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Bios & Headshots

All photo credits: Stella Olivier

William Kentridge

(Artist | Concept & Design)



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Photo credit: Stella Olivier

William Kentridge (born Johannesburg, South Africa, 1955) is internationally acclaimed for his drawings, films, theatre and opera productions.

His practice is born out of a cross-fertilisation between mediums and genres. His work responds to the legacies of colonialism and apartheid, within the context of South Africa's socio-political landscape. His aesthetics are drawn from the medium of film's own history, from stop-motion animation to early special effects. Kentridge's drawing, specifically the dynamism of an erased and redrawn mark, is an integral part of his expanded animation and filmmaking practice, where the meanings of his films are developed during the process of their making. Kentridge's practice also incorporates his theatre training.

Kentridge's work has been seen in museums and galleries around the world since the 1990s, including Documenta in Kassel, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Albertina Museum in Vienna, Musée du Louvre in Paris, Whitechapel Gallery in London, Louisiana Museum in Copenhagen and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

Opera productions include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Shostakovich's *The Nose*, and Alban Berg's *Lulu*, and have been seen at opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, English National Opera in London, Opera de Lyon, Amsterdam opera, and others. Summer 2017 saw the premiere of Kentridge's production of Berg's *Wozzeck* for the Salzburg Festival.

The 5-channel video and sound installation *The Refusal of Time* was made for Documenta (13) in 2012; since then it has been seen in cities around the world. *More Sweetly Play the Dance*, an 8-channel video projection shown first seen in Amsterdam in April 2015, and *Notes Toward a Model Opera*, a three-screen projection looking at the Chinese Cultural Revolution, made for an exhibition in Beijing in 2015; both have been presented in many other cities since. Kentridge's ambitious yet ephemeral public art project for Rome, *Triumphs & Laments* (a 500 m frieze of figure power-washed from pollution and bacterial growth on the walls of the Tiber River) opened in April 2016 with a performance of live music composed by Philip Miller and a procession of shadow figures.

Forthcoming projects include *The Head & the Load*, a large production to be seen at the Park Avenue Armory in New York and the Tate Turbine Hall in London in 2018.

Kentridge is the recipient of honorary doctorates from several universities including Yale, London University and Columbia University. In 2010, he received the Kyoto Prize. In 2012, he presented the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard University. In 2015 he was appointed an Honorary Academician of the Royal Academy in London. In 2017, he received the Princesa de Asturias Award for the arts, and in 2018, the Antonio Feltrinelli International Prize. In 2019 he received the Praemium Imperiale award in painting in Tokyo. In 2022 he was presented the Honour of the Order of the Star of Italy and the Queen Sonja Lifetime Achievement Award for printmaking. Kentridge received an Olivier award in 2023 for his conception and direction of the opera Sibyl at the Barbican Theatre, London.

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Kyle Shepherd

(Music Director / Composer)



Kyle Shepherd is arguably one of South Africa's leading progressive pianists, composers and band leaders of his generation.

Internationally recognized for his distinctive compositional style & performances, Shepherd has made a huge impression on debut as a film score composer for the critically-acclaimed film, *Noem My Skollie / Call Me Thief* – South Africa's official entry to the 2017 Academy Awards – for which he scored a nomination for ki8the 2017 South African Film & Television Award [SAFTA] for Best Achievement in Original Music Score in a Feature Film. He was awarded the 2018 South African Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Award: Book, Creative Collection and Digital Contribution 2018, hosted by the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), for Best Musical Composition for his composition, "Noem My Skollie"! Shepherd's music also features prominently in independent film-maker Nadine Cloete's documentary, *Action Kommandant*, based on the untold story of the young South African revolutionary freedom fighter, Ashley Kriel.

In March / April 2018, Shepherd's musical soundtrack was featured in Lhola Amira's multi-media arts exhibition, entitled 'Sinking: Xa Sinqamla Unxubo', at the renowned SMAC Gallery in Cape Town. The thirty-six-year-old virtuoso pianist who has a well-established record of celebrated performances in South Africa, Europe, Asia (including Japan, India and China), Canada and the USA, has already released seven critically acclaimed albums in his young career.

