

THE MARKET BUZZ

October 2024


THE
MARKET
THEATRE
FOUNDATION




THE
MARKET
PHOTO
WORKSHOP


THE
MARKET
THEATRE
LABORATORY

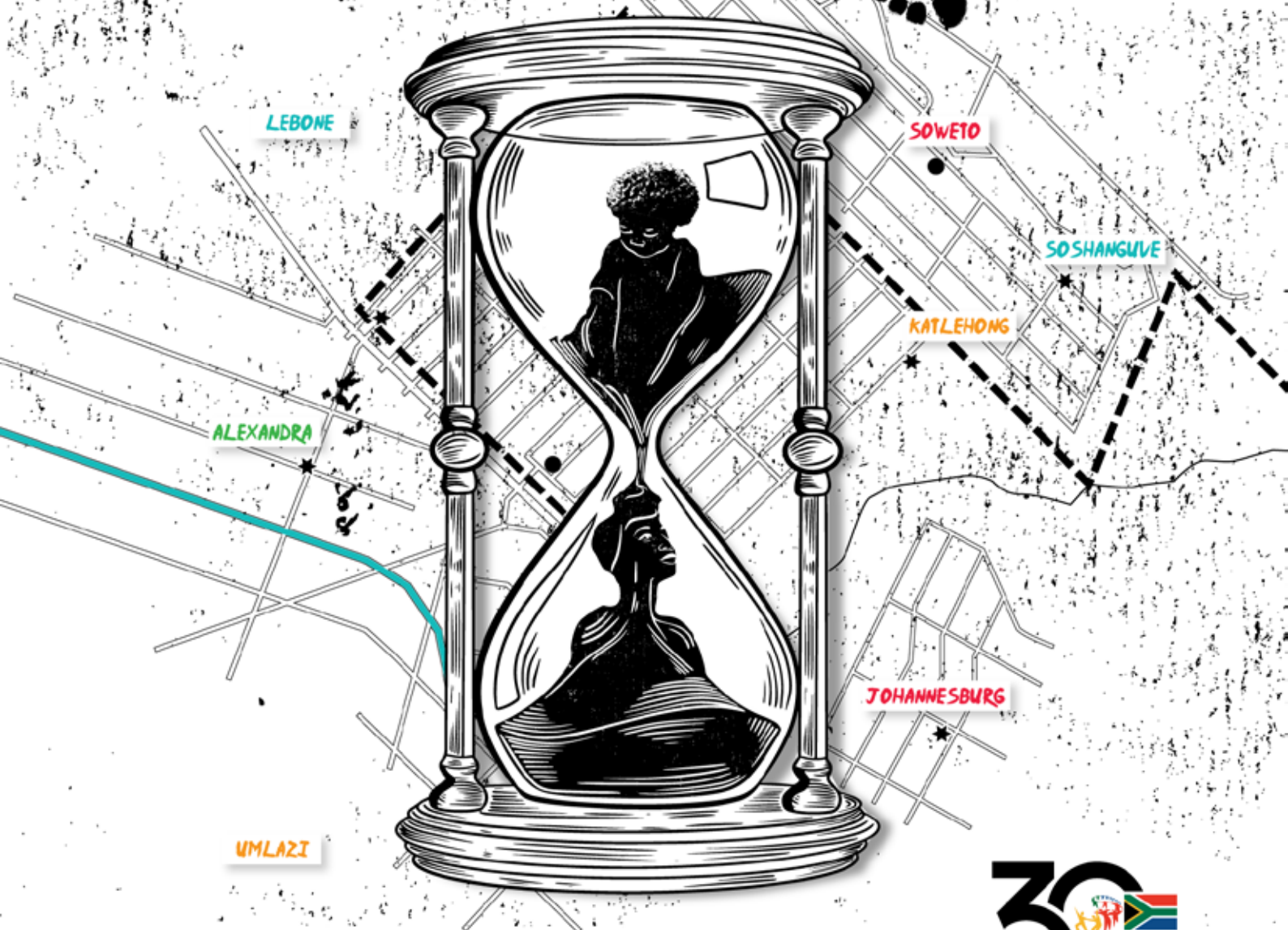

THE
WINDYBROW
ARTS CENTRE


THE
MARKET
THEATRE



THE MARKET THEATRE LABORATORY PRESENTS

MEHLA!A



DIRECTED BY BILLY LANGA

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARKET LAB 2ND YEAR STUDENTS



24 OCTOBER
25 OCTOBER
26 OCTOBER
27 OCTOBER

2PM
7PM
3PM
3PM

RAMOLAO
MAKHENE

web tickets
AVAILABLE AT **Pick n Pay**





Abongile Matyutyu from *Coal Yard*. The show is back at the Market after winning the Zwakala Festival 20 years ago.

THE MARKET THEATRE HOSTS MINISTER MCKENZIE'S 100 DAYS IN OFFICE CELEBRATION



Minister Gayton McKenzie and Deputy Minister Peace Mabe.

On 17 October 2024, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Gayton McKenzie, and his deputy, Peace Mabe, reported back to the nation on their first 100 days in office. The occasion was held at the Market Theatre, and was attended by reporters, members of the public, senior departmental officials and the Market Theatre's top management.

Chairperson of the Market Theatre Foundation council, Phil Molefe, delivered welcoming remarks, in which he emphasised the significance of the report-back session happening at the Market Theatre. Referring to it as powerful platform for protest theatre during apartheid, Molefe said the Theatre continues to be a space that tells truth to power.

Molefe added that culture remains the cornerstone of nation-building. "As we reflect on this milestone for the Department and for our nation, we are reminded of the essential role that art and culture play in shaping our society. We are proud to host this event in a space that stands as a testament to resilience, creativity, and the unyielding spirit of South Africans," he said.

Deputy Minister Mabe hailed her principal as a breath of fresh air in the department, saying: "The sports, arts and culture sector was never ready for someone like Minister McKenzie." Thereafter, the deputy minister detailed the exploits of her first 100 days in the department, with her flagship project being the homecoming of the remains of freedom fighters and anti-apartheid political leaders who died in Zambia and Zimbabwe. She also listed the support of cultural concepts such as the CUFA Fest in the Free State as some of her highlights.

