

JAN -  
MARCH

# IYABUYA IPOPART *festival*

20  
23

AFDA RED ROOF THEATRE \* THE BIOSCOPE \* UJ ARTS CENTRE \* BREEZEBLOCK \* MARKET THEATRE LAB

SKIERLIK \* TSWALO \* KAFKA'S APE \* TEXT ME WHEN YOU ARRIVE \* FIREHOUSE \* AN UPDATED SYLLABUS FOR THE WOKE \* CHANT! \* BORN NAKED \* COTTONWOOL KID \* JBOBS LIVE \* CAUSING A SCENE LIVE IMPROV \* THE BOX COMEDY \* SERURUBELE STORYTELLERS SERIES \* and more

**POPART**

National  
Arts Council **NAC**  
an Agency of the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture



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sport, arts & culture  
Department:  
Sport, Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# ABOUT THE IYABUYA iPOP Art FESTIVAL

The **IYABUYA iPOP Art Festival** is both a celebration of POP Art's greatest hits : that is, productions that were popular with our audiences at the theatre from 2022 - 2020, as well as productions that we feel best represent our spirit and ethos. The festival celebrates the spirit of Independent theatre as we relaunch into a post pandemic Johannesburg.

Including an astounding number of award winning productions and arts practitioners, as well as productions across genres and mediums, the festival takes place from January to March 2023 in various venues in and around Johannesburg.

## About the venues and partners

While the curation of the festival celebrates our artistic partners, the various venues celebrate our venue and project partners who have been instrumental in the our history, and more recently, helping us get through the last two years!

The core programme will take place at the AFDA Red Roof Theatre, with POPUp events and workshops at the Market Theatre Laboratory, the Bioscope Independent Cinema, UJ Arts Centre, Breezeblock, the Centre for the Less Good Idea and more.

We are also grateful to have support from the National Arts Council Presidential Employment Stimulus Package for the presentation of this festival.

## #IYABUYA iPOP Art

The phrase, meaning "it's coming back", speaks to the fun and fundraising aspects of the festival. After 10 years of operation as Johannesburg's premiere independent Live Arts venue in the Maboneng Precinct, we decided to take a short hiatus at the beginning of 2020. With all the uncertainty of the past few years, we weren't sure if we were coming back... the festival celebrates that, due to a demand from both the artists and our established audience, we are *definitely* coming back as a permanent Independent Theatre house.

While giving a much needed boost to the independent arts sector, the festival is also a fundraising festival for the POP Art Theatre. 40% of the revenue generated will go toward the costs of re-opening of the POP Art Theatre in 2023.

By joining us for any or every one of the shows in this awesome festival, you also get to contribute to the future sustainability of the theatre and the important work we do for independent live artists.

**#IchaileLetsGo**

**IYABUYA iPOP Art festival**

**JAN - MARCH 2023**

JBOBS LIVE . 24 HOURS IN THE CITY. CHANT! BORN NAKED KAFKA'S APE. THE BOX COMEDY. COTTONWOOL KID. SKIERLIK. SERURBELE STORYTELLERS SERIES. AN UPDATED SYLLABUS FOR THE WAKE. TSWALO. TEXT ME WHEN YOU ARRIVE. FIREHOUSE. CAUSING A SCENE... AND MANY MORE.

Details and bookings : [www.popartcentre.co.za](http://www.popartcentre.co.za)



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Arts Council **NAC**  
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**[AFDA]**  
film • television • performance • business innovation & technology  
the school for the creative economy

**POP Art**

# PROGRAMME - Headline shows

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## **TSWALO : 25 - 29 Jan 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Written and performed by Billy Langa. Directed by Mahlatsi Mokgonyana.

\*The Theatre Duo are also the 2023 Standard Bank Young Artist Award recipients

TSWALO is a celebration of the art of solo performance - a narrative that is carried in both Physicality and Voice. It is placed in a timeless space of existence, which explores the primary themes of being, chaos and beauty, blood and birth, love and war in the same frame.

**"Mystical made manifest "** -The Critter

## **KAFKA'S APE : 2 - 5 Feb 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Adapted and Directed by Phala O Phala. Performed by Bonani Tony Miyambo.

\*Multi Award Winning. Performed in over 13 cities across the globe

Kafka's Ape is a solo performance adaptation of Franz Kafka's 'A Report To An Academy' about a primate's struggle to overcome the confines of captivity. The play engages in an allegorical observation of the South African society through the eyes of other; the ape Red Peter. Kafka's Ape present a conflicting point of view in which traditional boundaries, categories, and norms are questioned; in which beauty, harmony, and symmetry are usurped by cruelty, dissonance, and abnormality.



