship is for emerging talent that has kick-started an innovative era of animation in South Africa. APTI forms part of Anamazing's growth strategy which focuses on skills transfer and job creation to HDI's. Among APTI's objectives is the creation of high-quality African animation programmes that provide culturally relevant entertainment for South African youth. The 13 animated CGI short films entitled *The Backyard Shorts* were released through Ster Kinekor and Nu Metro nationwide from December 2007 - March 2008. *BYS* made its TV debut in February 2008 until April 2008. 1 hr 10 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 16h00-17h10 (A & B); Thurs 10 July @ 14h00-15h10 (C)

**Venue:** Barratt 2

## **Also on offer in the Free Choice slots are:**

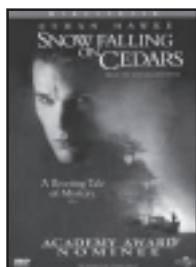


## **Mississippi Burning**

In 1964, when three civil-rights workers, two white and one black, mysteriously disappear while driving through Mississippi, two FBI agents, Ward (Willem Dafoe) and Anderson (Gene Hackman), are sent in to investigate. While Ward is young and by the book, Anderson is a seasoned southerner comfortable with the Byzantine (and, to Ward, morally ambiguous) ways of his region. Together they sift through a variety of leads and come up empty-handed—until the town sheriff's wife (Frances McDormand) steps forward and reveals some surprising information. A fictionalized account of one of the landmarks in the civil-rights movement, *Mississippi Burning* is a swift and powerful film. Director Alan Parker's investigation of human cruelty crafts a historically poignant film that fingers the monstrosities of a virulent strain of racial intolerance in America. 2 hrs 5 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 13h45-15h45 (B & C); Thurs 10 July @ 15h45-17h45 (A)

**Venue:** Zoo Major



## **Snow Falling on Cedars**

Fog as thick and palpable as cotton hangs suspended over San Piedro Island. On the bay, a flickering lantern signals distress from a crippled fishing boat, while elsewhere a freighter lurches blindly through the chalky mist. By morning, sea and sky are clear, but the tranquil village of fishermen and berry farmers will forever be changed. One man has lost his life, and another, a childhood friend, has been charged with taking it. An investigation is launched. The trial begins. A reporter covering the trial, Ishmael Chambers, sits in the courtroom, carefully observing the person with whom he shared the rapturous secrets of childhood, the only woman he has ever loved - Hatsue, the defendant's wife. Their tortured relationship will have an unexpected bearing on the trial of Kazuo Miyamoto, which serves to frame *Snow Falling On Cedars*. ©© 1999 Universal Pictures. 1 hr 25 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 16h00-17h25 (A & B); Thurs 10 July @ 14h00-15h25 (C)

**Venue:** Barratt 1



## **Little Miss Sunshine**

*Little Miss Sunshine* is an American family road comedy that shatters the mold. Brazenly satirical and yet deeply human, the film introduces audiences to one of the most endearingly fractured families in recent cinema history: the Hoovers, whose trip to a pre-pubescent beauty pageant results not only in comic mayhem but in death, transformation and a moving look at the surprising rewards of being losers in a winning-crazed culture. No one among the Hoovers quite has it together, but it's not for lack of trying. Starring Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette, Steve Carrell, Abigail Breslin, Paul Dano and Alan Arkin. 1 hr 40 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 14h00-15h40 (B & C); Wed 9 July @ 16h00-17h40 (A & B);

Thurs 10 July @ 16h00-17h40 (A)

**Venue:** Barratt 2



## **Crash**

A provocative, unflinching look at the complexities of racial conflict in America, *Crash* is that rare cinematic event - a film that challenges audiences to question their own prejudices. Diving headlong into the diverse melting pot of post-9/11 Los Angeles, this compelling urban drama tracks the volatile intersections of a multi-ethnic cast, examining fear and bigotry from multiple perspectives as characters careen in and out of one another's lives. No one is safe in the battle zones of racial strife. And no one is immune to the simmering rage that sparks violence - and changes lives. 2 hrs 5 mins

**Viewing Times:** Wed 9 July @ 13h45-15h45 (B & C)

Thurs 10 July @ 15h45-17h45 (A & B)

**Venue:** Barratt 1

**Venue:** GLT

The Matchbox Theatre Collective presents

# Le carnaval de ma vie

(my life as a carnival)

Choreographed and Performed by Bailey Snyman and Nicola Haskins with Melissa Pierce  
 Stage Manager Rachel Jacobs

Featuring Music from David Dorfman, Triplets of Belville, French Café, Edith Piaf, Clint Mansel, Donnie Darko and Babel.