Minister McKenzie, in a warmly welcomed speech, addressed trending stories about his department, including the cost breakdown of his Olympics stay in Paris, France, before giving an update on his 100 days as a minister in the Government of National Unity. Among others, he mentioned high level talks to bring UFC and F1 to South Africa, rescuing the National School of the Arts, formalising spinning as a sport and hosting the World Rally-Raid Championships in 2025.

NEW COO EXCITED TO RETURN TO THE MARKET THEATRE FOUNDATION

The Market Theatre Foundation (MTF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Lekgetho Makola as its new Chief Operations Officer (COO), effective from 15 October 2024.

Makola brings with him a wealth of experience in the sector. His tenure as the first CEO of the Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria distinguished him as an innovative leader who managed to steer the centre through post-COVID recovery by strengthening organisational resilience, inspiring innovation and promoting the transdisciplinary arts.

Makola is not new to the MTF, having been the Head of the Market Photo Workshop, one of the Foundation's business units. Prior to heading the business unit, he was its manager for programmes and projects. A graduate of Howard University MFA Film Studies and a Fellow of the Yale Directors Forum for Cultural Preservation in Africa, he has also had successful stints in different capacities at cultural institutions such as the Durban Art Gallery and the Robben Island Museum, among others.

According to the newly appointed COO, the MTF contributed immensely to his growth, as seen by the achievements of the team he used to lead at the Market Photo Workshop. "I have another exciting opportunity to contribute as part of the collective towards the rejuvenation and repositioning of the vibrant cultural landscape of the city of Johannesburg. It is an honour to be part of this leadership that aims to touch lives through storytelling and critical arts culture mediation and preservation," he stated.