## **TEXT ME WHEN YOU ARRIVE : 9 - 12 Feb 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Created and Performed by Aaliyah Matintela, Sibahle Mangena and Thulisile Nduvane. Directed by Sinenhlanhla Mgeyi. Mentored by MoMo Matsunayne

\*Naledi Award Nominee 2022

Text Me When You Arrive puts to trial the social media trends around gender-based violence and questions the practicality of such hashtags and the ability of the digital space to exert tangible change in the scourge of gender-based violence in South Africa. The play is inspired by the daily plight of women in South Africa, inside their homes and on the streets. In the play, three friends make a YouTube video, advising women on "how to not get raped and killed in South Africa".

**\*\*\*GREAT FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES Life Orientation and Sex Education**



# PROGRAMME - Headline shows



## **FIREHOUSE : 16 - 19 Feb 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Performed by Katlego KG Letsholonyane, Tebogo Machaba and Ryan Dittman. Directed by Kirsten Harris. Created by the company.

\*Standard Bank Ovation Award winner : National Arts Festival

Three actors transform a small space and a ladder into a myriad of imagined worlds. Using physical theatre and clowning they tell the stories of fire fighters working in the city of Johannesburg.

Fire House is a devised offering, a social X-ray of the stories of three civil servants fighting fires against a backdrop of political instability and fires that cannot be contained.

## **AN UPDATED SYLLABUS FOR THE WOKE : 23 - 26 Feb 2023 :**

### **AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Performed by Mpho Malesa, Kgothatso Makwala, Khethukuthula Jele, Martin Grendele and Aaliyah Matintela. Written by Hayleigh Evans and Ncumisa Ndimeni in collaboration with the cast.

An Updated Syllabus for the Woke is a play on South African histories : tracing as far back as possible; that is *before* the Dutch landed in the Cape in 1652 and all the way up to now - drawing a line between how the histories have been taught and represented and the effect that this has on our understanding of the world, and our South African realities today. As all good satires do, this play holds a mirror up to the system but also to ourselves as we seek to recognise where and how we lost consciousness, leaving us questioning... *Are we woke?*

\*\*\***GREAT FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES** History, Drama and Life Orientation (CRT)



## **CHANT! : 2 - 5 March 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Performed by Nhlanhla Mahlangu. Directed by Gerard Bester.

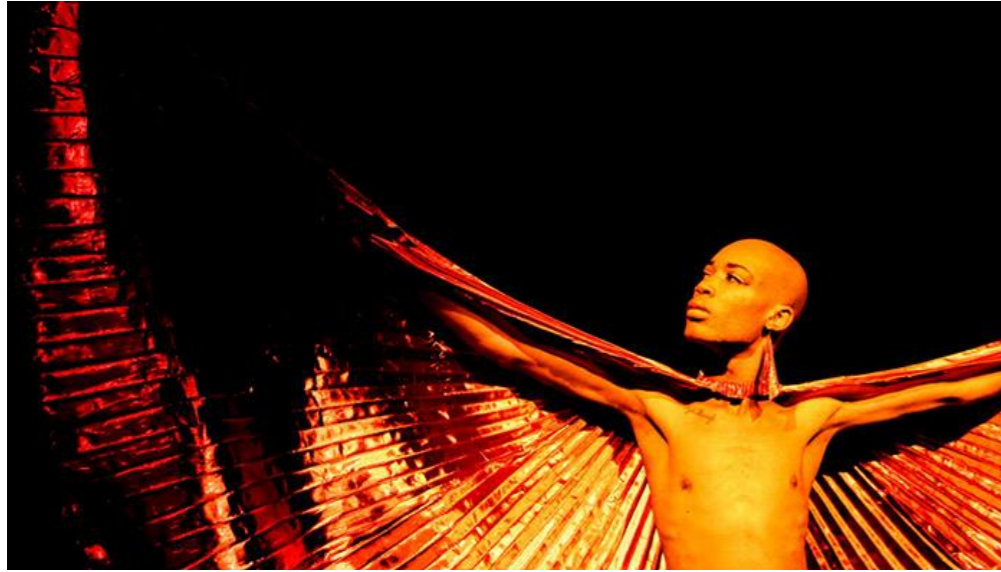
\* Performed in over 15 cities around the world.

In memory of Nhlanhla's grandmother, CHANT tells a personal story, journeying from the suburbs of Alberton to the squatter camp in Phola Park during the 80's and 90's.

CHANT was first commissioned by the Juliedans Artist's Lab in 2010 and premiered at the Juliedans Festival in Amsterdam in 2011. Other performance include Goethe on Main and Dance Umbrella Festival in 2012; the Jomba! Festival in 2015; and Season 2 at the Centre for the Less Good Idea in 2017, in which Nhlanhla was a guest curator.



# PROGRAMME - Headline shows



## **BORN NAKED : 9 - 12 March 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Performed by Jake Nathane and Lethabo Bereng. Directed by Kirstin Harris.  
Created by the company, based on the original text by Stephen Kotze.