The Matchbox Collective can be contacted to run workshops and lecture demonstrations in your school. Contact Nicola Haskins, Associate Artistic Director, Matchbox Theatre Collective: Cell: 083 962 2887 Check out their website <http://matchboxtheatre.hostsnake.com/mtc.htm>

**Note from the choreographers**

A father who was a magician dies... A farewell. A train journey follows, and an experience of the carnival life and the true magic behind the magician's mask. This is a lively and poignant production with a French flavour that takes us on a journey through these characters' lives.

Each choreographic work is a process, a journey, one that does not have a definite ending. Choices are constantly made, rearranged, re-envisioned and it is this creative process that has informed the themes of *Le carnaval de ma vie*.



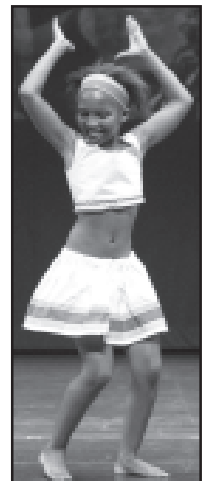
The Amaphiko Township Dance Project presents

# Amaphiko

Directed by Janet Buckland

Just one glance at the excited faces of the Grahamstown Township Dance Project dancers will show you how hard work, dedication, and love of their art will overcome even the most difficult odds. Despite constantly battling for funding the Amaphiko Township Dance Project has been going since 1993 and aims primarily to provide girls and boys in the township with an intensive arts activity that develops them holistically. Besides providing over 150 township teenagers in the most disadvantaged sector of Grahamstown with a structured activity for two to four afternoons a week, these classes promote self-discipline, demand commitment and provide an opportunity to strive for excellence. More importantly, the classes promote feelings of self-worth and self-esteem in the boys and girls.

The dancers give electrifying performances in a number of different styles ranging from Hip Hop to contemporary dance. These are in constant demand and are overwhelmingly well received. They have performed regularly at the various Schools Festivals, at the National Arts Festival, three times live on TV for the Highway Africa Ceremony and won a host of Gold Awards at various Eisteddfods and dance festivals.



Every year the dancers are prepared to face rigorous dance examinations and since 2003, have obtained an exceptional number of "Honours with Distinctions".

These young dancers are testimony to how dedication, commitment, hard work and passion can beat seemingly insurmountable odds. The project looks forward to continuing to inspire and equip disadvantaged young men and women for excellence – in dance and in life – for the next decade.

Utlwanang Theatre  
in association with the State Theatre of S.A. presents

# BIKO

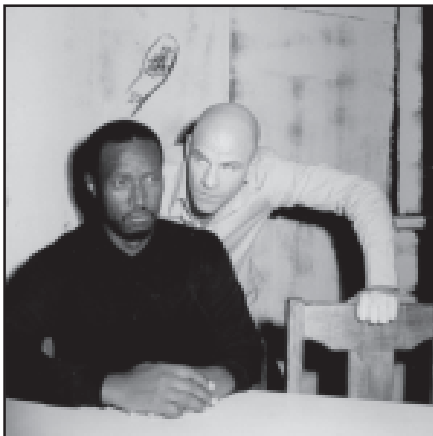
## *Where the soul resides*

Directed by **Martin Koboekae**

### Cast

**Masoja Msiza** - Steve Biko  
**Patrick Bokaba** - Barney Pityana  
**Boitumelo Mothabela** - Mamphela Ramphele  
**Erno van Dyk** - Father Aelred Stubbs/ Judge Boshoff  
**Errol Ndotho** - Aubrey Mokoape/ Malusi Mpumlwana  
**Sibulele Gcilitshana** - Ntsiki Biko/ Vuyelwa Mashalaba  
**Tshallo Chokwe** - Ben Ngubane/ Mapetla Mohapi  
**Bruce Gounder** - Strini Moodley  
**David Dukas** - Sergeant Hattingh

