



23 - 26

APRIL

Joburg Theatre Space.com

12
12 LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

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 2026: 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, Space.com from 23rd April - 26 April 2026 in Johannesburg.



SHANDIS 1 : 23 April at 7pm :

BEYOND THIS BODY-A PETITION / MAKODI / NGHUNGHUNANA
ISIXHOSA / SESOTHO / XITSONGA
BONUS ACT: ASKIES

SHANDIS 2 : 24 April at 7pm

S.P.C.A / INDUKU/ SASL PIECE
SISWATI / ISIZULU /
SOUTH AFRICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

SHANDIS 3: 25 April at 7pm

DOP IS MY TAAL / BEFORE THE BALLOT / UTHUNZ LOTHANDO
AFRIKAANS / SEPEDI / ISINDEBELE

SHANDIS 4 : 26 April at 3:30pm

DIKGANG TSA BAGOLO: NGWANA MME / (TBC) / MIND THE SCARF
SETSWANA / TSHIVENDA / ENGLISH

SHANDIS 1 : BONUS ACT

23 April at 7pm

ASKIES / SORRY

Performed by Thamsanqa Majela and
Phuti Teresa



ASKIES Is a mischievous, fast-paced performance that turns one small, overused word into a full theatrical event. Presented at the Centre for the Less Good Idea (Season 7), curated by William Kentridge and Phala Phala Ookeditse, the work dives headfirst into the chaos of human interaction—armed with nothing but “sorry”... and “askies”.

Through playful physicality, comic timing, and relentless interruption, the performers stretch this everyday word across languages, tones, and intentions. “Askies!” becomes apology, excuse, confrontation, affection -sometimes all at once. Whether bumping into each other, claiming space, or shamelessly provoking the audience, the duo exposes how language slips, shifts, and fails us in real time.

What unfolds is a hilariously awkward dance of closeness and collision, where politeness becomes performance, and one word—across English and vernacular refuses to behave

SHANDIS 1 : 23 April at 7pm



ISIXHOSA

BEYOND THIS BODY-A PETITION

Directed and Written by Zinobulali Goduka
Performed by Nosiphiwo Ndabeni.

A Petition is a historical fiction about a woman who is determined to get the bones of her twin brother from an estate she is not allowed in before the murderer of her brother is released on medical parole. Her brother's tombstone has become a heritage trophy for the whites and hell will break loose before she allows that sick prick to be buried next to her twin.

MAKODI

Written and Directed by Thabiso T. Rammala
Performed by Darlington Makhobozi

In the ancient kingdom of Lejwe Leputswa, where sacred bloodlines and mountain magic determine rule, tradition is shattered when Princess Nakambe claims the throne, defeating the presumed heir, Mokodi. Consumed by loss and manipulated by his mother's dark influence, Mokodi descends into obsession and vengeance. As magic, power, and patriarchy collide, the story unravels into a gripping exploration of ambition, identity, and the cost of refusing to accept fate.



XITSONGA

NGHUNGHUNANA

Directed by Tenso Mhlanga
Written by Philani Mhlanga
Performed by Brooklyn Lottering, Muzi Trust & Tenso Mhlanga

A story of King Nghunghunyana at the height of his reign, as he dares to defy a brutal system of slavery to restore his people's dignity. But his bold stand sparks betrayal from within, as loyalty turns to conspiracy and trusted allies become enemies, echoing the tragic fall of Julius Caesar.

SESOTHO



SHANDIS 2 : 24 April at 7pm



SISWATI

S.P.C.A

Directed by Sinenhlanhla Mgeyi
Written by Andile Herman Mgeyi
Performed by Sphesihle Dlada, Ntokozo Mgeyi
and Andile Mgeyi

In Zwelethu, witchcraft is life and trouble comes in tokoloshe form. Dzabula Manti Salukwati seNdvhodza and SalukwatisoLwandle, the S.P.C.A., are part ghostbusters, part superheroes, guiding their people through supernatural and very human chaos. When a powerful tokoloshe threatens Azanya, they must leave their studio and face a dangerous mission. Can they save the nation or will darkness win?

INDUKU

Directed by Samantha Masopha
Written By Sandile Makhanya
Music Director: Lethukuthula Solontsi
Physical Director: Lethukuthula Solontsi

INDUKU follows a village thrown into chaos when the sacred Stick of Life disappears. As fear spreads, secrets rise and true identities are revealed. At the center is Lindani, unknowingly chosen by the ancestors, with his sister Thembekile fighting to protect him as destiny begins to unfold.



ISIZULU



SASL

Created by Andiswa Gabashe ,Mr Sifiso
Gebashe and AJ Gebashe.

This comedic and visually captivating theatre piece follows a lovable, confident man who believes he has mastered the art of romance until love begins to misunderstand him.

This performance is a joyful and heartfelt reminder that love rarely goes as planned but in its imperfection, it becomes unforgettable.

