

17-20

APRIL 20

Joburg Theatre Space.com

25

12

Live Arts Festival

FOUR DAYS

TWELVE New Theatre Pieces

TWELVE Official languages

space.com at
JOBURG THEATRE

POPArt

for tickets call **0861 670 670**
or visit **www.joburgtheatre.com**

WHAT IS THE 12/12 FESTIVAL

POPArt presents the 12/12 Live Arts Festival 2025: 12 short pieces, in 12 minutes each, each one in one of South Africa's 12 official languages. The festival aims to encourage creatives and live performing artists to create work in their mother tongue - or their favourite language - sharing this work with a curious audience.

The festival will be an excellent moment of exchange and experimentation with audiences, challenging our ability to understand and translate through story.

The 12 / 12 Live Arts Festival will take place at Joburg Theatre, Johannesburg from 17 April - 20 April 2025 in Johannesburg, with a new programme featuring 3 works each on every evening of the festival!

SHANDIS 1 : 17 April at 7pm :

JOKO/ MOUTH SOUNDS / HOME SWEET HOME
SEPEDI/ ENGLISH / SISWATI

SHANDIS 2 : 18 April at 7pm

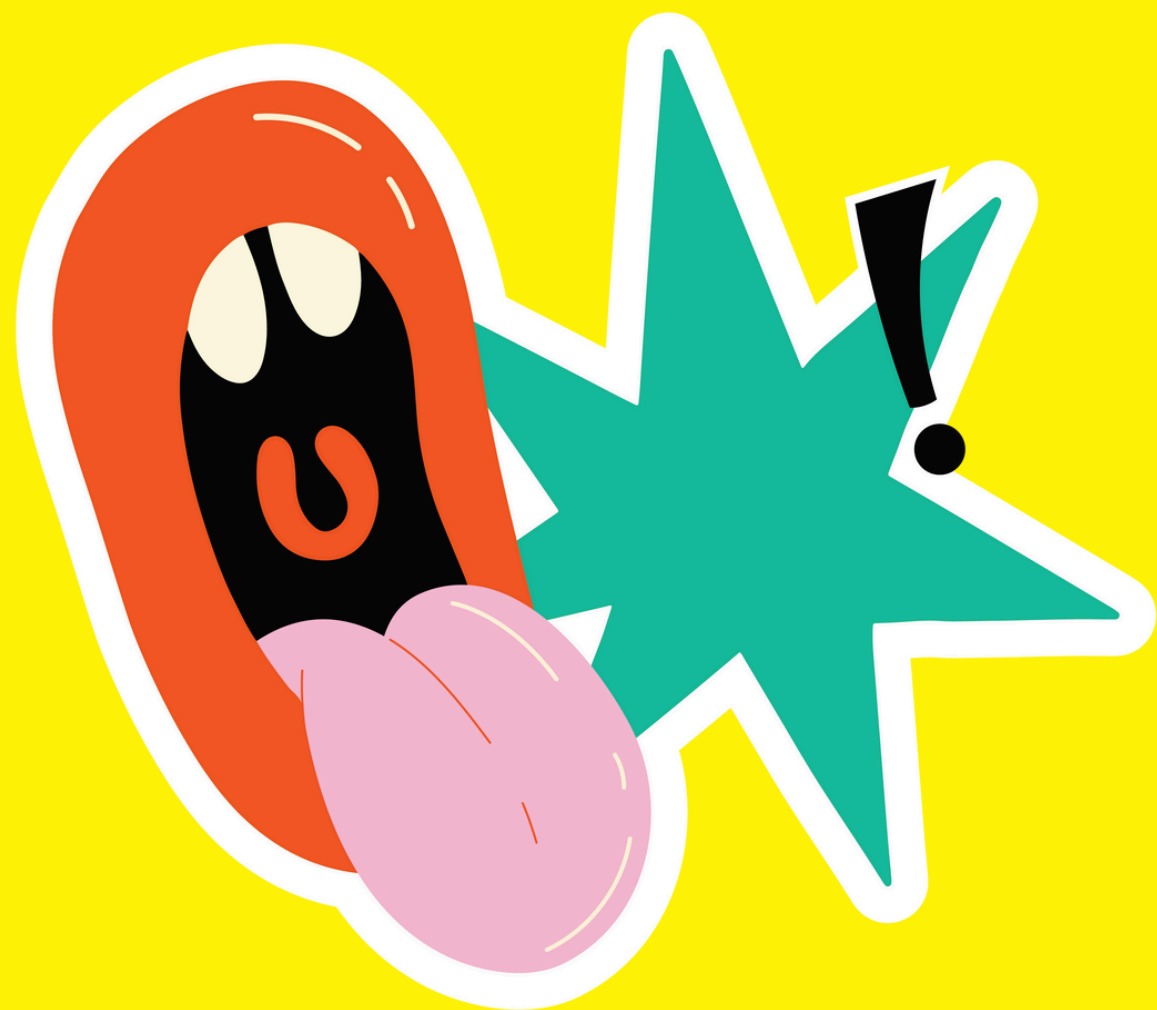
OPERATION MZAMI/ TELL THE KING THAT THE WONDROUS HALL HAS FALLEN TO
THE GROUND / DAVIESVILLE
SESOTHO / ISIXHOSA / TSHIVENDA

