

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 2015 NO 3
INCORPORATING
NSA NEWSLETTER



GOLD OVATION AWARD AT THE NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL



DANCE SPECTRUM AT THE NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Review from *Cue*, National Arts Festival in Grahamstown on *Dance Spectrum*:

"Impressive and technically strong, classical dancers slide easily into impactful contemporary and Spanish pieces. Choreography ranges from charming to powerful, with good use of movement and rhythm, in an overall delightful performance, executed with flare. Wonderful for any lover of dance. LG2."

Top productions on the Fringe programme at the National Arts Festival have been recognised for their creativity, experimentation and innovation with the awarding of Gold and Silver Standard Bank Ovation Awards. Jazz vocalist **Asanda Mqiki (Cont Music 2008)** was one of the three Gold Ovation Award winners. Well done!

Photo: CuePix / Jane Berg

Afro-Soul Singer and musical director, Asanda Mqiki, presents a recognisable brand with a unique singing style.

How and when did you decide that this is what you love and want to pursue as a career? "I grew up knowing that music was something I wanted to do. The realisation, however, sparked when I decided to go study at The National School of the Arts. I had always been a singer, but it all became real when I packed up my bags and went to Johannesburg. I believe there's magic in me to share with the world."

What excites you most about Festival? "Togetherness. I've been coming here since 2010 when I first met The Soil. Meeting up with everyone excites me, I also get to meet other artists – people I've always dreamt of meeting. The fact that people are just so comfortable here makes the Festival experience worth it."

Full article: <http://cue.ru.ac.za/2015/07/up-close-and-personal-with-asanda-mqiki/>



And of course, *Dance Spectrum* had a full house on their opening night at the National Arts Festival. Well done!



Elizabeth Frandsen - Mezzo Soprano (Music 1991) in the opera *The Medium* as Madame Flora (Baba), the psychic at the Suidoosterfees, Artscape Theatre Centre in Cape Town.

Arthur Pita: the David Lynch of dance



Arthur Pita (Dance 1990), centre, rehearsing *Facada* with Ivan Vasiliev and Natalia Osipova for the Ardani 25 Dance Gala at London's Coliseum.
Photograph: Doug Gifford

Pita's dance works have something of the surreal glamour, unsettling psychology and wired humour of a Lynch movie. But Pita is also becoming the choreographer-of-choice for classical dancers seeking to experiment outside their usual repertoires.

Pita's choreographic sass might have been forged on the disco floor but he continued to train seriously. In 1991, aged 19, he went to London to study for a master's degree at the London Contemporary Dance School, and stayed in the UK to become a dancer with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Company in 1997.

Full article: <http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2015/jun/22/arthur-pita-dance-choreographer-edward-watson-wendy-whelan-interview>



Remember to catch *West Side Story* at the Artscape Opera House (23 July – 23 August) with cast members including: **Christopher Jaftha (Art 2001)**, **Bianca Le Grange (Cont Music 1999)** and **Nurit Michele Graff (Drama 1997)**.



Pieter Toerien is proud to present Cape Town City Ballet in Marc Goldberg's (Dance 1998) dance adaptation of Noël Coward's controversial play *The Vortex*.

Adapted and choreographed by Marc Goldberg, with the line-up including **Kim Vieira (Dance 1995)** and **Elizabeth Nienaber (Dance 2006)**.



Thula Sindi (Art 2001) opened his first store at The Zone in Rosebank in June 2015. He is an example that patience, resilience and focus pay off.

Kim Elliott (Dance 1996) is a Creative Arts Volunteer Coordinator at Tayberry Enterprise Limited.



Kim has spent most of her life training and engaging in dance choosing to specialise in Classical Ballet Technique as a child. In 1999 she was a semi-finalist in The Adeline Genée Awards in London and went on to tour with The European Ballet the following year.

Prior to joining the Tayberry team Kim lectured for 12 years at Dundee & Angus College's Scottish School of Contemporary Dance where she lectured in Classical Ballet Techniques, dance history and choreographed productions as well as managing multi-faceted productions for both stage and site specific works.

Tayberry is a start-up social enterprise in Dundee providing performing arts activities and employment opportunities for individuals with significant barriers to employment.

Working within an educational setting has equipped Kim with the skills to create individual learning and experiential programmes, focused on people centered support and engagement.

TheCITY: "We discuss social issues constantly ..."



Bonj Mpanza (Music 2007)

Self-described future Afro band *TheCITY* have just released their debut EP with frontwoman Bonj Mpanza.

"I started singing when I was 14. My sisters convinced me to enrol for music at the National School of the Arts. I got in and began doing contemporary music for voice and classical music for flute. I also started actively singing in church, which I think gave me probably the best singing lessons I could ever have got in life! Everyone is encouraged to bring in their own ideas and if we all like it, we started adding ideas to make it a complete CITY song.

