

JULY 2012

INTWASA

ARTS FESTIVAL KOBULAWAYO



SPOTLIGHT

MOKOOMBA MAKES A MAIDEN APPEARANCE AT INTWASA

INTWASA



ARTS FESTIVAL KOBULAWAYO

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(article on page 4)

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THE LION & THE JEWEL AT INTWASA

The Centre for Talent Development (CTD), a theatre training project established in 2011 will be back at the Intwasa stage with another hilarious dose of Wole Soyinka's The Lion and The Jewel.

(article on page 5)

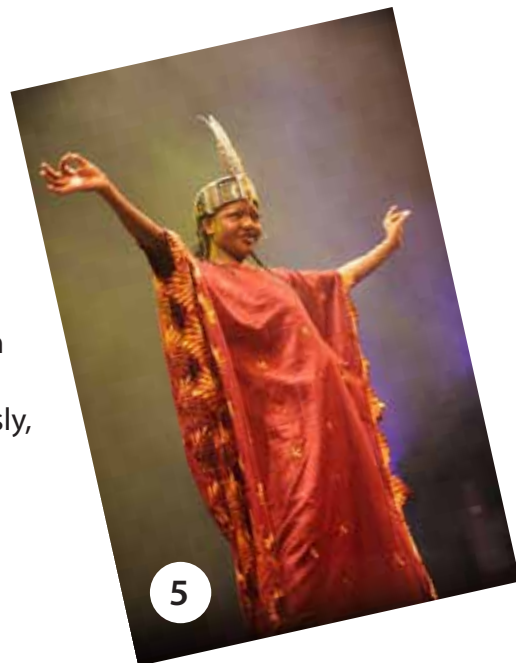


EDITORIAL

The countdown to the 8th Edition of Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo continues. It's now less than 60 days to go and all is set for Bulawayo's most colourful, entertaining and premier arts event. Excited as I am for the festival I must admit this year has not been easy, particularly our attempt to enhance the diversity of the festival by spicing it with foreign content. Work permit costs, stringent conditions for foreign artists to perform in Zimbabwe and lack of funding forced INTWASA and, obviously, other local festivals and arts promoters to scale down on the number of foreign artists coming for the festival.

The festival's reputation continues to grow as evidenced by the many letters of interest received particularly from groups and artists from Europe, West, East and Southern Africa. Unfortunately, most could not be invited due to reasons mentioned above. However, it is important to reiterate that no condition, no-matter how negative, will dampen the high celebratory mood in the INTWASA camp. The programmed groups, individual artists, festival team, and the city of Bulawayo itself, have promised a life changing experience come September.

This time the whole city of Bulawayo shall bloom into a rainbow of colours.



Raisedon Baya
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

BE PART OF THE BLOOMING

Calling on all companies, donors and individuals to invest in arts by investing in INTWASA 2012 Call: +263 9 63928



MOKOOMBA MAKES MAIDEN APPEARANCE AT INTWASA



Mokoomba is a six member band born in the resort town of Victoria Falls and now based in Harare. The group was formed by the late legendary guitarist Alfred Mujimba in 2008.

That same year, the group went on to win the Music Crossroads Inter-regional Competitions in Lilongwe, Malawi. The internationally traveled Mokoomba are scheduled to be part of Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo 2012 program in September. The group has performed in big European Festivals in countries like Italy, Spain, Belgium, Norway and Austria. Regionally the group has toured Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. Mokoomba has also featured at HIFA.

Mokoomba are well known for their electrifying blend of Afro-fusion and tantalizing traditional Tonga rhythms. This exciting Tonga group from Binga certainly has a unique sound rooted in Tonga tradition and promises to take the world of music by storm. The band mixes a number of indigenous languages such as Luvale, Nyanja, Mbunda, and Chokwe which are part of the Tonga dialect. The group fuses modern instruments and Tonga traditional instruments like Jemba and the bell to create tantalizing and danceable traditional rhythms.