Nhlanhla Mahlangu

(Associate Director/Choral Composer/ Performer)



Click here for hi-res version.

Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Exceptional vocalist, choreographer, composer, theater maker, gravity defying dancer and educator Nhlanhla Mahlangu is a graduate of Dance Teaching at Moving into Dance, Mophatong, Born in Pholapark Squatter Camp in Apartheid South Africa in the late 1970s, Mahlangu started school during the national state of emergency in the 1980s. Mahlangu witnessed first hand the conflicts between the African National Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party and The 'Third Force' of the 1990s. Mahlangu can only be described as a generous interdisciplinary collaborator who excels at conjuring original, complex and contemporary work rooted in traditional forms. In addition to his contemporary dance and musical ingenuity Mahlangu is celebrated for his embodiment of Isicathamiya, a cappella-type musical form combining vocals and movement. Mahlangu uses this practice as a way to process the history of South Africa, particularly the plight of migrant workers. These performances look to build social cohesion, heal the wounds of the past and encourage resilience in the new Democratic South Africa. Nhlanhla Mahlangu's prolific practice is one of interrogation, articulation, development and research. He has gained exceptional ground through his pivotal collaborations with luminaries the calibre of William Kentridge (The Head & the Load, Sibyl, Ursonate, The Centre for the Less Good Idea) Robyn Orlin, Richard Cock, Gregory Vuyani Magoma, Sylvia Glasser, Vincent Mantsoe, Jay Pather, James Ngcobo, Victor Ntoni, Hugh Masekela, as well as his choral music and music making approaches with his Hlabelela Ensemble and Song and Dance Works.

Mahlangu is celebrated with the Naledi award winner for Best Choreographer, Promax Africa Award 2021 for Best title sequence in "The Estate", New York Theatre and Dance Awards - The Bessies 2020 Best composition and sound design, recognition by the The Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Performing Arts Project Funding in 2019 for choreography, casting and codirecting, Special Price Winner of the Reumert Award 2020 in Denmark, among others.

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Greta Goiris (Costume Designer)



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Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Greta Goiris studied costume design at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp and set design at Institute del Teatre in Barcelona. Her first costumes she designed for Jaques Delcuvellerie in Brussels and Avignon, amongst which were 'La Grande Imprecation Devant Les Murs De La Ville' (T. Dorst), La Mere (B. Brecht), Andromaque (Racine) and Rwanda-1994.

From 2001 onward she collaborated with Johan Simons on numerous (music-)theatre productions, which amongst others included the Leenane Trilogy (M.Mc Donagh) for ZT Hollandia; Sentimenti, Das Leben ein Traum (Calderon), Vergessene Strasse (Louis-Paul Boon) for the Ruhrtriennale; Die Perser (Aischylos) for Münchner Kammerspiele; Die Neger (Jean Genet) for Wiener Festwochen (2014); and Radetzkymarsch (Joseph Roth) for the Burgtheater (2017). Also with Simons she designed the costumes for the operas Fidelio (Beethoven) for Opera de la Bastille (2008) in Paris, Herzog Blaubarts Burg (Bela Bartok) for the Salzburger Festspiele (2008), and Alceste (Gluck) for the Ruhrtriennale (August 2016). July 2016 Greta designed the costumes for Les Indes Galantes directed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui for the Bayerische Staatsoper. Greta also collaborated with Pierre Audi, Ivo Van Hove, Karin Beyer, Josse De Pauw and Peter Verhelst.

Die Zauberflöte (De Munt, 2005) would be the start of a long collaboration with William Kentridge. Operas The Nose; (Metropolitan Opera, 2010), Lulu (DNO, Metropolitan Opera, 2015, ENO 2016), Wozzeck (Salzburger Festspiele, 2017) and installations and music theatre productions Refuse the Hour; (Holland Festival/Festival d'Avignon), The Refusal of Time; (Documenta Kassel), Winterreise; (Wiener Festwochen), Paper Music; (Firenze), More Sweetly Play the Dance (Amsterdam) and O Sentimental Machine (Istanbul Biennal) all follow.