Neither a political diatribe nor a history lesson, this new theatre piece takes audiences beyond the icon and introduces Stephen Bantu Biko as a lively, witty and persuasive young man. We relive incidents in the last ten years of his life - from 1968 when he was a medical student and broke away from the white-dominated National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). His relationship with Mamphela Ramphele is touched on, as well as his interactions with comrades like Strini Moodley, Barney Pityana, Mapetla Mohapi, Malusi Mpumlwana and Father Aelred Stubbs. Koboekae says, "Like many young leaders of his time, he was neither infallible nor a saint...but his astuteness and incisive thinking often rescued him from embarrassing situations caused by youthful indiscretion."



### Director's Note

I am delighted that **BIKO: *Where the Soul Resides*** will be featured in the Standard Bank National Schools Festival. I think this arrangement affords the younger generation an opportunity to understand something about Black Consciousness and the sacrifices some people made to ensure that we become a democratic society.

This play is not academic and is thus not necessarily meant for intellectuals. It is also not a political diatribe. It is rather a play about the life of one of the greatest political stalwarts this country ever produced.

Stephen Bantu Biko was a courageous young man with an amazing dedication to the liberation of his people. In this play all aspects which turned him into somebody with such iconic status are dealt with. This is a heady mix of his social life and political activism.

It will be foolhardy to separate any of the above mentioned character traits from Biko's life when one is dealing with the man behind the icon, for without these the man is incomplete. Therefore, in this play, the astuteness, political acumen and general youthful indiscretions are highlighted. It will pain me very much if some audience members expect to see only a depiction of the political hero, or if some of them want to see only a play about Biko without any political activism.

In celebrating the life and times of Biko we should be open-minded about how he is portrayed. We should not be over-protective of our icons, similarly we should be careful not to rubbish their enormous contribution to the emancipation of Blacks in South Africa.

With this presentation I hope that the learners will be able to grapple with issues of race, identity, education and independence; for these are the issues which were uppermost in the mind of this revered and selfless son of the soil.

Sue Clarence Promotions  
presents

# IMPISI

Created by **Ellis Pearson** and **Clive Essame**, with  
script development assistance from **Bheki Mkhwane**  
Performed by **Ellis Pearson** and **Sdumo Mtshali**  
Directed by **Brian Pearce**



A story about how society sees difference. Impisi is the Zulu word for hyena. We, the two legged ones, have fixed ideas about this animal, describing it as an ugly, misshapen scavenger; they also have fixed ideas about the majestic king of the jungle. In this parable Hyena helps Lion to take his rightful place in society, despite an accident which leaves him far from physically capable ...or so one would imagine.

Flavoured with the sights, sounds and images of the African plains, *Impisi*, performed by Ellis Pearson and Sdumo Mtshali, looks at how society views people who appear different, who may have a disability, but who take their place rightfully in society. It is, perhaps, those who judge and discriminate who truly disable people.

Ellis Pearson, with his long time partner, Bheki Mkhwane, is a well known and much loved performer on the Grahamstown scene as well as at schools and school festivals throughout the country. In fact, 2007 was the first year for over a decade that he was not seen on the Drosdy Lawns, bringing his unique style of acting and endearing humour to issues which always cause the audience to sit up and think. This year he is joined by a young, shining star from Durban, Sdumo Mtshali.

Clive Essame lives in Devon, in England, and has long been an admirer of Ellis Pearson's work. He is a writer and community arts facilitator. He brings with him a wealth of experience as a dynamic, involved person who regards his physical disability as merely another aspect of his character. He will be present at the performances to meet the audience and to take part in discussions arising from issues raised in the piece.