Photo by Deidre Hewitson

Full article: <http://www.litnet.co.za/the-city-we-discuss-social-issues-constantly/>



Linda Olagunju (Drama 2002) was one of the speakers at the 25th World Economic Forum in Cape Town.

Linda Olagunju is the founder and Managing Director of DLO Energy Resources (Pty) Ltd a wholly black female owned energy investment and advisory company with assets in the renewable energy and power sector in South Africa. She has extensive experience in the power sector both domestically and internationally having advised governments, developers and lenders. In 2015 she was selected by ESI as one of the 50 Most Influential People in African Power. She is also the special adviser to the Minister of Energy. She holds an LLB from UCT, LLM from the University of Aberdeen and is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa.



Local singer and songwriter **LeAnne Dlamini's** (Cont Music 2002) latest single No Sweat is making waves on local radio stations.



Four of NSA's matric drama learners (**Omogolo Matshane, Kamogelo Rakgwale, Manqoba Hellman Hlomuka and Manoko Tlhako**) will perform Shadow Theatre at Kinderspiel Emmarentia during July. Double Whammy: two stories in one show *My house is too Small* and *Fred & Fiona* are artistic & poetic. Beautifully told with a bit of wisdom to take home, age 4-99 years.



NSA iSchool Africa team won May month's Apple competition. **Katlego Diseko's (Art Grade 10)** video features grade 10 History learners in a public service campaign advertising Childline. He wins on camera work and musical score. NSA is so proud of him!

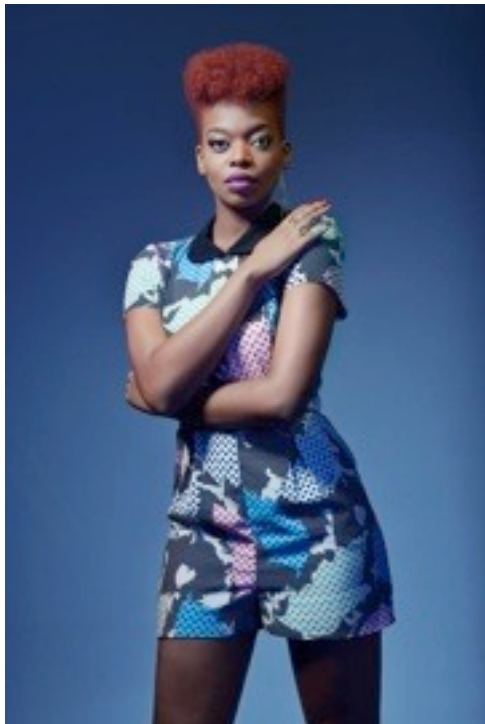
Karen Zoid makes SA music history on iTunes



On set of her TV show *Republiek van Zoid Afrika*. (Photo: Anelia Loubser)

Since the second series of *Republiek van Zoid Afrika* kicked off on 2 July, "president" **Karen Zoid (Drama 1997)** has reached the weekly No 1 download on SA iTunes for the past three weeks with songs that were performed with her guests on the show.

The first chart topper was Karen Zoid and Jack Parow's live performance of *Cooler as Ekke*; week two saw her duet *Lose when you Lie* with Steve Hofmeyr take the No 1 spot and last week her *Hillbrow* collaboration with Bobby van Jaarsveld also reached No 1, making Karen Zoid the first South Africa artist to top the Top40 SA with iTunes chart on KFM and 94.7 for three weeks in a row with three different songs.



AyandaMVP: Always have a plan B or many options Molifeng.

Ayanda Phindile Mdluli (Drama 2009) aka AyandaMVP is one entertainment personality that is a force to be reckoned with. Born in KwaZulu Natal and bred in the City of Gold, Ayanda blasted into the

entertainment industry at the age of 15 as a TV presenter.


Hosting the show *Bona Fide* on one of the hottest stations in the country, what does that mean to you?

MVP: "Everything! I mean being on YFM, period, has been a blessing. Coming from campus radio (TuksFM) and then landing my first show on YFM on weekends, I never thought *Bona Fide* would happen so soon because I am still studying Psychology and Criminology at Tuks."

What has been your major influence; also what brings out the best in your music and craft?

MVP: "The ARTS! I am a big lover of theatre productions, musicals and drama. I studied drama at The National School of the Arts and it manifested into my persona, how I speak with character on air and how I have become such a people's person in a group. The aim by the way, is not to stand out but to be appreciated for who you are as a person.

Full article: <http://starstudded.co.za/?p=117>



Cara Rau (Dance 2014) has been accepted at the Perm State Choreographic College, commonly known as the Perm Ballet School in Russia, which is an internationally renowned, professional ballet school. She will be leaving South Africa at the end of August for a 10 month training period. After matriculating Cara participated in Cape Town City Ballet Graduate programme, which she thoroughly enjoyed.