‘hit songs umvundla and Messe Messe.Messe Messe’

To date the group has produced two albums entitled Kweseka-Drifting Ahead and Rising Tide. The Bulawayo audience will have an opportunity to sample their songs during Intwasa Arts Festival. The group is known for their hit songs umvundla and Messe Messe. Messe Messe is making waves on the underground international dance music charts.

In their work the group has collaborated with Mano Gallo from Belgium and the popular Dutch house producer Gregor Salto. The group is made of six talented members; Mathias Muzaza who is the lead vocalist; Trustworth Samende, lead guitarist; Ndaba Costa Moyo, drums; Miti Mugande, percussion; MacDonald Moyo, keyboard and Abundance Mutori who plays the bass guitar. It will be Mokoomba's maiden appearance at Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo.



STITSHA! THE COMEBACK

Sihlangu Dlodlo, one of Bulawayo's prominent playwrights and producers, has resuscitated Cont Mhlanga and Amakhosi Theatre's best known and ground breaking play STITSHA.

According to Dlodlo, who is actually producing the play for the second time, STITSHA is a timeless Zimbabwean stage classic. The play was of the first plays to discuss the land issue and gender equity way back in the late 80s. Both issues are still pertinent even today.

The play is credited with introducing Amakhosi Theatre to the international stage. Stitsha is township lingo for stitching or sewing things together. In the play two different stories, several issues and arts genres are seamlessly stitched together. The new play has a new cast of talented and vibrant artists including the versatile and NAMA award winning actor Zenzo Nyathi, the well- travelled and vocally gifted Nomathamsanqa Mkwanzani and seasoned artists like Memory Kumbota and Thulani Mbambo.

'artistically uses music, dance and drama to weave'

Stitsha has been produced for both the stage and television with Joyce Mpofu playing the lead in the original stage version while the late Beater Mangethe played Thuli in the television version. In the new version Nomathamsanqa Mkwanzani is playing Thuli, the lead character. Describing the play, Dlodlo, the Director of Qhube Productions, said Stitsha was a dance drama about a dance drama - a timeless classic that brings the issue of women's equity to the fore without the drag of stereotype. The play artistically uses music, dance and drama to weave an intricate and complex story of woman fighting for self-recognition in a male dominated world. The land issue, quite topical in Zimbabwe and lately in South Africa is discussed in this no-holds barred production.

*'well- travelled
and vocally
gifted*

*Nomathamsanqa
Mkwanzani'*

Intwasa Arts Festival



INTWASA TAKES TALENT SHOW TO EZIKO

Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo took the second audition of their Bulawayo's Most Amazing Talents to Eziko Theatre Laboratory at the Indlovu Youth Centre in Tshabalala. The auditions attracted 20 acts mainly in music, dancing and poetry. The event was graced by Bulawayo's arts ambassadors Black Umfolosi. A sizeable crowd braved the heat to cheer and support their peers and friends as they showcased their different talents. Of the twenty contestants only Cool Runnings, Mac, Classic Moves, Barbed Wire, and Brizzy Bounce qualified for the finals to be held in August at Bulawayo Theatre.

BULAWAYO's MOST AMAZING TALENTS

Black Umfolosi, who were the guest group, had the audience eating from the palms of their hands as they churned the hits that made them a household name. Their song "UNITY" had everyone on their feet and singing along.

Most artists who contested exhibited some talent though the judges bemoaned lack of originality and preparation. Nelson Mapako, one of the adjudicators, said "the competition was tough and there was need for those that qualified for the finals to continue working hard as the finals would be tougher."

The winning acts will now join winners of the first auditions, namely Rockappella, Great Stars, Hip Hop Honeys, and Powerhouse. The talent show is annual event run by Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo.