In his new role, Makola will lead and direct the operational activities of the MTF with the aim of achieving the strategic objectives, policies and goals established by the CEO and Council. Furthermore, he will provide direction and leadership, as well as oversee the MTF's daily operations to deliver on its



MTF's new COO is Lekgetho Makola.

mandate, while directing the work of the heads of departments falling under his portfolio.

Market Theatre Foundation CEO, Tshiamo Mokgadi, described Makola's return to the institution as a tremendous boost, adding that he fits perfectly into its vision of being a cultural complex for all things theatre, music, dance and the visual arts. "I look forward to a great partnership with Mr Makola as we navigate South Africa's constantly changing artistic and cultural landscape," Mokgadi said.

'FATHERHOOD' SHINES AT 31st ZWAKALA FESTIVAL



Fatherhood won three awards at the 31st Zwakala Festival, including Best Production.

A new decade of the Zwakala Festival was kicked off in theatrical style between 18 – 20 October 2024 when this year's top four shows went head-to-head during the 31st edition of this community-based theatre showdown, held in the Ramolao Makhene Theatre.

Directed by Ntambo Rapatla, the Festival saw finalists – *Mollo*, *Pieces of a Woman*, *Fatherhood* and *Kgetsi* – all coming out guns blazing to impress adjudicators and win the hearts of audiences for the grand prize of having a season on the big Market Theatre stage.

Ultimately, *Fatherhood* was announced as the winning production for this year, kickstarting the next ten years of this three-decades-old festival. Written by Mike Dzova and directed by Archie Matsetela, *Fatherhood* narrates the heart-wrenching story of four young boys struggling to come to terms with the void left by their runaway fathers.

In addition to scooping Best Production, *Fatherhood* also lifted Best Script and Best Ensemble trophies. Meanwhile, *Kgetsi* walked away with Best Director (Jack Mabokachaba) and Best Actress (Dineo Kekana), while *Mollo* and *Pieces of a Woman* got Best

Breakthrough Performance (Jabulani Xubane) and Best Actor (Lwazi Dumaphi) respectively.

Addressing the Festival's awards ceremony, Market Theatre Foundation's Greg Homann said the winning production would undergo professional script development and mentorship, before having a life-changing run at the Market Theatre in the next artistic year. "So, once I announce the winners, the team will be in touch with them in the next two weeks and we will set up a meeting time where they will sit down with the producer, [Zodwa Shongwe] and I, and talk about what they need to make the work live beyond this space," Homann explained.

Adjudicators Shoki Mmola, Momo Matsunyane, Renos Nicos Spanoudes and Tshepo Ratona also took turns sharing industry wisdom with contestants. "Let's not forget to always be prepared. Opportunities like this come along, but you have to be prepared, and success happens when preparation meets opportunity. So, we're always working on our crafts," said Momo Matsunyane, who also shared her journey from being an unemployed graduate and directing a Zwakala-winning show to directing the Festival and sitting on the judging panel for its 31st edition.

PHOTO INCUBATOR EQUIPS PHOTOPRENEURS WITH BUSINESS SKILLS



Photopreneurs learning from the best during the Photo Incubator masterclasses.

On 1 - 4 October 2024, the Market Photo Workshop hosted the ninth edition of its annual Photo Incubator masterclasses for photography entrepreneurs. The masterclasses targeted photographers with at least two years in business, and focused on business development, funding opportunities and monetisation, personal branding, creating a distinctive value proposition and offering financially sustainable products and services.

Participating photopreneurs heaped praises on the masterclasses and facilitators. One of them, Simphiwe Fuwe Molefe, highlighted the meaningful connections he made through the incubator. "I am confident that the connections made and knowledge gained have equipped me to take my business to new heights. The industry awaits, and I am ready to explore the opportunities that have been unlocked through this incredible programme. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of something so transformative," said Molefe.

Fezeka Mophethe added that the photo incubator expanded her understanding of the business side of photography, offering her valuable insights into how to market her work, manage finances, and build a professional network. "The mentors and peers I have connected with are resources I wouldn't have had access to otherwise, and they've played a big role in pushing my work out into the world," Mophethe shared.