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Bios & Headshots

Sabine Theunissen

(Set Designer)



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Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Sabine Theunissen studied architecture in La Cambre, Brussels.

She joined the Royal Theater of la Monnaie (Brussels) where she worked 17 years as internal decor assistant in the design office.

In 2003, she met William Kentridge. Their collaboration begins with *Magic Flute* (creation Royal Theater of La Monnaie 2005). Since then, she designed sets for his opera productions, among which, *The Nose, Refusal of Time, The Head and the Load, Waiting for the Sibyl*, and recently, the sets of the movie *Oh To Believe in Another World*.

She also designed Kentridge's art installations and exhibitions among which Notes towards a model opera, No it is, Thick Times, Smoke Ashes and Fables, O Sentimental Machine, Why should I hesitate, Un poème qui n'est pas le nôtre..., More Sweetly Play the Dance, That which we do not remember...

She is simultaneously working with other directors for *La Dispute*, *Marrakech*, *Midsummer night's dream*, *Bug*, *Othello*, *Ariane* and *Barbe bleue*. With a choreographer for Hors Champs and Radioscopie and with filmmakers for *Sortir du Noir*.

In 2021, she made an animated film *White Box Jacket* and she is currently working on the scenic version of it for the Orion theatre in Stockholm for 2024.

In 2016, she created the Squatelier, her studio where she develops her projects and research as a team. https://sabinetheunissen.weebly.com

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Urs Schönebaum (Lighting Designer)



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Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Urs Schönebaum studied photography in Munich. Worked from 1995 until 1998 with Max Keller as a part of the lighting department of Münchner Kammerspiele. After being assistant director for productions at Grand Theatre de Genève, Lincoln Center in New York and Münchner Kammerspiele he started in 2000 to work as a lighting designer for opera, theater, dance, art installations and performances.

He participated in over 130 productions at major theaters including Covent Garden London; Opéra Bastille, Opera Garnier, La Comédie Française and Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris; La Monnaie Bruxelles; Opera de Lyon; Metropolitan Opera New York; Staatsoper unter den Linden, Schaubühne and Deutsches Theater in Berlin; Bayerische Staatsoper and Residenztheater in Munich; Dramaten Stockholm; Det Norske Teatret Oslo; Teatro dell'Opera Roma; Festival d'Avignon; Teatro Real Madrid; Festival d'Aix en Provence; Bolshoi Theater Moscow; Salzburger Festspiele; NCPA and Poly Theater Beijing; Sydney Opera House; Dutch National Opera, Salzburger Festspiele, Bayreuth Festival and Wiener Festwochen.

He works with stage directors like Thomas Ostermeier, La Fura dels Baus, William Kentridge, Pierre Audi, Michael Haneke, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Sasha Waltz and was a long time collaborator of Robert Wilson. His work includes also lighting designs for art projects with Vanessa Beecroft, Anselm Kiefer, Dan Graham, Taryn Simon and Marina Abramović. He also designed works for installations in Karkow, Munich, Salzburg and New York. In 2012 he directed and designed the two Operas *Jetzt* and *What Next?* and in 2014 *Happy Happy*, composed by Mathis Nitschke at the Opera National de Montpellier. In 2017 he created the set and lighting design for the production Bomarzo at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

Elena Gui (Lighting Designer Associate)



Photo credit: Koen Broos

Bio updated: February 28, 2023

Elena Gui studied literature and theatre and started her career as assistant director and assistant of production for theatre and experimental cinema. Since 2013 she has specialized in lighting. Among the theatre and opera companies she has worked for are Emilio Calcagno, La Fura Dels Baus, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Damien Jalet and Guy Cassiers. In the field of experimental cinema, she worked with American artist Peter Miller and filmmakers collective Flatform.