1. The festival is an annual event held during the month of September in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
2. Intwasa is a Ndebele word meaning spring.
3. The festival is run as a Trust.
4. The festival is multi – disciplinary and sensitive to all arts genres.
5. 2012 sees the festival celebrating 8 years of existence.
6. The festival seeks to promote diversity, human creativity and African aesthetics.
7. The festival runs one of the biggest High Schools Drama competitions in Zimbabwe. This is in partnership with Plan Zimbabwe.
8. The Chibuku Stage is the festival's biggest open air stage.
9. The festival is held in 7 venues around the city of Bulawayo.
10. Half the performances are free





TUMBUKA TO BLOOM AT INTWASA 2012

Tumbuka Dance Company, one of Zimbabwe's well known dance ambassadors, is scheduled to perform at this year's Intwasa Arts Festival koBulawayo.

The company is known for revolutionising dance by developing unique and socially relevant images that consequently influenced the direction of dance in Zimbabwe and Africa. With its well-trained dancers the company strives to be socially relevant by addressing the psychosocial realities and complexities of mainly Zimbabwean life for the purpose of inciting reflection and transformation in both the community and its company of dancers. Tumbuka integrates elements of traditional dance with contemporary idioms, movement, and the use of an eclectic selection of music- live or recorded.

Tumbuka is a shona word meaning to bloom or to flower. Their coming to Intwasa, particularly in the year of blooming, is no coincidence. The company will be showcasing two of the latest pieces; *Between the Lines* and *Breath of Origins*. *Between the lines* was premiered at HIFA. It is a contemporary piece Harold George, a choreographer from Sierra Leone /Belgium.



The work is inspired by Nigerian Booker award winning author Ben Okri's *Astonishing The Gods* and his meditation on the nature of invisibility.

The musical composition includes various artists from Africa, the USA, France as well as live songs, mbira and drums from Zimbabwe. Various languages from the North and the continent are used in the spoken word component of the piece. It involves live on-stage painting, roller-skating, visuals and a metal cube with elastic strings on wheels that enables the dancers to express the contours and dynamics of invisibility.

In *Breath of Origins* the ensemble explores chained souls, the voices of the unheard, and the body that always remembers to give something that is alive as each problem is solved and new ones arise.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS & VENUES

ARTS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP (20 & 21 SEPTEMBER)

This is the second edition of the workshop which started last year (2011). The two day workshop will look at models of arts management and how management can improve the running and organisation of the arts sector in Zimbabwe. The workshop will be conducted by Mr Nicholas Moyo, the Deputy Director of the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) and a fellow at the American Kennedy Centre of the Arts.

Supported by the U.S Embassy the workshop will take place at the American Corner (Bulawayo Public Library).

Registration fee is \$10

OPEN DIALOGUE: CULTURAL CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP (19 SEPTEMBER)

A one day workshop on the business of arts. The U.K based facilitator will focus on the potential of the arts as a business, the business opportunities that exist in Zimbabwe, Africa, Europe and globally. The workshop is supported by the British Council. Interested artists and cultural workers can register at Intwasa offices.

Registration is free. (Only 50 participants will be registered for this workshop.)

ARTS AND CULTURE WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS (20 SEPTEMBER)

In conjunction with Amagugu Cultural Village Trust the festival will host a one day workshop for Arts and Culture teachers. The workshop seeks to capacitate teachers in ways of using cultural villages as resource tools for teaching purposes and using an interdisciplinary approach. This will be facilitated by renowned historian and cultural expert Mr Pathisa Nyathi.

Registration is \$10

PHYSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP (19 & 21 SEPTEMBER)

Targeting young artists – particularly students and out of school youths – the workshop will focus on physical theatre as a special genre of performing arts. Lloyd Nyikadzino, recently returned from a year's study in America will facilitate. The workshop comes courtesy of the U.S Embassy.

Registration is free. (Limited spaces)

VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOP

A two day exploration of artistic trajectories, paths, subjects and content of visual art works. Leading visual artists to lead the discussions.

THE BUSINESS OF WRITING

A talk and discussion on writing and getting published in Zimbabwe.

THE HOT POT

This is a conversation with artists focusing on thorny, sensitive off-stage issues affecting both the old and young generations of artists. This is a very hot platform, with no taboos, but ultimately meant to bridge the generation gap.

Free and open to all artists



The American Corner (Bulawayo Public Library).