SHANDIS 3: 19 April at 7pm

UMSANA NOMA FOR UMDRAZANA/ IN A LUCKY PLACE/ TLADIMOTHWANA
ISINDEBELE / AFRIKAANS / SETSWANA

SHANDIS 4 : 20 April at 3:30pm

KA GAZA / / DEAF HEART / ISIWULA / THE YET UNEXPERIENCED
XITSONGA / SA SIGN LANGUAGE / ISIZULU / DANCE



SHOWS : SHANDIS 1 : 17 APRIL at 7PM



JOKO | SEPEDI

Writer & Performer by LetAgo LA GA MoLApo |
Director by Kopano Mahlasi

Inviting us into his world through the hymn, JOKO ea hao e bobebe, Moruti JOKO takes us to church as he shares his love for his JOKO tea and his otherDISCREET love. He seeks an answer to the question, “Is God’s JOKO really that light?”

MOUTH SOUNDS | ENGLISH

Directed by Motsi Machoga | Assistant Directed by
Mishkah Nicholas | Performed by Lily Mulryan

A lone figure stands before the audience, wrestling with the weight of her own voice. She speaks, yet is unsure if she is truly being heard. As she navigates the complexities of language, identity, and self-expression, their thoughts spiral into a chaotic symphony of memories, doubts, and forgotten words.

Is language a bridge or a barrier? Can we ever be fully understood?

‘Mouth Sounds’ is an intimate exploration of what it means to communicate, to connect, and to embrace the unfinished conversation within us all.



HOME SWEET HOME | SISWATI

Directed by Sinenhlanhla Mgeyi | Written by Andile Mgeyi | Performed by
Andile Mgeyi, Mandisa Mgeyi & Sonia Mayor (understudy)

Home Sweet Home is a poignant story set in the dusty township of Emba Village, following siblings Sbusiso and Lungile as they return home for the holidays. Having built lives in the city, their visit forces them to confront painful memories, lingering guilt, and the stark contrast between their past and present. Encounters with old friends—Sthupha, now battling addiction; Zodwa, a young mother facing the realities of teen pregnancy; and Thulani, trapped in gangsterism—highlight the community’s ongoing struggles. As the siblings grapple with feelings of nostalgia, privilege, and responsibility, the story explores the complexities of family, memory, and the enduring impact of one’s environment. Ultimately, *Home Sweet Home* poses a powerful question: how do we honor our roots while forging ahead?