Photographer: Matthew Henning

a conspiracy of clowns, in association with FTH:K presents

# *pictures of YOU*

devised and directed by **Rob Murray**  
from an original idea by **Rob Murray** and  
**Liezl de Kock**  
performed by **Liezl de Kock** and **Dorian Burstein**  
masks and puppets by **Janni Younge**  
sound design by **James Webb**



At first sight, Frank and Janet's marriage is the picture of perfection – neat, ordered, and respectable. But underneath lies a deeper truth – one of buried secrets and repressed desires; of sterility and barrenness; and of a history of violence that begins leaking out when Frank starts to dream. It is in the twilight of his dreaming that their barren life starts unravelling, as he meets, and begins to court, the woman literally of his dreams. As his obsession with his dream creature grows, the thin line between dreaming and reality, between sanity and insanity, and finally between life and death, becomes progressively more blurred, and the claustrophobic atmosphere starts to spin violently out of control. This important work grapples with issues very relevant and necessary to present day South Africa – fear, violence, healing and ultimately transformation. It investigates the legacy of Apartheid from the perspective of victims of violence, interrogates the notion of home and a safety that we try to create for ourselves, and leads its characters on a journey through private hell towards their own personal reconciliation, and ultimately self-acceptance.

*Pictures of You* is visual theatre of a calibre seen rarely in South Africa. It weaves together a surreal and liminal world through the sumptuous blend of full character masks, magic realism, arresting visual imagery, puppetry, and a disturbing original soundscape.

The creation of this work has been supported by a grant from the National Arts Council of South Africa.



# Original Skin

Performed and written by **Phillippa Yaa de Villiers**  
Direction and script development by **Robert Colman**  
Stage Design: **Thando Lobese**  
Lighting: **Nomvula Motsepe**  
Stage Management: **Lebohang Mnisi**  
Design Consultant/Mentor: **Nadia Cohen**

Following a year of dynamic script development and readings, *Original Skin* is a powerful new local production, written and performed by Phillippa Yaa de Villiers with script development and direction by Robert Colman. With a compassionate and poetic cadence, and told with humour, the script traces echoes of bigotry on the other side of the world and South Africa's own 'big racial tension story' through one child's often ironic and remarkable journey to adulthood.

This is a true tale of secrets, denial, repression and discovery, set in a country that is struggling to heal its own prejudice and a world still beset with silent hatreds. *Original Skin* is a moving personal family story, about strange choices, love, survival and 'apartheid untold'.

With an extraordinary one-woman multi-character performance by Yaa de Villiers, *Original Skin* is a riveting autobiographical narrative about a mixed-race baby whose white Australian mother decides to give her up for adoption in Verwoerd's early 60's South Africa. "She plays the central character, both of her mothers, her social worker Mrs Wilcox, a pig and a duck and a few other life-changing characters besides," says Colman. "And she does this in a strange world that conspires to hide her own 'coloured' ancestry - the loaded secret is kept from everyone including the child who carries it in her genes."

With a career now spanning well over two decades, director and writer Robert Colman comes to this script collaboration and direction of *Original Skin* after recently spending 6 months as International Artist-in-Residence at Blacktown Arts Centre in Sydney, Australia. An acclaimed professional, Colman's own works have toured nationally and internationally. They include the creation of *Two Straight Queers*, *After Nines* and *Daisy de Melker* as well as a highlight collaboration with Coco Merkel and Xoli Norman to develop *No Room for Squares* and *The Story I Am About to Tell* with Lesego Rampolokeng and Bobby Rodwell. Colman's most recent success at the Market Theatre was the direction of Irene Stephanou's acclaimed script, *Acropolis Café*.

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers is a poet, playwright, mime, clown, and an actor. Her recent (2007) first publication of "Taller than Buildings", a collection of original poetry, has been met with favourable reviews and has resulted in performances around South Africa, including Poetry Africa 2007 and the Cape Town Book Fair. As a guest of the Department of Arts and Culture, she represented South Africa at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Poetry in Cuba and, together with Napo Masheane and Gabeba Baderoon, will participate in the Together for Solidarity Conference in Sweden. Yaa de Villiers' theatre career includes Fiona Ramsay's *Barney's Women*, Suzann Lori-Parks' *Venus* and Lesego Rampolokeng's *Fanon's Children*, directed by Bobby Rodwell.