Samantha Mangold (Dance Grade 10) and Jana Rau (Dance Grade 11) have been accepted to attend the Summer School of Excellence at the American Academy of Ballet. Samantha was also awarded a scholarship.



Sharon Leslie (Art 1984) has over 20 years design experience in the development of brand identity systems, print communications, and designing and developing websites. Born and raised in South Africa, Sharon graduated from WITS School of Art and Design, Johannesburg where she studied Graphic Design. She started her career working in advertising, first for Ogilvy and then TBWA and Young & Rubicam, working for big corporate clients like BMW, Schweppes, Sun International, Microsoft and Pick 'n Pay, and with some very talented individuals.

When an opportunity to work in the UK arose, Sharon was able to make the change from advertising to design that she had been looking for. Just before setting up Lime Creative, she was contracted to work for Zurich Financial Services in the UK as a Senior Designer on a major project rolling out their new branding.

Sharon has worked in South Africa, the United States and the UK, and for clients in Australia, Europe and Dubai.

www.limecreative.co.uk



Alison Sischy Smith (Dance 2002) designed the stunning belted poncho on the cover of *Your Family*, June 2015. Her talents clearly lie in creativity: after matriculating from The National School of the Arts, Alison danced professionally with the South African Ballet Theatre until 2006, performing soloist and principal roles, after which she completed her BA Fashion Design at LISOF. After lecturing at the institution, Alison began her own fashion label and now specialises in custom eveningwear and wedding dresses. (*Your Family*, June 2015, p76)



Clinton Stoltz's (Art 1994) exhibition at ArtMode in Woodstock, Cape Town at The Palms in May 2015. He is a Cape Town based artist exploring motion and energy of human figures.



Sister Act opened on the stage of The Mandela at Joburg Theatre on July 10th and will run until August 16th 2015. Ex-learners who are members of the cast are: **Trudy Fredericks (Dance 1998)**, **Nqobile Sipamla (Drama 2002)** and **Caitlin Clerk (Dance 2003 Grade 9)**. **Rowan Bakker (Music 1998 Grade 9)** is the musical director and **Timothy Le Roux (Drama 1990)** is the resident director. Last but not least, **Brenda Sakellarides (Chairperson of NSA Governing Body - top left)** is also one of the cast members in *Sister Act*.

All in all, *Sister Act* is a must-see event that will have you leaving the theatre on a heavenly high; a mammoth boost for musical theatre with its Proudly South African cast. (www.48hours.co.za)

Let's Revolt: Urban edge to tale of two cities

Los Angeles has a glitzy edge and Johannesburg is characterised by urban energy and hustle. A new fashion label, *Revolt Clothing*, reflects the combination of the style of these cities.



Image: Katlego Mokubane

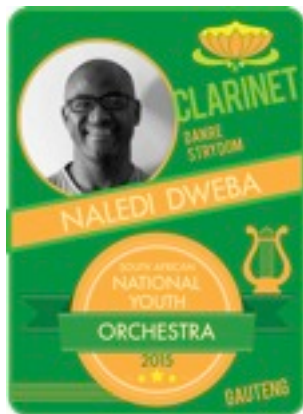
Creator of the brand **Luyanda Sithole (Dance 2008)** was born in Pennsylvania in the US to South African parents. She went to The National School of the Arts and then moved back to Los Angeles to study Fashion Marketing at the Art Institute of California in Hollywood.

Now the 25-year-old is making her mark in the world of fashion, launching her own online boutique, *Revolt Clothing*. Sithole will launch her first spring/summer collection in August.

Full article: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2015/06/25/Lets-Revolt-Urban-edge-to-tale-of-two-cities>



This year's overall Barclays L'Atelier prize winner is **Kai Lossgott (Art 1998)** for his video installation *Small and Common Matters*. As part of his prize, Kai wins a six-month art residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, which includes return airfare, R150 000 cash for the residency and a solo exhibition at the Absa Gallery.



Keenan John Meyer (Music 2014), Naledi Dweba (Music 2014) and Nkosana Gugu Soko (Music 2010) have all been accepted into the National Youth Orchestra Winter Course 2015.

Keenan is a member of both the University of Pretoria Symphony Orchestra and the University of Pretoria Symphonic Wind Band. His achievements include being top overall performer at West Rand Music Festival 2015, Top Academic and Music Achiever at The National School of the Arts from 2012 - 2014. Keenan was awarded the Dux Scholar Trophy in 2014.