Bulawayo City Hall Car Park.



Rainbow Hotel, Bulawayo.



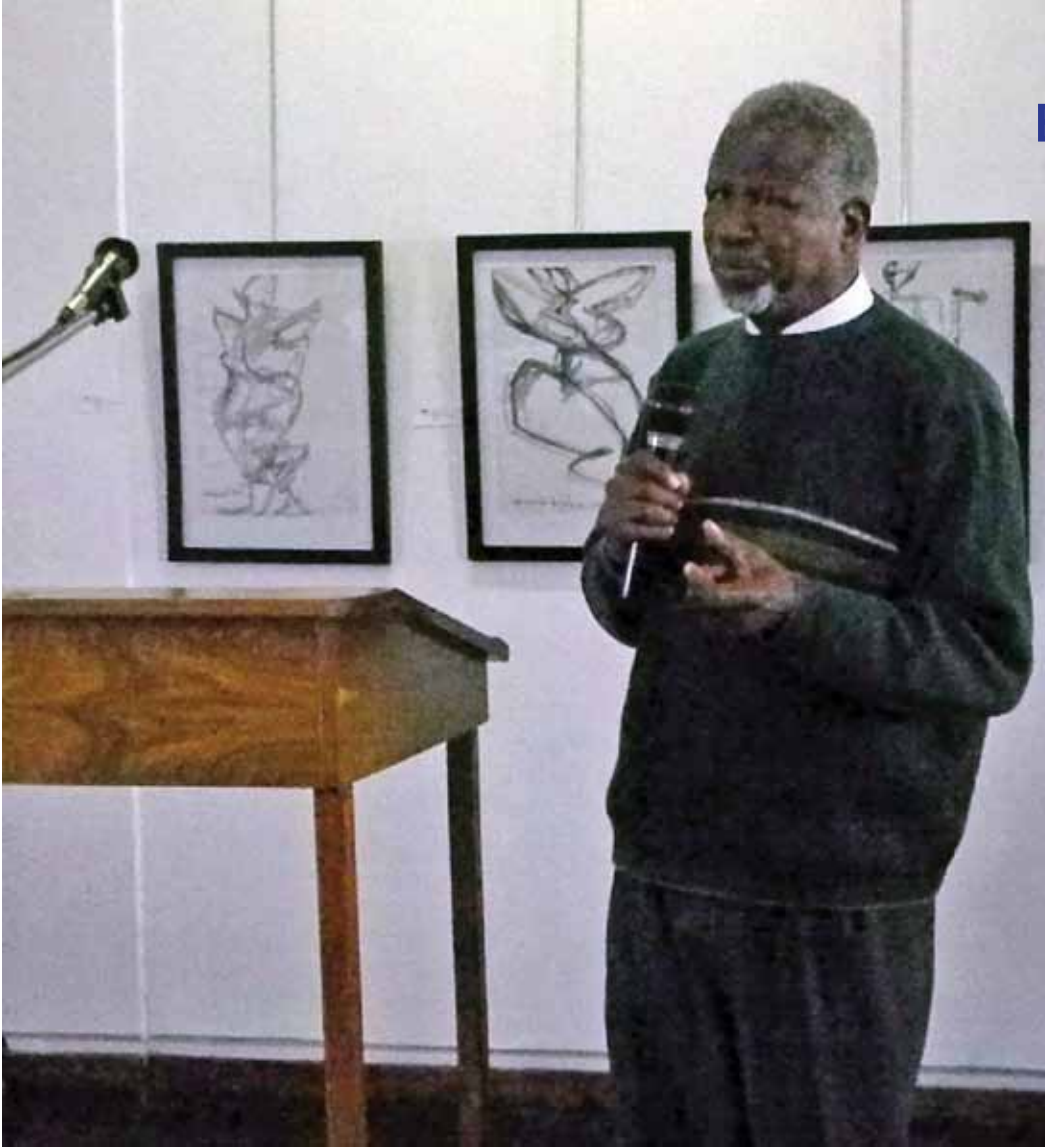
Bulawayo Theatre.