SHOWS : SHANDIS 2 : 18 APRIL at 7PM



TELL THE KING THAT THE WONDROUS HALL HAS FALLEN TO THE GROUND | ISIXHOSA

Director by Masked Performer: Martin Grendele | Performer by Aaliyah Zama Matintela | Translator by Sive Ka Joy

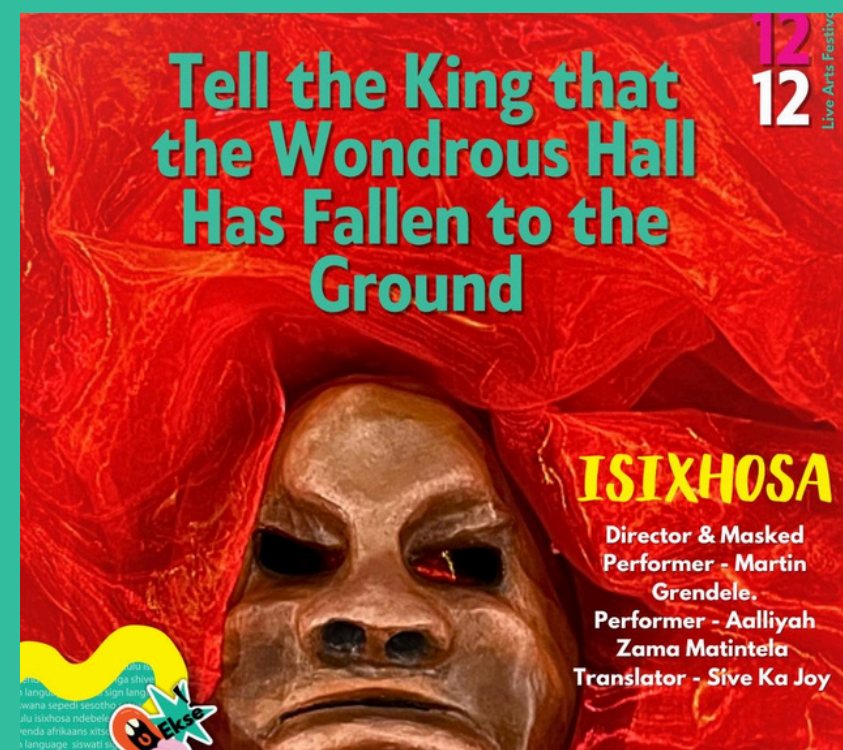
A priestess of divination is set to give her flock her final prophecy before she may retire after many years of faithful service. But what she sees may alter her life and the people's forever. Theatrically Tell the King... is an exploration of the poetic and heightened performance capabilities of isiXhosa. Featuring extracts from Ancient Greek texts translated specifically for this piece.



OPERATION MZAMI | SESOTHO

Director by Sinenhlanhla Mgeyi |
Performed by Mashoto Mphahlele, Neo Moloi & Chrisophocus Seboka

The show is a mixture of satirical and physical exploration, it touches on the system of the mining world both legal and illegal experienced today in the political landscape of the African diaspora exposing how gold has been stolen from the land and how it benefited colonisers while the natives continue to suffer under the corrupt system.



DAVIESVILLE | TSHIVENDA

Created & Written by Kamuhelo Mailula | Directed by Tebogo Kobo
| Production Managed by Nkateko Mabunda | Stage Managed by Matimu Manganyi | Set designed by Atalia Ntimbane | Lightning designed by Themba Nkabinde | Sound technician by Kamogelo Moremi | Costume & Make Up by Amanda | Content creation by Matlhatsi Ntuli | Performed by Kamuhelo Mailula

The play revolves around the story of the Mulatshawe clan, a family that was forcibly removed from their ancestral sacred land due to The Natives Land Act of 1913. Charles Kreik under Act 27, occupied a sacred site known as Zwifhoni found in Tshinwamukumbi where the Mulatshawe ancestors' spirits reside. This site holds great cultural and spiritual significance for this family, who have practiced their rituals and communicated with their ancestors there for generations. As the play unfolds, it becomes questionable whether the Kriek family's occupation of Tshinwamukumbi which they later change to DAVIESVILLE, has awakened the wrath of the Mulatshawe ancestors. As Under mysterious circumstances, the Kriek's began to perish and the has since been crime and dying of crops.