Naledi was a Runner Up in the Philip Moore Music Competition in the year 2013 and a semi-finalist in the prestigious ArtsCape National Youth Music Competition. He was the Principal Clarinetist for the Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company, Youth Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Band when residing in Johannesburg. Naledi is a member of the Free State Youth Orchestra and Free State Symphonic Wind Band.

Nkosana Soko attended and took part in the first Sir James Galway South African Flute Festival. He was a soloist in the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Concerto Festival in 2012, Principal Flautist of The UCT Symphony Orchestra in 2014. Nkosana was invited to attend the Sir James Galway flute festival in Weggis Switzerland in July/August 2015." Nkosana is currently attending the South African College of Music and plays for the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra.



In June 2015 **Laura Opperman nee van der Merwe (Music 1992)** went to the Juilliard Performing Arts School in New York to participate in master classes and workshops for Nord Anglia Education.

The truth of the matter is that people who succeed in the arts most often are the people who get up again after getting knocked down. Persistence is critical."

Scott Turow



Jafa Mamabolo (Drama 2005) plays the role of Lenaka in *Ayanda and the Mechanic*, which following its screening at the 2015 CANNES Film Festival and its revelation as the opening night film for the upcoming 36th Durban Film Festival, premiered in Los Angeles on June 13, 2015.

Mamabolo is known for his role as Thapelo in SABC1 Soul Buddyz. His portrayal of Kunene, a lead role in the acclaimed *Jerusalema* brought him to international attention, but it wasn't until his role as Otelo Buthelezi in the multi-award winning *Otelo Burning* (2012) where he received international acclaim.



SOLITARY has won the Women's International Film & Arts Festival's Best Narrative Feature award in Miami.

Sarina Taylor nee Potgieter (Drama 1989) won Best Actress in a Feature Film at the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema Awards in California for her role in the same film earlier in the year.

Pauna is ready to collaborate, dazzle and inspire

Laura Pauna (Music 1997), acclaimed Romanian born pianist, has established herself both nationally and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, and is ready to take SA by storm and inspire women to aspire to greatness.

After continuing her postgraduate studies in Germany at the prestigious Hannover Music Conservatoire, Laura performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Salzburg Grosse Saal, Yasi, Cape Town City Hall and the Jerusalem Theatre.

Pauna has won competitions and prizes all over Europe and South Africa including first prize in the Prix de Oslo; the Ibla grand prize winner; the Valentino Bucchi prize in Rome; the Mozarteum prize; UNISA prize for the Classical Sonata; the ATKV Chamber Music prize; and the Du Toit Van Tonderprize. Pauna has performed with renowned orchestras such as the Deutsche Kammerakademie, Cape

Philharmonic Orchestra, Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Pro Musica et al and others.

Laura recently started working with acclaimed South African violinist, **Samson Diamond (Music 2001)**. They have a concert series which will be performed all over South Africa, including the works of composers such as Beethoven, Lekeu, Gershwin and Strauss. Richard Cock also recently interviewed Laura Pauna on Classic FM's programme People of Note.

Laura has been mentioned in the Wisbaden Tagblatt in Germany, where the words "Beethoven would've been impressed..." were written about her '...brilliant and lavish...' playing. Do not miss this sensational piano-mastermind taking South Africa by storm during 2015.

Full article: <http://www.womenafrica.co.za/pauna-is-ready-to-collaborate-dazzle-and-inspire/>



Karabo Mathaba (Art 2014) is one of the new models at Model Republic.

He is also an ambassador for Under 25, which is a young Jo'burg based agency focused on brand elevation. They represent some cool kids who have the spunk to make any brand look great.



South African Art: 9 Women To Watch In 2015



Besides studying, Same contributes to the art pages of local publications *Mail & Guardian* and *Sunday Independent*, and has written articles about artists such as revered photographer Zanele Muholi and artist Walter Battiss. Botswana-born Mdluli also does archival work for internationally renowned photographer Roger Ballen to sustain herself “financially, because PhD funding in the arts is not sufficient,” she says. Last year also saw Mdluli’s appointment to the advisory panel for the National Arts Council.

Full article: <http://www.okayafrica.com/news/south-african-art-9-women-to-watch-2015/7/>

Same Mdluli (Art 2001), a Wits University PhD student who in 2012 received the South African Arts Writers & Critics Association’s inaugural Critics Mentorship Programme was also chosen as a Junior Research Scholar from the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles.



Lynette Whittaker née Meyer (Art 1996) is the winner of Mossel Bay Tourism’s Excellence in Online Marketing award.

Chief whip, creative councillor, controller of chaos and think tank, Lynette has been in the creative industry going on 18 years. With her passion for marketing, brilliant design and seeing her clients’ businesses grow, she is now proudly heading a team of strong creatives and other professionals, ensuring only the best marketing and design solutions are delivered to clients.