Excerpt of a review of *Original Skin* from a first reading:

... a subtle indictment of racism in all its guises: from the denial of race to overt prejudice...[Gail Smith, City Press Pulse]



Endymion Productions Presents

# The Quiet Violence of Dreams

Based on the award-winning novel by **K. Sello Duiker**

Adapted by **Ashraf Johaardien**

Directed & Designed by **Neville Engelbrecht**

## CAST

**Duke Motlanthe:** Tshepo

**Lebo Mashile:** Mmabatho

**Elton Landrew:** Zebbron | Chris | Abdul

**Jacques Bessenger:** Arne | West | Jacques | Alex | Policeman

**Garth Collins:** David | Shaun | Peter | Ross | Policeman

**Antonio Lyons:** Patrick | Father | Arthur

Company Manager: **Pieter Jacobs**

Stage Manager: **Riette Cloete**

**Age Restriction:** 16 LSNV



*The Quiet Violence of Dreams* explores youth culture and the extremes of Cape Town's social geography. This powerful breakthrough novel by K. Sello Duiker has been masterfully adapted for the stage by Ashraf Johaardien in a production directed and designed by Neville Engelbrecht. The central character is Tshepo, the prisoner of a psychosis which started in childhood. His story of violence, violation and male-directed brutality is interspersed with that of his friend Mmabatho. After escaping from Valkenberg Mental Hospital, Tshepo becomes a rent boy and discovers a world where he is able to explore his sexuality at leisure. Numbled by the psychological scar tissue of a childhood trauma, Tshepo negotiates a minefield of drugs, crime, race, sexuality and identity before he finds his own version of a happy ending.

"If we are to continue adapting literature from or about South Africa for the stage, this is the kind of work we need to be investing our resources and energy in," said award-winning playwright Ashraf Johaardien who started work on the adaptation more than two years ago shortly after Duiker committed suicide. Johaardien's work has been produced at mainstream theatres and festivals in South Africa, the UK, Ireland and the USA. At the time of his death in January 2005, K. Sello Duiker was considered the most promising of the emerging generation of black South African writers. *Quiet Violence* was his second novel and garnered the Herman Charles Bosman Prize for 2001. Johaardien's adaptation of Duiker's novel engages boldly with sexual and psychological taboos.

**WARNING:** This production contains strong language, sex and violence and deals with complex sexual themes which may offend sensitive audience members. Delegates who choose to attend the production are expected to engage with the work in a sensitive and mature manner.



**Cast (from left to right):**

Garth Collins, Elton Landrew, Duke Motlanthe, Lebo Mashile, Jacques Bessenger and Antonio Lyons

**Ubom! Eastern Cape  
Drama Company  
presents**

Directed by **Andrew Buckland** and **Brink Scholtz**

## CAST

**Cassandra Hendricks:** Hannah du Toit (29 years)

**Luvuyo Yanta:** Lawula (34 years)

**Jen Schneeberger:** Hannah's mother, Angela du Toit (51 years)

**Jaques de Silva:** Hannah's father, Chris du Toit (52 years)

**Sisonke Yafele:** Hannah's brother, David du Toit (31 years) / Snake ancestor

**Thami Baba:** Woman who is exorcised / The du Toit's domestic worker (Margaret) / Hannah's daughter (Nomphele du Toit) / Ancestor: Lawula's grandmother / The therapist.

A man and woman meet: different languages, different histories. As they are drawn together they enter a whirlpool that blurs the boundaries of past and future, family and ancestry, fabrication and truth. Evoked through a powerful physical and musical style, *Halo* becomes a painfully funny and deeply provocative journey to the roots of what we are.