SHOWS : SHANDIS 3: 19 APRIL at 7pm



IN A LUCKY PLACE | AFRIKAANS

Performed by Brooklyn Lottering | Directed by Neo Moloi | Written by Brooklyn Lottering, Neo Moloi & Sechaba Makhoti

A high paced, superenergetic comedy about an out of luck Lionel Stevens, who goes on a hit Game Show to win 1 Billion Rand!



UMSANA NOMA UMDRAZANA? | ISINDEBELE

Created & directed by Sboniso Thombeni | Performed by Feziwe Nyoni & Sboniso Thombeni

In an imagined and make-shift playground in a South African township, two children meet. Both at the margins of their expected gendered expression (a boy who plays with girls -femboy; a girl who plays with boys – tomboy), they come together in suspicion, curiosity, wonder, terror and childhood innocence to create a world of their own.

In a series of vignettes of song, dance, poetry, music and play, 'umsana noma umdrazana?' uses indigenous and contemporary isiNdebele childhood games, remixed and reimagined, to question and queer inherited notions of masculinity and femininity as they exist in the society we live in, through the lens of a child.



TLADIMOTHWANA | SETSWANA

Performed by Gofaone Bodigelo & Yangintsikelelo Klaas | Directed by Yangintsikelelo Klaas | Written by Gofaone Bodigelo

In the heart of a small town in South Africa, Silent Storm unfolds in the cramped yet cozy kitchen of a modest home. As the sun rises and the morning chaos begins, Mpho and Tebogo, a young Setswana couple, are in the midst of a silent war. The remnants of last night's heated argument hangs heavily in the air. The play dances between humor and tension, as the couple's struggle to avoid confrontation turns into a series of miscommunications and realizations. Their journey through the morning chaos slowly becomes a deeper conversation about love, expectations, and what it really means to take the next step in life together. By the time they leave the house, the couple finds themselves at a crossroads. Can they bridge the silence between them, or is the rift too wide to fix?

12
12
FESTIVAL

SHOWS : SHANDIS 4 : 20 APRIL at 3:00 pm



DEAF HEART POETRY | SASL

Poetry by Daline Maasdorp |
Interpretation by Thuli Zikalala

Deaf Heart Poetry explores the emotional and sensory experiences of individuals who feel disconnected from the world around them-both literally and figuratively. The title evokes a sense of silence, where the heart, though still capable of feeling, is unable to fully hear or understand the rhythm of life and the voices of others. This piece dives deep into themes of isolation, inner turmoil, and the yearning for connection. Through poignant imagery and poignant language, the poetry expresses the internal struggle of navigating a world that feels distant or muted, highlighting the desire for emotional romance and the search for belonging. It calls attention to the deafening silence of unspoken feelings and the weight of unexpressed emotion, ultimately portraying a journey of self-discovery, healing, and the hope for a deeper connection.



KA-GAZA | XITSONGA

Performed by Darlington Makhobozi | Directed by Snenhlanhla Mgeyi |
Admin & stage managed by Nthabeleng Masudubele

Estavovo, an ambitious immigrant from Gaza in Mozambique, embarks on a journey to Johannesburg with dreams of wealth and greatness. He envisions building an empire, hoping to find work and create a new life in the bustling city. However, his dreams quickly turn to dust as he encounters the harsh reality of xenophobia. Despite his determination and resilience, the city's prejudice and hostility toward foreigners slowly erode his hope, leaving him stranded in a relentless struggle. As Estavovo's pursuit of a better life deepens, he becomes entangled in the destructive forces of discrimination, ultimately losing his life in a tragic battle against the very society he sought to conquer. His story serves as a poignant reminder of the silent, suffocating force of xenophobia and the high cost of dreams deferred.