Ever the student, she has studied and completed courses & training in various fields ranging from fine arts, design, animation, marketing management, social media management, project management and even knows how to read a dumpy level on a construction site!

<http://www.omnimarketing.co.za>



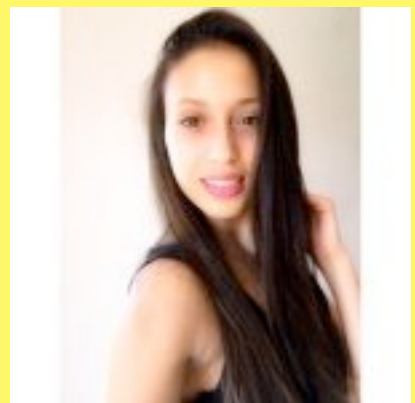
Zen Marie (Art 1997) is a lecturer at Wits University (Fine Arts). He studied photography at the Market Photo Workshop in 1995 and thereafter completed a BAFA degree (with distinction) majoring in sculpture, at the University of Cape Town in 2001. Alongside this artistic training, Marie went on to pursue two post graduate studies: a two year studio residency at de-ateliers in Amsterdam and a Masters degree at the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, based at the University of Amsterdam where he graduated in 2006 (also with distinction).



Aphelele Chonco (Art 2011) was a semi-finalist in the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award, a fashion competition that showcases the very best in young emerging talent and culminates in a dazzling show at the Vodacom Durban July.



Val Leveson (Drama 1983) is a counsellor and journalist in New Zealand. She received her Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University and Master of Counselling, First Class Honours at the University of Auckland.



Chelsea Roebeck (Dance Grade 12) was the Runner-up to The Nina Bodenham Advanced Modern Bursary 2015, while **Robert van den Aardweg (2013 Dance Grade 11)** won the bursary.



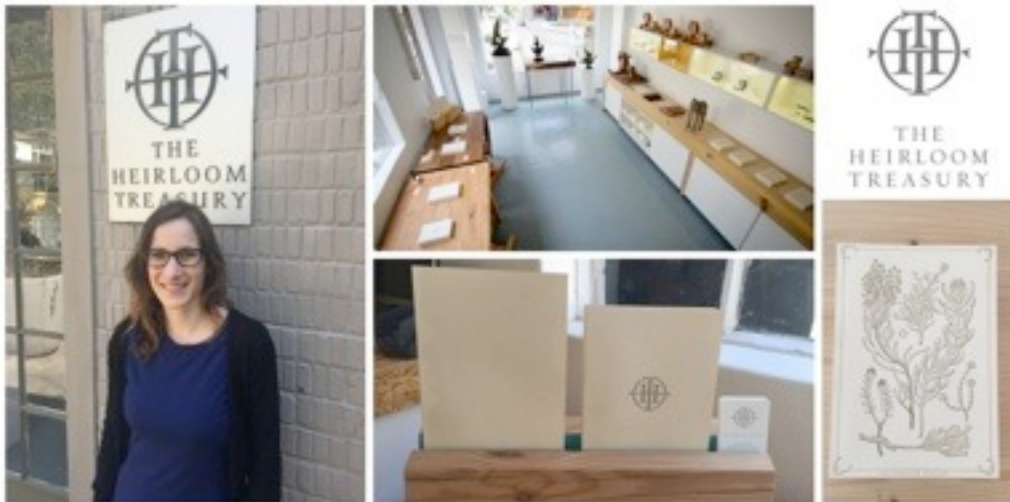
2008) said, "She also overcame her fear of public speaking by delivering an incredible speech of her life story to the MEC and other high profile delegates in the industry, of her being a struggling billionaire entrepreneur. She shared her story of how going to Nsa Artschool sparked her love for fine art and jewellery."

Currently her accolades consist of being a finalist at the Anglo Gold Richest of Africa Competition at the age of 19, she also designed a pendant for The South African Coin Mint Company and last year she was also a finalist for Jewellex Show Stopper Jewellery Design competition. Since having established Phatsima Jewellery Designs in 2009, last year proved to be the toughest, challenging and most rewarding year as she juggled both academics and business after hours. Her passion paid off and her business grew reaching a 60% turnover and over 100 custom made orders from her clients.

Nontando Molefe (Art 2003), founder of Phatsima Jewellery Designs recently graduated on her completion of a Post Grad in Market Research, Commercial Jewellery Design and Product Development through Design@50 Commercial Jewellery Design Centre. Her sister, **MonaLisa Nokwazi Molefe (Art**



Charmaine Buttrick nee Olley (Art 1990) won the recent CIDESCO World Congress Make-up and Body Art Competition. This competition is the final of the CIDESCO Congress Programme with the presentation of awards and a parade of the works of art.