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Žana Marović

(Video Editor and Compositor)



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Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Blending her interests in science and art with that of video editing in film and television, Sarajevo-born Žana Marović settled in Johannesburg in 1995. She gained experience by working on various television productions from documentaries to feature films, including award-winning wildlife feature films by the acclaimed National Geographic filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert. In 2011 she became involved in the creative process on projects and installations by William Kentridge, including *Refuse the Hour, The Refusal of Time*, O Sentimental Machine, Notes towards the Model Opera, Second Hand Reading, Lulu, Wozzeck, The Head & the Load, among others.

Duško Marović (Cinematographer)

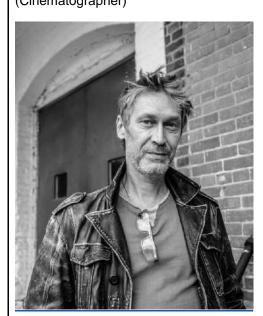


Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Having settled in South Africa from Serbia in the early 1990s, Belgrade-born cinematographer Duško Marović, has diversified his skills in local and international productions. His work on commercials, corporate films, documentaries, art installations and featurettes for acclaimed HBO, BBC Sport, National Geographic, Discovery channel to name a few, took him across the globe. Born in 1969 and educated in the field of telecommunication studies, Marović is known for a variety of critically impressive works including the award winning feature documentary *The War Photographers*; featurettes for TV series *The Passion, Generation Kill, The House of Saddam, The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency*, among others. Since 2011 he has filmed for William Kentridge's theatre productions and art installations such as *The Refusal of Time, More Sweetly Play the Dance, Notes Towards the Model Opera*, O *Sentimental Machine, Lulu, Wozzeck*, and *The Head & the Load* to name but a few.

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Stella Olivier

(Photographer)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Stella Olivier is a South African born photographer with a focus on photojournalism in the area of Fine Arts and Theatre.

Olivier started documenting William Kentridge since 2009. Her work consists of moments behind the scenes, studio production and stage performances.

Productions with Kentridge include *The Refusal of Time*, *More Sweetly Play the Dance*, *Notes Towards the Model Opera*, O Sentimental Machine, Lulu, Wozzeck and The Head & the Load.

Gavan Eckhart

(Sound Engineer/Recording)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Gavan Eckhart is a sound engineer, producer and owns Soul Fire Studios in Johannesburg, South Africa. For many years, he has been working with the cream of the South African music industry. He has recorded and mixed the sound for artists such as Miriam Makeba, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Soweto Gospel Choir, Freshly Ground and has produced sound for William Kentridge's collaborative works with Philip Miller (including Miller's extensive film score repertoire). Gavan also tours with top South African and international bands providing great live mixes for a diverse listenership. His vast experience in theatre, television, film and music production has recently culminated in the creative utilisation of sound technology in visual arts and music production. He is currently installing sound systems for museums and venues, produces and mixes a variety of musical and visual artists, both in the studio and on the road. He has been nominated for a SAMA for Miriam Makeba's *Reflections* as well as a Golden Reel Award for the soundtrack to *Book of Negros*.

Www.soulfiresa.com

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Emmanuelle Erhart (Costume Fabricator)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Emmanuelle Erhart is a costume designer and producer, and is our lead costume fabricator during our Kentridge productions.

Working in the realms of theatre, dance, and opera, Erhart works to define the visual world of each character and production, working closely with directors, lighting, and set designers throughout the process of design.

Xolisile Bongwana (Singer / Dancer)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Eastern Cape-born Xolisile Bongwana is an accomplished dancer who is also well versed in singing, composing, directing, acting and choreography. Bongwana has had an impressive career as an artist over the past decade and a half, and his involvement in the performing arts industry has seen him work with award-winning choreographers such as Robyn Orlin, Luyanda Sidiya and Gregory Magoma. His impressive performance experience includes being part of the works such as Gibson Kente Music Tribute, Hugh Masekela Celebration, Centre For The Less Good Idea season 1, 2 & 5, Enyangeni & Cion. Bongwana's composition was used for Luyanda Sidiya's Siva, Standard Bank Young Artist winner for Dance in 2015. The work was performed at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown and China, has also Composed for MAKWANDE, IN HER SHOES recently "AMAWETHU" also by Luyanda Sidiya which they Premiered in NAF Grahamstown and after they went to Pretoria State Theatre. An artist of note, he was nominated in 2016 as part of the Mail and Guardian 200 Young South Africans. He has been part of William Kentridge's Sibyl. Bongwana recently created his own work titled MNQUMA which has been performed at The Centre For The Less Good Idea, Pop Art Theatre, Dance Umbrella Africa, My Body My Space and Market Theatre. Xoli has toured Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, France, the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada, and Australia.