SHANDIS 3 : 25 April at 7pm



AFRIKAANS

DOP IS MY TAAL

Conceptualiser: Lynn Daphne Rudolph
Percussionist: Micca Manganye
Narrator and Violist: Lynn Daphne Rudolph
Photographer: Zivanai Matangi

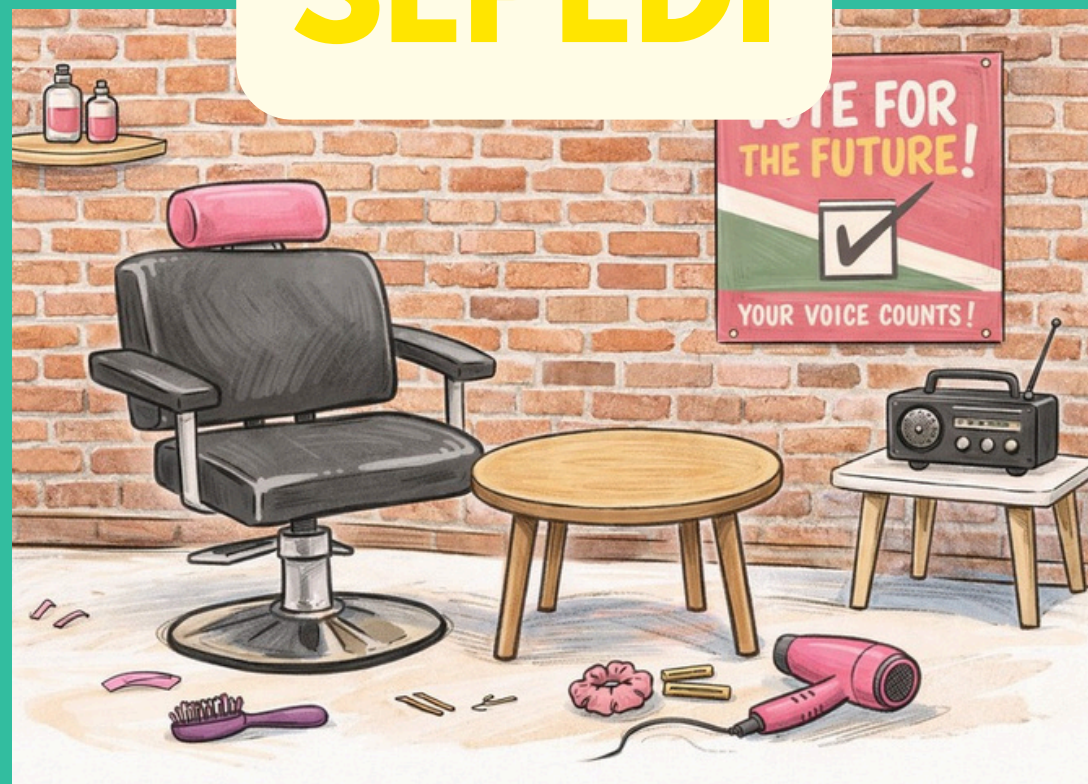
Dop is my Taal is an auto ethnographic, multi disciplinary performance that unpacks the lasting effects of colonialism on the KhoiKhoi and San communities, now known as the coloured community. Through a layered blend of sound, visual projection and spoken word, Rudolph explores how alcohol was used as a tool of colonial control, reshaping culture, identity and memory. The work traces the erosion of indigenous languages such as Nluu, Nama and Khwedam, and reflects on how violence and alcoholism became embedded within community life.

BEFORE THE BALLOT

Created by Manoko Francisca Tlhako
and Modipadi Mamokiritle Mokgohloa
In Collaboration with Molatelo Sebabi,
Kamogelo Ramaboya , Agisanang Galetuke
and Azwi Hilton Mashapa

Before the Ballot unfolds in a Polokwane CBD hair salon, where dry taps and empty promises set the stage. When the MEC's wife tries to skip the queue, tensions rise, sparking a sharp and deeply human clash about power, privilege, and accountability. Bold, funny, and uncomfortably close to home, it captures township democracy at its most intimate.

SEPEDI



ISINDEBELE

UTHUNZI LO THANDO

Directed by Ntlotliseng Matsabisa
Written and Performed by Lifa Mabena
Stage Manager - Romeo Dube

In a house where time no longer moves, a man lives among shadows of the woman and child he once loved. Through fragments of memory, faith, and guilt, he relives the moment love turned into something far more dangerous. Uthunzi Lo'Thando explores the cost of broken pride and the ghosts love leaves behind.

SHANDIS 4 : 26 April at 3pm

MUSANGWE WA MBILU

PRODUCED BY REZELDA NENZHELELE
DIRECTED BY THULANI MIGUEL RAMOGOTOTOANE
PERFORMED BY THULANI MIGUEL RAMOGOTOTOANE
AND TSHEPISO HLONGWANE
STAGE MANAGER: TSHEP SO HLONGWANE
SOUND DESIGNER : THABO MEDUPE

Most people know Musangwe as traditional bare-knuckle boxing, but here it becomes a metaphor for the internal conflict of a modern Venda person. Set in a 'virtual' ring shaped by light, this high-energy 12-minute physical piece stages a fight between tradition and urban survival. Through rhythmic Tshivenda dialogue and movement, the work builds toward not victory—but coexistence within one body.