# Halo



FIRST PHYSICAL  
THEATRE COMPANY  
and  
John/Allen Project  
present

# Ozymandias



#### Main Collaborators:

John Allen  
Gary Gordon  
Acty Tang  
Ingrid Gordon  
John Edwards  
Marc Duby  
Christine Maree  
Guy Nelson  
Anton Krueger

#### Performers:

Members and guests of the First Physical Theatre Company, John/Allen Project and Rhodes University Music Department, including  
Shaun Acker  
Richard Antrobus  
Donna Crump  
Kyle de Boer  
Diogo de Lima  
Sifiso Majola  
Anna Morris  
Alan Parker  
Zoë Reeve  
Tshego Tlholoe  
Robin-Neil Williams

*I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.*  
**Shelley's Ozymandias**

**Ozymandias** is a meeting between New Orleans and Grahamstown, a gathering of choreographers, dancers, musicians, visual and film artists, and writers to share our arts and experiences. Energetic American dance meets expressive South African choreography, for a multi-media dance-theatre experience that is powerfully motional and emotional.

But we're also scatterlings across four continents. Between us, we've lived through repressive regimes, natural disasters, and endless migrations. We've lost religions, found love across oceans, and have tasted what it's like to gather up our belongings and flee.

We can't be simplified into cultural labels – "American", "South African" – instead, we look to Shelley's poem, to reflect on human ambitions to build nations and identities. In the images of shattered sculpture and ruins in the poem, we invite you to find echoes of our chaotic modern world, and how vulnerable and fragile we are in the face of the forces of history, nature, and time itself.

This collaboration is made possible by the generous support of **Tulane University**, **Rhodes University**, the **National Arts Council**, and the **National Arts Festival**.

MVG Productions presents  
**Bafana Republic:  
Extra Time**

By Mike van Graan  
Directed by Francois Toerien  
Featuring Rea Rangaka

**About the Play**

The *Bafana Republic* brand was launched in May 2007 at the Franschhoek Literary Festival. Since then, it went on to win the Best One Person Show prize at the SA Comedy Awards and earned its star performer - Lindiwe Matshikiza - numerous acting nominations. In the process, it became the only play to be performed in the country's four largest cities and at the four major festivals. The writer/producer intended to produce a new script and launch it at the Franschhoek Literary Festival in May each year. ***Bafana Republic: Extra Time*** was launched in Franschhoek this year, starring another talented newcomer - Rea Rangaka – and directed by the versatile Francois Toerien.

**About the Writer**

The last four years have been a productive cycle for Mike van Graan who has written 11 plays in this period, including *Green Man Flashing*, *Some Mothers' Sons*, *Die Generaal* and *Mirror, Mirror*. Of these, four were commissions, and seven have been nominated for, or won various theatre awards. Most recently, he has worked as an independent producer to ensure maximum touring of his work. In early 2008 he was appointed as the Executive Director of the Africa Centre, an NGO committed to developing the arts and creative industries of the continent, but he will continue to be active as a playwright.



**About the Director**

Francois Toerien has built a cult following for his comedies, *The Francois Toerien Show*, which surpasses the *Bafana Republic* brand substantially in that there have already been five such shows! Toerien has a substantial reputation in the Afrikaans theatre market as an actor and producer, and is developing a similar reputation as a director. A graduate of the Drama Department of Stellenbosch University, his directing credits include the award-winning *Weg*.

**About the Performer**

Reabetswe (Rea) Rangaka graduated from the University of Cape Town in 2006 having majored in English and Film, Media and Visual Studies. A relative newcomer to the stage, Rangaka has been exposed to television and film. This will mark his first appearance in a one-person show.



presents

**The Game of  
the Heart**

Written and Directed by Milton Schorr  
Featuring Brendan Murray and  
Jeremy September



***The Game of the Heart*** is a ghoulish comedy about a friendship between two unlikely companions. One is a deranged serial killer obsessed with the destruction of all life as we know it, and the

other is a young traveller intent only on having a fun time. One weekend they meet, and unbeknownst to both they embark on a very dangerous and important game. It is a game that puts the lives of both players in the balance. It is a game that when played is frightfully dangerous and incredibly entertaining. It is a game that is sometimes bitter and always sweet. It is a game almost like life. It is the Game of the Heart.