John Mathibeng, who runs Jay Visuals, described the photo incubator as life-changing, saying his business has seen a significant increase in sales. "The workshops on marketing and brand positioning have helped me craft a clear, distinct identity for Jay Visuals, which resonates well with my target audience. This has had a direct impact on the growth of my client base and the recognition of my work in the local photography scene," explained Mathibeng.

MANTSOPA STAGED READING A MULTICULTURAL HIT



Mantsopa writer and director, Dr Jerry Mofokeng wa Makhetha engaging the audience.

The Market Theatre sparkled with colour and style as people came to witness the staged reading of *Mantsopa*, a play in development by Dr Jerry Mofokeng wa Makhetha. Although the reading was staged to commemorate 200 years of Basotho as a nation, it attracted and resonated across different cultures, creating a truly South African atmosphere, united in diversity.

For the duration of the staged reading, the John Kani Theatre was as quiet as a cemetery, with the audience watching the show with keen interest. The reading was followed by a reflection session, allowing people space to share their thoughts on both its contents and meaning.

One audience member shared that the story of Tholwana, a young woman with a singing talent and spiritual calling passed down from her prophetess grandmother, *Mantsopa*, moved her. Having rejected the gift all her life, it was only when Tholwana accepted her calling that

her music career also began taking shape.

“As Africans, we are great and we’ve always had communication and relationship with the Creator of heaven and earth, through the guidance of the seer, prophetess, Gogo *Mantsopa*. Now, in present day relevance, I want to encourage every person, that there still are true prophets and we must seek them in truth and our power and wisdom will be restored, the same power that our forefathers had, and we will also be as powerful as they were,” she said.

Another commenter praised the script for not telling *Mantsopa*’s story in an old-fashioned way, but relating it to contemporary times. “I’m a Sesotho teacher and I think my learners wouldn’t have found this to be boring because as much as it is the story of Mme *Mantsopa*’s life, it was narrated through Tholwana’s, and it was infused with our current life experiences.”

CION BACK FOR A SHORT SEASON AT THE MARKET



Gregory Maqoma's Cion is an internationally acclaimed piece.

From 31 – 3 November 2024, audiences will experience Gregory Vuyani Maqoma's internationally acclaimed piece, *Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero*. Following raving reviews all over the world in the last seven years since the production premiered, it returns to the stage that saw its first breath, the John Kani at the Market Theatre. This season forms part of the Vuyani Dance Theatre's 25th anniversary celebrations.

For this physically charged and visually striking piece, Maqoma took inspiration from Zakes Mda's professional mourner called Toloki, found in his novels *Ways of Dying* and *Cion*. Toloki is brought to life on stage in *Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero*.

The music in the piece is delivered in its original format by an Isicathamiya quartet and the percussive voices of the Vuyani dancers, under the musical direction of Nhlanhla Mahlangu.

Maqoma and Mahlangu's use of *Ravel's Bolero* has served as a requiem to the departed souls, while offering an opportunity to those who have witnessed this production to find hope in humanity and heal from whatever emotional wounds they harbour.

Make sure to catch this moving dance piece choreographed to ultimate perfection, for three days starting 31 November 2024.

EXCITING MOMENTS FROM THE MARKET



MTF Council Chairperson, Phil Molefe, and CEO Tshiamo Mokgadi having a light moment with Minister McKenzie.



Shoki Mmola sharing nuggets of wisdom during Zwakala Festival.



31st Zwakala Festival Director, Ntambo Rapatla, and Festival Coordinator Lesego Van Niekerk



Coal Yard is showing at the Market Theatre until 27 October 2024.



Drama for Life conference at the Market Theatre.



Windybrow Arts Centre pilot reading circle for the junior arts group.

LET'S MEET AT THE MARKET

A cultural complex for theatre, music, dance and visual arts.



Visit www.markettheatre.co.za for show info.

SAFE AND SECURE PARKING
AVAILABLE AT

NEWTOWN
junction

THE MALL THAT CELEBRATES SOUTH AFRICAN CULTURE