National Gallery in Bulawayo.



Rainbow Elite 400.



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE, THROUGH ITS ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT,

has embarked on a massive orientation program for schools' Arts and Culture Heads of Departments within Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. The Department held district by district workshops whose main thrust was to unpack the Ministry expectations when it comes to Arts and Cultural activities within schools.

What seems to be coming out is that the Department is keen to formalize art and cultural activities within schools by making sure that arts and culture is taken with the seriousness it deserves. Israel Ndlovu, E.O Arts and Culture, observed that the current trend within schools is that Arts and Cultural activities are taken as pass time events or place holder activities and the department was working on bringing that to an end.

A

rts and Cultural activities are given a second priority if not third after academic subjects and sports. However, from the workshops it seems that era and its errors is coming to an end. Schools are already implementing the Ministry's circular 28 of 2010 recommendations which demand that a committee be set in each school that will oversee the running and implementation of Arts and Culture teaching.

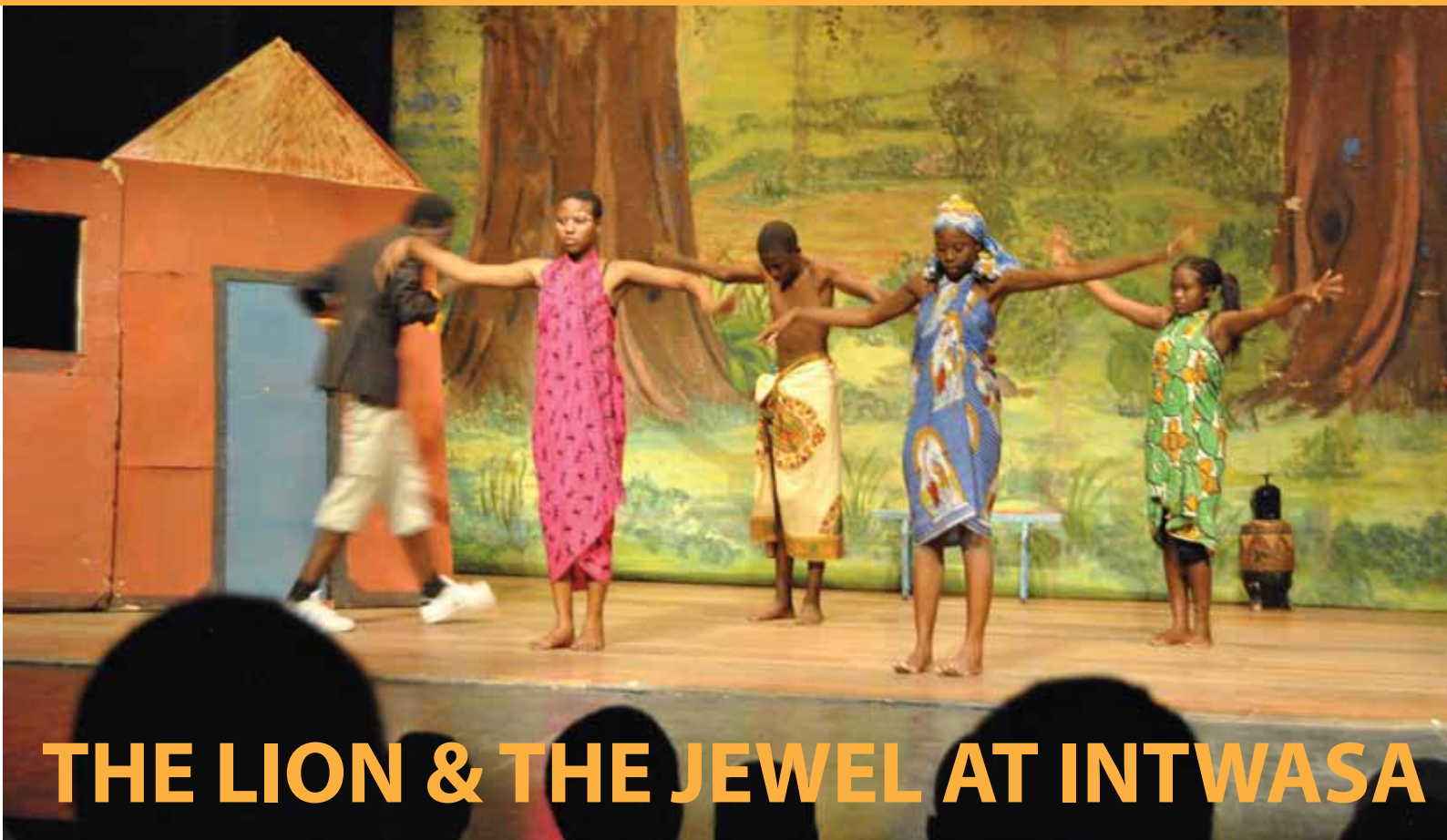
One interesting element within the Ministry's quest is its hunger for statistics. Each school is required to send a statistical report after each cultural activity. The statistics have to cover the number of all players as these will be used in shaping the future of the sector.