***The Game of the Heart*** is presented by *The Rooster Collective*, a company that has produced and presented over eighteen indigenous theatre and performance art events. From the Collective's beginnings performing plays in an underground club in Cape Town, it has gone on to perform its work on the streets, in theatres and at homegrown party events (MCQP and the Balkanology parties being the most recent example). *The Rooster Collective* is committed to producing new South African theatre works that are completely original, wildly entertaining, and very, very different.



Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company presents  
**LIVING HERE!**

Directed by Brink Scholtz

**Featuring**

Thami Baba

Jennifer Schneeberger

Cassandra Hendricks

Luvuyo Yanta

Sisonke Yafele

Jacques De Silva

**Production Manager:** S'bo Ntshebe



What does it mean to be young and South African today? Are we really 'one nation'? Is it time to leave the past behind or does it still affect our lives? *Living Here!* explores these and other questions through a powerful combination of poetry, song, dance and clowning. Come and experience the warmth and honesty of an exceptional group of performers, who find their way through the joy and pain of *Living Here!*

**Director's Note**

*Living Here!* has been a workshop process between the Ubom! cast and myself as director. The work seamlessly draws together extracts from a wide selection of poetry – both contemporary and classic, South African and international – with the cast's deeply personal responses to this material.

Fusing mask work, contemporary clowning, physical theatre and song, the production attempts to crystallize some of the painful experiences and questions that saturate contemporary South African society. It touches on issues that are often swept under the carpet in the 'new' South Africa – issues of covert racism, fractured identities and assumed cultural superiority in the midst of a multi-cultural society.

In the process, it questions how far the country has come since the advent of democracy and to what extent we have achieved a coherent 'rainbow nation'.

**Brink Scholtz**



# FESTIVAL FINALE DOUBLE BILL

## featuring The Neon Anthems

in

## Catch!

*The hilarious adventure of Felix and Fred*

Written by and featuring **Cobus van Heerden**

Directed by **Liam Magner**



Felix is a 22 year old wannabe rock star who runs away from home in the search of adventure. Fred is a 12 year old bird watching nerd who has been sent to live with his Gran for a year while his parents teach English in China. Both are newcomers to the town of Knysna where they form an unlikely friendship under the watchful eyes of Fred's overtly religious Gran, Glynis. Things go horribly wrong for Felix and Fred, however, when they embark on an illicit night time fishing expedition a disastrous mishap results in them being blackmailed for R5000 by a Thai drug dealer. Their attempts at raising their debt prove fruitless so, with time running out, they enter the Knysna Big Fish Challenge (Knysna's premier angling competition), in the hope of 'catching' the solution to their salvation.

**Catch** debuted at this year's Musho festival where it received rave reviews before winning both the Audience Vote Award and the Suliman Pick of the Festival Awards. It is performed and written by Jacobus van Heerden and directed by Liam Magner who together own The Neon Anthems Production

Company. Together they have produced a number of shows including *The Neon Anthems Flying Comedy Show*, *The Go Go Musical Comedy Show*, *Spun*, *Tokoloshe Come and Go* and *Catch!* They have performed together more than 300 times and have toured their shows extensively throughout South Africa as well as in Zimbabwe.

*"Well deserving of separate applause (which they got) are van Heerden's beautifully created ultra - violet lit fluorescent backdrops, depicting everything, from a moonlit Knysna night to fishing in a rocky sea off the Knysna heads. Magner has directed van Heerden, his fellow Neon Anthem, with a light and creative touch, the result is charming, witty and very funny. Don't miss it."* - Sally Scott

and, following a 10 minute interval...

## Spun

*The legend of DJ Tommy Guns*

Written by **Liam Magner**

Featuring **Liam Magner & Cobus van Heerden**

DJ Tommy Guns is dead. Or at least he thinks so...