ISIWULA | ISIZULU

Created by Sam Khuzwayo | Directed by Aalliyah Zama Matintela
| Performed by Mncedisi Hadebe & Nolwazi Qwabe

Mapholoba, a former security guard, returns to his rural village of eMgababa in KwaZulu-Natal after a three-year absence. Having lost his job in Johannesburg due to company closure, Mapholoba conceals his misfortune and adopts the persona of a successful city man. Upon his arrival Mapholoba's fabricated image is put to the test, his return isn't met with the warm welcome he anticipated from his wife MaDlamini and his friend Zondi, leading to disappointment and revelations that shake his perception of home and relationships. As Mapholoba navigates the complexities of his relationships and the societal norms that govern his community, he must confront the consequences of his actions.

SHOWS : SHANDIS 4 : 20 APRIL at 3:30pm

BONUS: 13th LANGUAGE

THE UNEXPERIENCED YET | MUSIC & DANCE

Choreographed & Performed by Tsholofelo Ndaba | Directed by Eugene Mashiane | Music
Produced by Lloyd Nkovani | Lyrics & Voxs Moja Records Artists | Composed by
Tsholo4elo

The Unexperienced Yet is a solo performance piece that delves into the transformative journey of self-discovery and future aspirations. This choreography offers a profound exploration of how one envisions their future self—whether in 10 years, 5 years, or just 52 weeks.

Through emotive movement and Pantsula dance, the piece conveys a deeply personal story about chasing dreams, creating a future vision, and working towards it—pushing through challenges and reaching for your highest potential.



HOW TO BOOK

TICKETS ARE :

R 120 per SHANDI (evening pass)
and R 300 for all the SHANDIS (a festival pass)

All shows take place at the Joburg Theatre Space.com

Bookings via webtickets :

SHANDIS 1 : <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1566992625>

SHANDIS 2 : <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1566993032>

SHANDIS 3 : <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1566993378>

SHANDIS 4 : <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1566993816>

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

This festival has been made possible by the brilliant teams at POPArt and the Joburg Theatre Space.com

For POPArt : Hayleigh Evans, Samkelisiwe Khuzwayo, Nqobile Maseko, Chrisophocus Seboka, Martin Grendele, Langalibalele Mathuthu, Lindokuhle Ngwena, Nolwazi Qwabe, Palesa Mothopi and Ntsokoane Mashoto Makgalemele.