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Thulani Chauke (Dancer)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Thulani Chauke started his performing arts career at the Jabavu Anti Crime Youth Aids Awareness. Between 2001 and 2005, Thulani has respectively performed for various projects of Arco Dance theatre, Halala Africa theatre Society and Taelo Dance theatre. In 2009 he joined Moving Into Dance as a trainer and later that year as a company member. In 2011 he joined Vuyani Dance Theatre as a company member. From 2012-2017, he joined Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative as Community Arts Engagement Officer/Dancer and Choreographer.

His currently a freelance artist Chauke created his first solo work *BLACK DOG* whilst in a residency programme at the CND- (Centre National de la Danse) Paris and at the Klap Maison Danse in France 2013, and this solo work has performed in several dance festivals since its creation.

Chauke has performed in various number of dance works and he has worked with internationally acclaimed choreographers: Gregory Maqoma, PJ Sabbagha, Fana Tshabalala, Shanel Winlock, Ivan Estegneev and Evgeny Kulagin (Russia), Iain Macdonald, QudusOnikeku (Nigeria), Themba Mbuli, Thabo Rapoo, Gustine Makgeledisa, Andrea Severa (Argentina).

Since 2017 Chauke has been a freelance artist and has been working with William Kentridge in various projects curated by The Centre For The Less Good Idea: Season One and Four, *History Of The Main Complaint* (2017) - originally by William Kentridge reinterpreted by Chauke, and Kentridge's *The Head & the Load* (2017-2023) and *Sibyl* (2019-2023).

Teresa Phuti Mojela (Dancer/Sybil)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Teresa Phuti Mojela was born and raised in Ivory Park and Limpopo Province. She is a performer, choreographer, teacher, mentor, as well as aspiring director and Producer. A founder and director of PHUTI PEDI PRODUCTIONS, she started her acting and dancing career in 1999, studied drama at Paul Rapetsoa Institute of Dramatic Arts. She was a student at Inzalo Dance Theatre, trainee at Tribhangi Dance Theatre, senior dancer at Vuyani Dance Theatre and teacher/dancer at Moving into Dance, Facilitates Let's Move adult dance class in Partnership with Market Lab.

She established Children Saturday Dance Class & Dance Infinity Project in Limpopo Province funded by NAC, Co-produced BAPA with Ntsika Ngxanga, Choreographed: Bapa, "ARTISTS WITH NO TITLE" & Pedi produced by The Centre for the Less Good Idea and was part of Season 2 and Waiting for the Sibyl as Sybil by William Kentridge, That Night Of Trance by Ntshieng Mokgoro, Ankobia for NAF2017 by Vice Monageng/Omphile Molusi, Tribute To Maya Angelou produced by Market Theatre, Lingering collaborative work with Sonia Radebe, Co-creator of SOLD by Themba Mbuli for NAF2016 and Hani: The Legacy, the Standard bank GOLD Ovation award winners NAF2017. She facilitated Dance at JHB Sun City female correctional service centre and communities taught Movement at AFDA and Wits University physical theatre students. She's currently a Movement teacher at the Market Theatre Laboratory. Phuti worked with different choreographers, directors and writers such as James Ngcobo, William Kentridge, Shanell Winlock, Gregory Magoma, Jerry Mofokeng, Napo Masheane, Phala Ookeditse Phala, Ntshieng Mokgoro, Robyn Orlin, Jayspree Moopen, Margaret Mokoka, Thabo Rapoo, Luyanda Sidiya Mark Hawkins, Moeketsi Koena, Alfred Hinkel, Silvia "magogo" Glasser, Florent Mahoukou from Congo Brazzaville, and Javier Velazquez Cabrero from Mexico to mention only a few.