Fasten your wigs and lock up your partners... Blaq Widow is back and on the prowl... her venom is 15 times more powerful than that of the rattle snake. Brace yourselves for an unexpected visit from Blaq Widow's long time friend, Queen Bling.

BORN NAKED invites you into the world of an aspiring drag star and her drag mother. Prepare to be assaulted by glitz, glamour, blinding colour and glitter, as well as the realities of being queer in South Africa.

A tribute to Thapelo Makhutle, you will always be remembered.

**\*\*\*PART OF THE IEB SCHOOLS DRAMA SYLLABUS**

## **COTTONWOOL KID : 16 - 19 March 2023 : AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Performed by Toni Morkel. Directed by Sylvaine Strike. Created by Toni and Sylvaine.

It has a name... But CK spends her childhood convinced that she'll be committed if anyone finds out... so she counts... Counts to contain...

Toni and director, Sylvaine Strike, have woven together a compelling narrative exploring the life of fictional character, CK, a little girl burdened by the pathological carelessness of her parents. CK goes through her journey with her loyal dog, Luigi, who is always by her side, keeping covey as she digs through everything carefully.

The material for Cottonwool Kid is garnered and loosely based on Toni Morkel's autobiographical material.



## **THENX PRESENTS**

Written and Performed by MoMo Matsunyane, Kitty Moepang and Tummy Motsatsoe

\*Finalists for Arts and Culture Trust ImpACT award, 2015

\* Standard Bank Ovation Winner, National Arts Festival 2016

Inspired by comedy gems like The Pure Monate Show, Late Night News with Loyiso Gola and The Catherine Tate Show, THENX uses satire and parody to capture the nuances of everyday life in a comical way. Truth has never tasted so real!! Do not be surprised when a much loved struggle song has new words or your favourite word is pronounced differently; shifting paradigms is the main purpose of this group.

The THENX LADIES have opened major comedy shows such as "Vernacular Spectacular", Mpho Popp's one man show at the Lyric Theatre and The Comics Choice Awards.

# PROGRAMME - Headline shows

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## **The Old and The Beautiful :**

**30 & 31 March and 1 & 2 April at the AFDA Red Roof Theatre**

Written and Performed by Fiona Ramsay and Tony Bentel. Directed by Janna Ramos-Violante

A charming musical journey through two prolific careers in the South African entertainment industry.

This piece stars Fiona Ramsay & Tony Bentel, who have worked together on several projects over many years and is a celebration of some of the work that they have enjoyed most and want to share with new and old audiences alike. Featuring music & excerpts from well known musical theatre classics, as well as original songs from the pair's collaborations, this witty and heartwarming piece is a must for theatre lovers of all generations. Seamlessly stringing together the various roles they have played throughout the years, it takes it's audience on a journey through the trials and successes of years in South African entertainment.

*"It's a true gem of a work, bringing together the considerable talents of Bentel and Ramsay. You might not be privileged enough to see it in the utter dark, but see it, you should: a delicate and gritty reflection on the fabric that make us all human and vulnerable"* - Robyn Sassen

# PROGRAMME - Headline Film

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## **SKIERLIK (Screenings) :**

**21, 22 and 25 Feb at The Bioscope Independent Cinema**

Written and Performed by Phillip Dikotla. Filmed and directed by Angus Gibson

\* Best Production : Zabalaza Theatre Festival. - Olive Schreiner Award 2014 for Drama.

Based on a tragic South African event of 14 January 2008, that took place in the small informal settlement of SKIERLIK. The play takes us on Thomas personal journey, returning back to his home of Skierlik, years after he left the place following the loss his daughter and wife on the eventful day. This heartfelt, traumatic, and thought provoking story of love, loss, and hope, paints poetic pictures with words, as told by the masterful story-teller that is Phillip Dikotla.

VIEW TRAILER HERE: <https://www.skierlik.com/watch-promo>



# PROGRAMME - POP UP SHOWS



## **24 Hours in the City : 21 January at The Market Theatre Lab**

Our annual 24 hour theatre festival : 6 writers, 6 directors and 24 actors get 24 hours to make 6 x 10 minute plays. It's mayhem for the players and absolute joy for the audience. ONE NIGHT ONLY.

## **JBOBS LIVE : 24 January at the Bioscope**

Standard Bank Young Artist 2020 Jefferson 'JBOBS' Tshabalala brings his brilliant brand of woke comedy to the festival with his specialised game show performance "OFF THE RECORD". In this edition, expect to get the chance to laugh at yourself and your fellow South Africans as we look at how reality has challenged us over the past two years.