The startup story of an entrepreneur with a passion for handmade gifts that become tomorrow's heirlooms.

Daniela Wingate (Drama 1999) - Walking into Daniela Wingate's flagship Heirloom Treasury store in the bustling, trendy and highly popular 44 Stanley Avenue neighbourhood of Johannesburg is a wonderful experience, and a real celebration of lovingly hand-made, carefully selected and beautifully displayed stationery and gift items that reflect the art of fine craftsmanship in Africa.

"The Heirloom Treasury sets out to create gifts that people would like to keep for a lifetime and to then pass them on to others. Each gift must hold some kind of real value through being handcrafted."

Full article: <http://www.lionessesofafrica.com/blog/2015/5/31/the-startup-story-of-daniela-wingate>



If you still don't have a MySchool card, please apply for one, list The National School of the Arts as your beneficiary (you can have up to 3). It's so easy to do, costs you nothing and has the potential to be a great source of much-needed income for NSA.

New card: <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/>

Lost card: <https://www.myschool.co.za/cardholders/lost-your-card>



Peter Mammes (Art 2004) has been selected as the Johannes Stegmann Mentorship Programme mentee. Mammes has the invaluable opportunity to be mentored by Dianne Victor over the next year whilst working towards his solo at Lizamore Gallery in March 2016.

Mammes' work explores macabre and absurd imagery. He collects medical instruments, focusing on birthing instruments. The artist's work is greatly influenced by his travels to Russia and India. The time he spent in Moscow, Russia inspired the artist to assimilate the culture and surroundings of the Russian society. He also spent time in Varanasi, India where one can see open air cremations. These influences are seen in the artist's pen and ink illustrations.

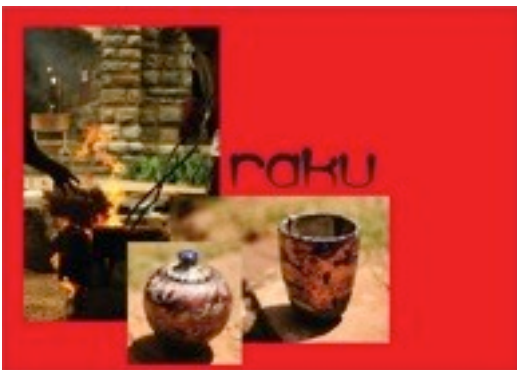


Elizabeth Thompson (Art Grade 11) is currently attending the MICA Pre-College Studio Residency Program in Baltimore. The college selected only 130 students from across the world and the U.S. Only 3 international applicants were accepted, Elizabeth being one of them.

The four-week Pre-College Studio Residency Program in Baltimore is an intensive college-level experience designed to help participants make the leap from thinking like a high-school art student to thinking like an artist, making art that reflects a new level of skill and personal vision, communicating ideas about [MICA: Maryland Institute College of Art](#) art in daily critiques, and building a professional portfolio of work. Core studios and workshops culminate in a student exhibition, which presents the work of pre-college students during a final certificate ceremony.

Thanks to **Anthousa Sotiriades (HOD Art)** for

Raku Pottery Fundraising Workshop



Patrick Rorke, renowned artist, facilitated two Raku Pottery workshops at The National School of the Arts during May 2015.

Raku firing is one of the most exciting processes in ceramics. After you place your pottery into a raku kiln, the anticipation builds as you wait for that final moment when the intense heat begins to melt the raku glazes. When you remove the pieces when the glazes begin to melt, you can feel the heat and hear the pings of your red hot work rapidly cooling, then it's into the raku combustibles for a round of flame and smoke. Many surprises await you as you clean the surface and reveal the wonders of raku pottery.



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Louise Taitz (Dance 1982) is the Artistic Director of On Your Toes Academy Of Dance in Illinois.

After graduating, Louise was accepted into the Royal Ballet School, London. Louise spent most of her professional career as a ballerina with the Israel Classical Ballet. In 2002 On Your Toes Academy of Dance opened and as Artistic Director, Louise continues to teach and choreograph both class and company. Louise has won many choreography awards. A highlight of 2012 was the ballet piece *In The Village* winning the 2012 World Series of Dance Title. Louise is also a judge for The American Academy of Ballet.



Sintu Ndzube (Music 2007) performed at Winnies Soul & Jazz Restaurant in Sandton on 19 June.

Sintu, an alto saxophonist who's been playing the alto saxophone since the year 2005, received her music training at The National School of the Arts. She took classical saxophone as a second instrument and classical piano as first instrument. Sintu obtained a Bachelor of Music degree majoring in music performance (jazz and classical saxophone) at the University of Pretoria.

The music that she performs consists of covers from music styles such as gospel, jazz, pop ballads, etc, including her original compositions. Sintu recently went on a tour to Sri Lanka in which she was the saxophonist for the resident band for a restaurant called Sugar 41.