She has toured Germany, Amsterdam, India, France, Finland, Paris, Sweden, New York and Italy and traveled to Holland Festival to partake in the

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Immerse@HF Program in dance residency.

Thandazile 'Sonia' Radebe (Dancer)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Sonia Radebe is an award-winning contemporary African dancer with a diploma in Theory and Practice of Dance Teaching. With over 15 years of experience in the industry, her extraordinary work and passion for collaborations and residency programs has been seen in Africa, United States, and Europe. Her work deals with universal socio-economic issues as well as advocating for african narrative sharing of oral history in a witty yet emotionally charged way. The performance platforms as well as institutions that have benefited from her skill include Dance Umbrella Africa, NAF, International, Detours Festival, Tanzhauz-Dusseldof, Germany, ICW-Netherlands, Afrovibes, Shiefting Realities-Ecole de Sable, Senegal, Wits-Dept. of Theatre and Performance, SANCTA, Oakfield College, University of Pretoria, Jhb Correctional Services, MID, Jomba Festival, Hillbrow Theatre, William Kentridge's Centre for the Less Good Idea, and The Madea Project in San Francisco, USA. She is also a codirector at Song and Dance Works.

Ayanda Nhlangothi (Singer/Soprano)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Ayanda Nhlangothi, daughter of Reginald 'Bhunu' Nhlangothi (Jazz Drummer and Business man) and Marilyn Thenjiwe Nokwe (Singer, Songwriter and Business woman), is a young lady who is extremely talented and versatile. She is a singer, composer, dancer, producer, actress, social activist & teacher. Her career began at a very tender age of 10. She acted in the Sarafina movie. recorded the voice of young Simba in the Zulu Lion King, was the original lead voice in the e-tv theme song when it was first launched. Ayanda composes music that reveals the resilient spirit of our African youth. She was regarded as "the class" of the 2002 Idols competition and "The Voice of a Nation". After which landed her lead roles in various theatres including The Johannesburg Civic Theatre, New York Off-Broadway Dodgers Theatre and Catalina Theatre in Kzn, starring in: Sleeping Beauty Pantomime, the British musical Boogie Nights, interactive drumming experience Drumstruck and her one-hander about her life IVOTI. She released her debut album with SonyBmg in 2007. Recently in 2013 she recorded and performed with international legendary harpist, Andreas Vollenweider in Switzerland. In that same year, she performed as the main opening act of the 2013 AFCON Opening Concert. She appeared singing and playing an African Indigenous Instrument 'Umakhweyana', an emotional string instrument that is truly therapeutic and which was played by Zulu Women and made famous by Princess Magogo (Mother of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi). This world stage appearance opened more doors for her in theatre, television and cinema starring in Cry of Love Movie of Moments entertainment,

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Makwande and 7 Pillars of Vuyani Dance Theatre, and The Manicurist of Born Free Productions. Ayanda comes with a pedigree second to none. Her strong sense of social consciousness was influenced by her family's rich musical history inherited from her grandparents, the legendary Patty and Alfred Nokwe; mother Marilyn Nokwe of Mango Groove, and Tu Nokwe of Shaka Zulu fame who all played a pivotal role in guiding her artistic development. Like her family, she is committed to making a positive difference to people's lives through music and storytelling. She is currently working on her second album that celebrates Pan Africanism by taking you through her journey of Letting Go and experiencing true joy. Through this album dedicated to Mother Africa, her deepest yearning is to be her true self: A True African.