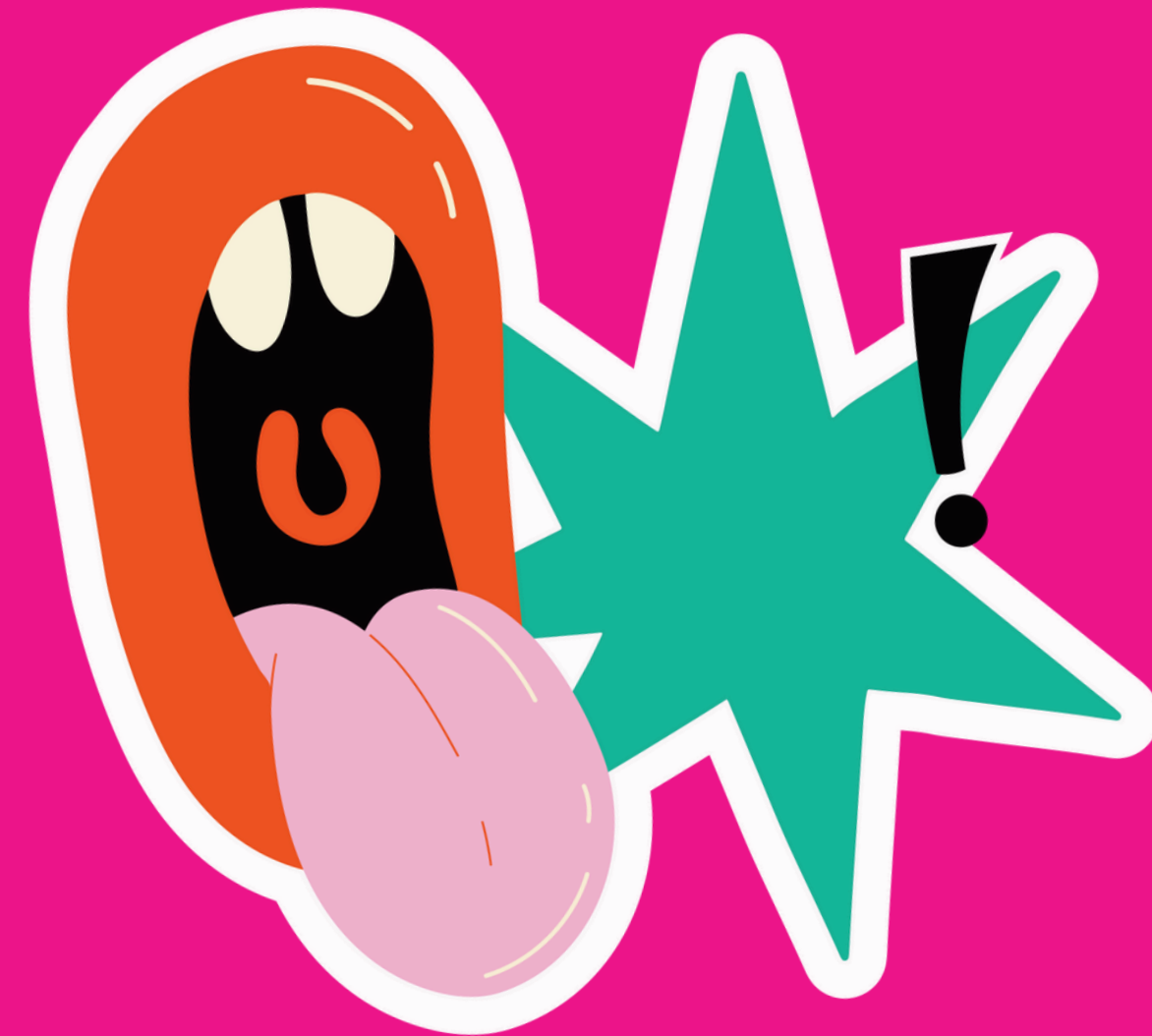
Dramaturges : Tshego Khutsoane, Daniel Buckland, Thandeka Nheke, Roberto Pombo, Cherae Halley, Jefferson Tshabalala, Kirsten Harris and Ncumisa Ndimeni

Joburg Theatre Space.com team : Ntsako Mkhabela, Yonelisa Sonqishe, Tshepo Letlhare & Zamanti Shongwe

POPArt & JOBURG THEATRE PARTNERSHIP: The festival is part of a long term partnership between the Joburg Theatre space.com and POPArt that will continue to nurture emerging theatre makers

REHEARSAL SPACE PARTNERS : Special thanks to the Market Theatre Lab & WindybrowArts Centre for sharing their rehearsal spaces with us

Special thanks to Differeant Creative for our festival logos and Archetype Media and Raymond Taiwe for archival videography



UPCOMING PROGRAMME

at space.com :

Dont miss the NEXT DRAFT workshops showcase “UP NEXT” on 25 & 26 April 2025 featuring Youth practitiners mentored through a workshop process that ran throughout the Next Draft partnership.

at POPArt Theatre :

10 & 11 May : Jozi Kings and Things present
“Mother’s Day”

22 - 25 May : “Don’t Believe a Word I say”
written and performed by Tankiso Mamabalo
and directed by Faniswa Yisa

www.popartcentre.co.za

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