Paula Davids (Drama 2014): kykNET & Kie-aanbieder. Paula Davids van Kimberley het Drama aan Die Nasionale Skool van Kunste in Johannesburg studeer. Sy woon tans AFDA se rolprentskool by.

Paula is lief vir skryf en geniet dit om selfies te neem. "Ek maak stories van my eie, deur na hulle stories te luister," sê Paula. Sy wil graag stories oor die kleurling-gemeenskap vertel.



Artist makes creative waves in musical theatre



Artist, producer and stage performer and Newlands resident **Weslee Lauder (Drama and RCL President 2006)** has set his sights on making a positive difference in the musical theatre industry of South Africa.

Lauder explained that his involvement in theatre has always been a second instinct. "I've always had a flair for the dramatic. I did the normal acting bid in school, attended The National School of the Arts, where I studied speech and drama in a more detailed form," he said.

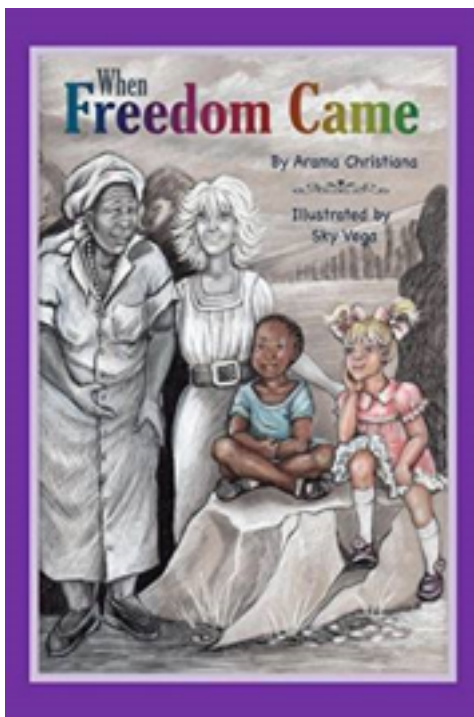
It was only when he turned 17 years old that he was introduced to musical theatre and decided to audition at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) to study it. Since then he has never looked back. In 2010 Lauder made his professional debut in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* at the State Theatre. In 2011, Weslee choreographed the South African Premier of *Spring Awakening!* and starred in the Naledi Award-winning family musical *African Adventure* in various roles.

In 2015 he received a Naledi Theatre Award nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for *Call Me Lee*. Additionally, he directed *Stage by Stage*. Lauder was creative director and choreographer of the Ghoema Music Awards, and directed *Aspoestertjie* at Emperors Palace.

Full article: <http://northcliffmelvilletimes.co.za/199371/artist-makes-creative-waves-in-musical-theatre/>



TIMO ODV featuring **Sarah Jackson (Music 2006)** - *Save Me* ruled the Hyundai South Africa Top 40 in May! No1 of 5FM and Most Played Local Song on Radio. Congrats!



Illustrated by **Sky Pittaway aka Sky Vega (Art 1993)**

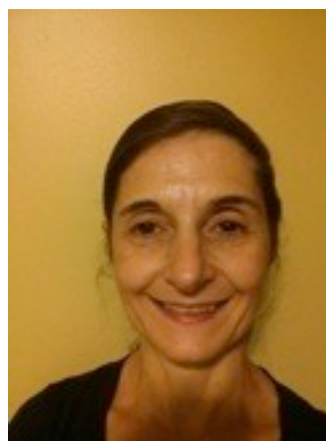
Descendant from generations of artistic lineage, Sky Vega exhibited creative leanings from her earliest years through drawing, singing and ballet.

During her time in Athens, Sky studied Computer Graphic Animation and Multimedia at AKTO college of Art and Design (a college affiliated to Middlesex University, London) while simultaneously studying music at the Daphni Odeio of Music. Although pursuing a career in the performing arts as a touring musician, she never abandoned her fine art roots and relocated to New York where she studied Special FX Makeup at the School of Visual Arts. Later Sky fine-tuned her Special Effects Makeup abilities with lab skills at the Makeup Designory in Soho.

Sky is a young woman possessing multi-layered creative talents, working in entertainment as well as in the visual arts. She has gone on to become a published musician, an award nominated Special Effects Makeup artist and is the owner of Pittaway Art, an online retail portal, where her artwork and other creative media is sold. Most recently Sky has been channeling all her creative talents into writing and illustrating children's books that are accompanied by her original soundtracks.