It all started out as a normal weekend for Thomas Du Champ. He was all set up to play at the local town hall and win the heart of his love, "Jizzy" Jasmine De Jagger. But when aliens invade planet earth and molest his cat, it is eventually up to him to save the world. How did the whole thing manage to "vomit itself up on his sponge bob underpants"? Check out **Spun** to find out!

*"This is physical comedy theatre on speed and, as such, Magner, with slices of comic genius, and accompanied by Cobus van Heerden (weaving between madrigals, rock and appropriate sound bytes) propels his audience like a bat out of hell."* - Sally Scott



# LIVE BANDS



## TIDAL WAVES

The crowd is skanking in unison, bouncing up and down like an irie earthquake of rhythm. The dreadlocked maestro with the guitar stops blowing his harmonica and leans into the microphone and shouts: "Original Music! For Original People!" The crowd screams back in togetherness. The maestro smiles and hits them with another song. Tidal Waves are widely regarded as the hardest working reggae band in South Africa, playing gigs from Oppikoppi to Pretoria, Cape Town to Potchefstroom. Originally from Klerksdorp, a small dustbowl gold mining town about two hours south of Johannesburg, the band is now based in Yeoville, Jozi. Tidal Waves is made up of four very gifted musicians, the core of the group is held together by Jacob 'Zakes' Wulana on guitar, harmonica and vocals and Sam 'Drumbo' Shoai on drums and vocals. 'Lucky' Nhlanhla Mthlale is on the bass and Ruben 'Topy' Faku plays the keys, both currently reside in Tembisa township on the outskirts of Jozi.

Tidal Waves write and perform original reggae music with traditional African musical influences like maskandi and mbaqanga. The sound is original roots reggae with strong rock, ska and blues strands. Like all good reggae, their lyrics are socially conscious and uplifting, railing against the government for not respecting the Rainbow Nation and imploring their fans to stand up for integration and one love. Some songs have deeply rooted anti war sentiments, while others lament the sad tales of urban South African poverty and the struggle to survive as musicians in the global capitalist economy. Their performances are always high energy and the band plays regularly in Johannesburg and Pretoria as well as touring and gigging in Cape Town and smaller dorps around the country. The band has also played at the Oppikoppi Music Festival, South Africa's premier live music festival, for many years. Internationally, Tidal Waves have taken their original music to Mozambique, Swaziland and as far abroad as New Zealand and Europe. They have recently returned from a rocking tour of Europe where they played the Pukkelpop Festival in Belgium, as well as a packed schedule of medium sized venues across Belgium and Italy. "Tidal Waves played a steaming and catching reggae set at this year's Pukkelpop Festival in Belgium," says Chokri Mahassine from Pukkelpop. "It was amazing to see how they pulled a fully crowded tent at an alternative festival at the same time as Nick Cave was playing, and got all the people to dance. They really represented the good and bad sides of South Africa with their warm and sunny, but also political music. Off stage we greatly appreciated these 100% pure people. I've seen Tidal Waves play in a lot of different places already" says Hans De Reydt of Blafhik Productions.

Tidal Waves are widely respected in South African music circles as an honest, hard-working band with an original sound, irie vibes and a dynamic live performance. Because of this they have some of the most ardent, die-hard fans and supporters in the SA music industry. And at every gig you will hear the chant: "Original music for original people!"

### Discography

1999 – Hard Work (Jozi Vibes / BMG)

2002 – Harmonijah (Independent Release)

2005 – Muzik an da Method (Independent Release)

## SPITMUNKY!

Fresh off the block and ready to pop! This electronic rap trio combines live beats, basslines and explosive hip hop to bring bounce to any dancefloor. Comprised of Ian Ewok Robsinson and Neon Anthems; Liam Magner and Jacobus van Heerden, Spitmunky is a 6 month old project from three of Durban's most versatile performers. Expect to dance, laugh, jump, scream and rip the roof off at hyper speed. HEYNOLAKKA!!!



Make sure you  
tune into Rhodes Music Radio  
89.7fm

for your very own Schools Festivals programme  
made by the workshop participants  
**THURSDAY 10 JULY**  
**@ 13h00 and @ 18h00**