**More dates for February and March to follow**

## **CAUSING A SCENE : Dates & Venues TBC**

Our POPArt improv crew stayed tight throughout lockdown and, as a result, our ensemble can pretty much make up an excellent show right before your eyes! If you love improv, or want to know what the hell that means... Don't miss Causing A Scene at the IYABUYA iPOP Art Festival.

Workshops are available. Great for team building too!

## **SERURUBELE STORYTELLERS SERIES : 14 February at Breezblock Cafe**

Presented in partnership with Lebogang Mogashoa (writer & EP : Savage Beauty), this has been a firm favourite on the POPArt calendar since 2015. Based on formats like 'The Moth' and 'Risk!', Serurubele aims to find and share a new South African Story by providing a platform for real true stories from everyday people.

March dates and venue to follow

## **THE BOX COMEDY : 24 February at UJ Arts Centre**

Presented in partnership with Goliath&Goliath, the Box Comedy was a Sunday night Johannesburg legend. We are bringing back our special mixed line ups with some of SA's best stand up comedy talent especially for the festival. Don't miss it!

March dates and venue to follow





# PROGRAMME - CALENDAR OVERVIEW

## JANUARY 2023

21 January at 8pm (SAT)  
 25 January at 7:30pm (WED)  
 26, 27, 28 January at 7:30pm  
 29 January at 3:30pm

24 HOURS IN THE CITY  
 JBOBS LIVE : Off the Record  
  
 Tswalo

The Market Theatre Lab (Newtown)  
 The Bioscope (44 Stanley)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)

## FEBRUARY 2023

2, 3, 4 February at 7:30pm  
 5 February at 3:30pm  
 9, 10, 11 February at 7:30pm  
 12 February at 3:30pm  
 14 February at 7pm  
 16, 17, 18 February at 7:30pm  
 19 February at 3:30pm  
 21 and 22 February at 7pm  
 25 February at 4pm  
 23, 24, 25 February at 7:30pm  
 26 February at 3:30pm  
 24 February at 7:30pm

Kafka's Ape  
  
 Text Me When You Arrive  
 SERURUBELE Storytellers Series  
  
 Firehouse.  
 SKIERLIK (screening)  
 Filmmakers in attendance on 21 Feb  
  
 An Updated Syllabus for the Woke  
 THE BOX COMEDY : 20in5

AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
 Breezeblock Cafe (Brixton)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 The Bioscope (44 Stanley)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
 UJ Arts Centre

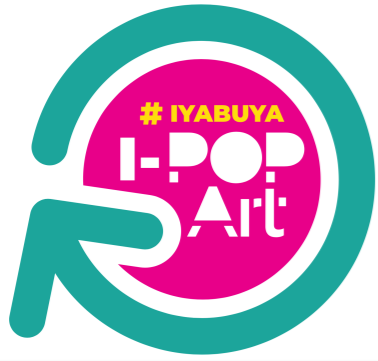
## MARCH 2023

2, 3, 4 March at 7:30pm  
 5 March at 3:30pm  
 9, 10, 11 March at 7:30pm  
 12 March at 3:30pm  
 16, 17, 18 March at 7:30pm  
 19 March at 3:30pm  
 23, 24, 25 March at 7:30pm  
 26 March at 3:30pm  
 30 & 31 March and 1 April at 7:30pm  
 2 April at 3:30pm

CHANT!  
  
 Born Naked.  
  
 Cottonwool Kid  
  
 THENX presents  
  
 The Old and the Beautiful

AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)  
  
 AFDA Red Roof Theatre (Milpark)





# BOOKINGS AND DETAILS

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## **Ticket Prices :**

All headliner shows are R 150 when tickets are bought online (R160 if purchased at the door).

POPUp and special programmes range from R 80 - R 120.

Block Booking discounts are available for selected shows.

Venue addresses of the various venues will appear on your booking receipt.

## **Bookings :**

Book or reserve tickets directly via our website at <https://popartcentre.co.za/theatre/book-tickets/>

Tickets may be available directly from the venue site for our POPUp programme.

To arrange alternative payment methods, email us at [popartjhb@gmail.com](mailto:popartjhb@gmail.com)

## **Block & Schools Bookings :**

To make a block or schools reservation and pay via EFT, email [popartjhb@gmail.com](mailto:popartjhb@gmail.com)

Some productions will be able to come to you (especially the schools productions).

For more information on logistics and costs, email [info.popartjhb@gmail.com](mailto:info.popartjhb@gmail.com)

## **Corporate bookings & workshops :**

Some of our programmes and workshops can be adapted for corporate team building.

For more info, email [popartjhb@gmail.com](mailto:popartjhb@gmail.com)

## **Fundraising :**

If you would like more info on how you can contribute to the future of POPArt as a full time Independent Theatre, please get in touch with us for our various funder packages. Alternatively, you are welcome to make a donation via our website :

<https://popartcentre.co.za/donate/>