The Ministry is not embarking on this dream journey alone but has taken on board other stakeholders. Artists and Institutions with vast expertise were invited to come and share with educators their experiences. Intwasa Arts Festival Director Raisedon Baya shared his understanding of Arts and Culture and its importance in shaping the ethos of a nation. He made it clear that culture is the strongest tool an individual or a group of people can use to their advantage. He went on to extrapolate and expounded on the importance of Arts festivals in schools.

'schools should instead build Cultural Centers'

Historian and Cultural expert Phathisa Nyathi gave a paper on Cultural Villages which are supposed to be built by schools. He laughed at the idea of schools being expected to build huts and calling these villages. He gave a clear definition of what a village is and how they vary from one ethnic group to the other. He recommended that schools should instead build Cultural Centers as Villages will demand a lot of resources. He promised to give a more detailed paper during Intwasa Arts Festival in Bulawayo.

Silenkosi Moyo also shared vital information on Art Galleries and the importance of Visual Arts exhibitions in schools as a form of boosting learners' self-esteem and helping them to find themselves through their works. William Nyandoro from National Arts Council office in Bulawayo made a presentation on the importance of observing International Arts Days. These, he said, can assist educators to come up with a programme for the whole year.



THE LION & THE JEWEL AT INTWASA

The Centre for Talent Development (CTD), a theatre training project established in 2011 will be back at the Intwasa stage with another hilarious dose of Wole Soyinka's *The Lion and The Jewel*.

With a cast of eight vibrant and ambitious actors drawn from different secondary schools within Bulawayo CTD hopes to thrill its young audiences again – the audience for the play is mainly students studying the play at O' Level. Last year the Centre brought down the house with their focused and intelligent interpretation of Soyinka's most recognised work.

The Lion and the Jewel is Soyinka's best known plays that uses an interesting fusion of traditional and modern imagery with Soyinka artistically revealing the interesting and yet controversial conflict between tradition and modernisation. It is a classic story which tells how Baroka, the village chief, outpaces the modernist Lakunle in the quest to get the hand of the village belle Sidi.

'interesting fusion of traditional and modern imagery'

The Centre for Talent Development's theatre –in-education project has a unique scope and specifications that seek to achieve educational benefits for cast members as well their peers in secondary schools. The vision of the centre is to use drama to support educators across the country by developing live dramatizations of literature texts studied in the classroom. The simple objective is to provide high quality and well researched performances that satisfy educators' and students' needs within the classroom.

The cast includes Trevor Siyani as Lankule, Charmaine Mudau as the beautiful Sidi, Hezel Sibanda as Favourite, Bathabile Dlamini as Sadiku and seasoned and gifted actor Gift Chakuvunga as Baroka. The play is directed by Thabani Hilary Moyo, a graduate of the UZ theatre arts department.

ARTS IN PHOTOS



ARTS IN PHOTOS