SETSWANA

DIKGANG TSA BAGOLO:

NGWANA MME

Directed by Alfred Samane and
Boikhutso Phenyio

Performed by Kutlwano Reetsang,
Pablo%8 and Desire Mogomotsi

Dikgang Tsa Bagolo: Ngwana Mme is a Setswana narrative woven with a haunting interracial love story between Ahmed and Roelie during apartheid. Following artists and freedom fighters in exile, the piece reflects on shared histories of struggle and solidarity across Southern Africa, reminding us that we are our brother's keeper in the fight for liberation.

TSHIVENDA



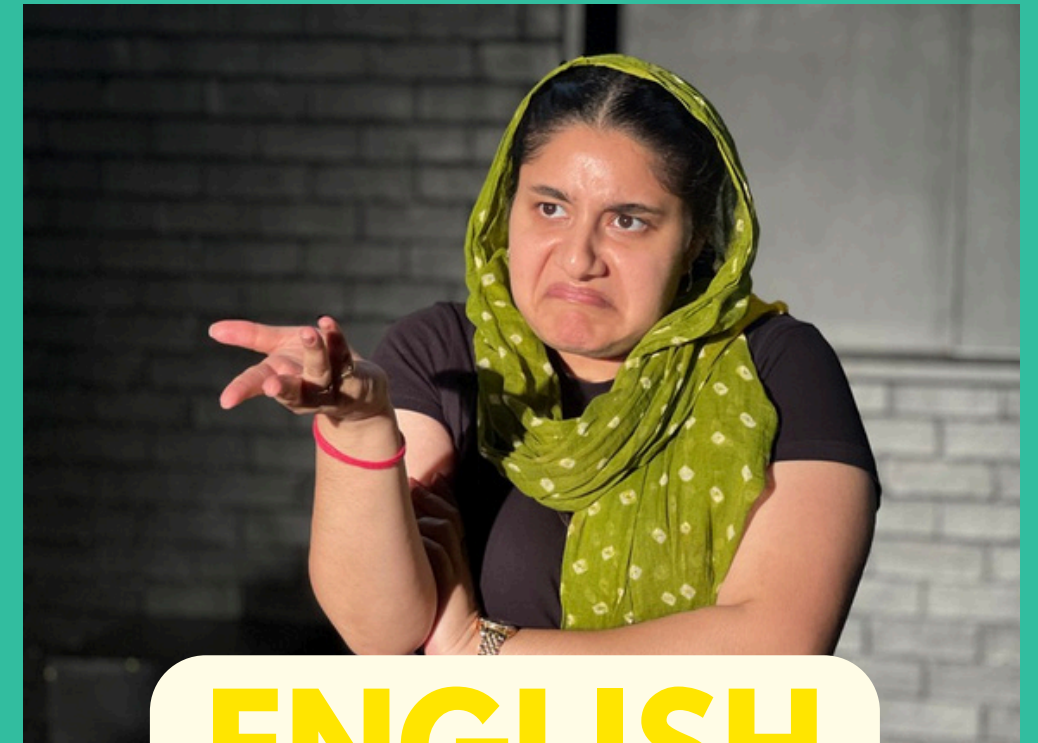
ENGLISH

MIND THE SCARF

Directing and Mentorship
by ZikkaZimba Productions

Written and Performed by Miriam Mayet

Mind the Scarf is a personal and powerful piece inspired by lived experiences and the voices of women navigating cultural misunderstanding and assumption. Set within the South African performance landscape, it highlights the need for authentic representation and marginalized voices. With warmth, honesty, and humour, it explores identity through rich, human stories that challenge and celebrate culture.



HOW TO BOOK

TICKETS ARE :

R 120 per Shandis

and R 300 for all the Shandis' (a festival pass)

All shows take place at the Joburg Theatre Space.com, Civic
Boulevard, Braamfontein

Bookings via webtickets :

<https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Event.aspx?itemid=1542399830>

space.com at
JOBURG THEATRE

POPART

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, Chrisophocus Seboka, Sanelisiwe Nene, Naledi 'Star' Mqoma, Lwazilwenkosi Mdluli, Té Cresswell, Vanessa Ntshiuwa, Mathews Makhura and Yangintsikelelo Klaas.

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Joburg Theatre Space.com team : Ntsako Mkhabela, Yonelisa Songqishe, Tshepo Letlhare, Ntombi & Ofentse.

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, and directors in particular.

REHEARSAL SPACE PARTNERS : Special thanks to the Market Theatre Lab, AFDA JHB & TUT Arts

Special thanks to Differeant Creative for our festival logos and Langalibalele Mathuthu for archival videography and Bash Hops for photography .