<http://sky-vega-art.crevado.com>

Jandrell is a luxury accessories brand created by artist **Mandy Jandrell (Art 1993)**. Jandrell produces limited edition original silk scarves that were born out of experimentation with photographic images. She has exhibited in galleries and museums internationally. Her background in contemporary art and her African upbringing inform the distinctive look of her work. Mandy creates her artworks in the UK and then sends them to Italy, where they are printed onto the finest silk and hand finished in the heart of Lake Como's historic silk industries. Her work both looks and feels utterly gorgeous and because they are only produced in small quantities, you can be assured that you have something unique and distinctive.



Heidi Zolty (Dance 1982) is a ballet instructor at DanceMode Productions in Canada.

Heidi's most notable role was the role of Anne Frank in "The Diary of Anne Frank" which was choreographed especially for her.

Heidi is one of Canada's most knowledgeable and highly sought after Cecchetti teachers and many of her students have gone on to prestigious ballet careers.



Lebo Shikwambane (Drama 2010) and **Khanyisile Mazibuko (Drama 2013)**, both in the middle of picture, are hosts of the new hard-hitting talk show, Rise. Rise is an intergenerational lifestyle talk show designed to encourage young women to aspire to be greater than their circumstances. Rise Talk Show airs on Tuesdays at 18:00 on SABC 1.



Congratulations to **Keenan John Meyer (Music 2014)** who received the awards for Top Overall Performer and Top Grade 8 Piano at the recent West Rand Music Festival.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."
Albert Einstein



Kimbrian Bergh (Dance 1990) and Nicci Theis (Dance 1990) are both instructors at the Auckland Ballet Incentive at Unitec Institute of Technology in New Zealand.

Kimbrian Bergh was trained in South Africa, and upon graduation joined PACT Ballet as Corps de Ballet. He became a Principal dancer and has danced principal and soloist roles in every major classical ballet of the 20th Century. In 2001, he co-founded South African Ballet Theatre (now called Joburg Theatre). Kim currently teaches ballet technique at Unitec Department of Performing and Screen Arts' dance programme in Auckland.

Nicci Theis began her ballet training in South Africa. At age 16, she was offered a scholarship to attend the National Ballet School of Canada. Upon graduation she took up a scholarship at the Royal Ballet School in London. By 19, she won a contract with the Scottish Ballet where she danced for 10 years as Principal dancer till the end of her career .



Merica Monamodi (Drama 2010):

Merica, or "Mother Meri" as she sometimes refers to herself, joined YOTV in 2008. The Vaal born crazy kid studied Drama at The National School of the Arts and 2015 saw her complete her BCom Degree in Accounting which she plans to pursue into her Honours in Tax or Chartered Accountancy.

Merica loves hip-hop, sneakers and anything that will make her laugh. She admits to have always judged herself and never fitted in with the "cool kids" & says she has accepted being her own definition of cool.

INTERESTING FACT: Merica is launching her website soon, catch it on www.simplymerica.co.za

New Writing for Young Audiences uplifts SA theatre



Lereko Mfono (Drama 2010) is one of the 15 African playwrights who have been selected for the "New Writing for Young Audiences in Africa" programme. This programme is run by ASSITEJ South Africa in partnership with the Kennedy Center's 'New Visions/New Voices' programme (US) and the Soweto Theatre. It functions as an incubator for new works which may be staged at the ASSITEJ 2017 World Congress and Performing Arts Festival to be held in Cape Town.

Full article: <http://mg.co.za/article/2015-07-23-theatre-stage-calls-out-for-fresh-blood>



Rui Alves (Art 1986) was one of the judges at the Creative Circle Awards which was held on 30 April. Rui is the Executive Creative Director of Y&R South Africa.



Kristin Wilson (Dance 2000) performed in Spartacus of Africa as well as current dance learners, **Armand van der Merwe (Grade 10), Ricardo Neiva (Drama Grade 12)** and **Dina Sekgobela (Grade 12)**.



Neo Mathebula (Grade 10 Music) and Lebogang Komane (Grade 9 Music), both members of the Johannesburg Youth Symphonic Wind Band performed in Cape Town at the 2015 Wind Worx Fanfare.



Mathematics Grade 9 Investigative Project from Mr Barnard. Build a house to scale, calculate area and perimeter and get quotations for paints, etc.



Reunion: Class of 2005



Practical exams, which is a hands-on experience, has become a compulsory component in the Grade 10 and 11 curriculum for Life Sciences. Pictured are the **Grade 10 learners** in action. Here they are conducting an experiment to determine which solution contains glucose using Benedict's solution - a test for glucose! Learners conduct the test individually so the educators can determine their practical knowledge and skills.



ACADEMICS



The **NSA Grade 9 Technology** class had to build a bridge made solely out of spaghetti to demonstrate the different kinds of forces that works on real life bridges. These bridges had to be able to withstand at least their own weight without collapsing. These are a few of the bridges that made the cut.

AT THE ARTSCHOOL