Zandile Hlatshwayo (Singer/Alto)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Zandile (aka Zandi Hlatshwayo) was introduced to the music industry in 2003 when she met Themba Mkhize who gave her informal training. She then started working for him as a backing vocalist. He introduced her to people like Shaluza Max Mtambo and Lucas Senyatso, among many others. In 2005, Zandi joined a group called *Amantombazane* as their lead, which was produced by Sizwe Zako. In 2007 she joined Wadz Music Company, where she released her first solo house album called *Life is a Journey*. In 2009, Zandi became a member of Soweto Spiritual Singers (SSS), which is led by Vicky Vilakazi, from Joyous Celebration, and they performed at the 2010 Soccer World Cup with R Kelly. Zandi also performed with Lira, Bebe Winans, Sechaba Padi, Thabo Mdluli, Jo Nina, Uche, Patrick Duncan, Moses Molelekwa jazz band amongst others.

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Siphiwe Nkabinde (Singer/Bass)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

artist, dancer, and musician. He was born in Bergville (Emoyeni), KwaZulu Natal province of South Africa. He has made himself a name as a performing artist, actor, music composer and a vocal coach working his way up from one production to the other. Sip has always striven for a better version of himself through various acting, singing, script writing and dance workshops refining his craft and skills. His career took off when he landed various roles in *Umoja – The Spirit of Togetherness* in 2001 which toured the world. In 2009 his skill was received by several theatre productions like *Kwela Bafana*, *iLembe*, *Madiba African Opera*, *Exit Exist*, *Music in The Air*, *Amandla Cultural Ensemble*, *King*

Siphiwe Sip is a Zulu traditional vocalist, songwriter, actor, praise singer, voice

Kong Musical, and Cion, and children's theatre productions Library Lion and Mr. Popper's Penguins to name a few. Sip has recently played a stubborn and arrogant Zulu king in a musical called Hlakanyana where he also helped with dialogue and isiZulu wording.

In 2013 he studied Applied Drama Techniques with Wits where he obtained a certificate. Sip has also been featured on a local drama series *Isibaya* playing Senior Officer, *Ashes to ashes* as Fezekile/Fez, a lawyer on *Unmarried*, in feature film *Ingane kababa*, *Generations: The Legacy* as Dr Sono and *Diep City* as Mr X. Sip is working with William Kentridge on *Waiting for the Sibyl*, *The Moment Has Gone* and *The Head & the Load* as a vocalist. Sip's music work has been featured and continue to be heard on SA programs local and international, local movies, and international music programs.

Again in 2013, some of his music work through Slam production (Songs from KwaZulu - Sip featured as Nxele, one of his nicknames from home) was digitally released on iTunes. Sip has been composing music and became a lyricist for some local upcoming DJs and gospel groups. When Sip was in London for a Dance Umbrella 2016 October, he got an opportunity to lay vocals of African harmonies with and for an international artist "Omar Puente Fiffe" from Cuba. In 2012 he translated Indian music to isiZulu and recorded traditional vocals with an Indian music Simaab Sen for a Bollywood film called Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola where Sip played a supporting character as a vocalist and a dancer. He has composed and co-produced music with Simon Sibanda of Slam production for jingles, title tracks for different TV programs, drama series and local films. Sip is now building his music library for various content under his publishing and label company called Amacusi Productions. He has recently recorded a voice character for a film called *Amashinga* where he led Zulu chants, helped with Zulu grammar, dialogue, and coach. This is a British Empire and The Zulu Kingdom film by the UK producer.

Sip has worked with Blue Moon on an industrial theatre project for Jet store where he performed as an actor, singer, and a dancer as well as the recording of Jet radio drama. His recent music work is available in all digital platforms.

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Sbusiso Shozi (Singer/Tenor)



Photo credit: Stella Olivier

Sbusiso is a director of Show Zee Productions a company that he owns which produces Theatre and co-operate events. He is a Durban-born artist who has a vast experience in performing art most notable in theatre and a bit of television. His love for music started at an early age and was fortunate enough to be discovered by Mbongeni Ngema who nurtured his talent to become a professional performer. He has performed a number of shows such as *Sarafina*, *Drumstruck*, *Long way to Go, Music in the Air*, *Have we been heard*, *Umshado*, *Cion* and many more. He also played a lead role in an International documentary called *Operation Certain Death*.

Sbusiso is a singer, actor, modern and traditional dancer, script writer, song composer and a vocal coach.