

# Arts for social transformation and healing.



dramaforlife

[www.dramaforlife.co.za](http://www.dramaforlife.co.za)

Drama for Life, based at the University of the Witwatersrand, is an arts centre for social transformation and healing.

## Mission

Drama for Life enhances dialogue for purposes of social transformation and healing through arts-based research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. We achieve this through critical reflexive and therapeutic arts approaches that relate to current social realities and the rich indigenous knowledge of Africa.

## Vision

A global leader in an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to arts for social transformation and healing.

Drama for Life is internationally recognised as the University of the Witwatersrand's unique postgraduate academic, research and community engagement department that brings together the disciplines of applied drama and theatre, performance ethnography, performance as research, arts education, drama therapy and expressive arts therapies within the context of a critical reflexive praxis.

Our ethos is driven by three key questions: What does it mean to be human in the 21st century? How can we learn to be resilient, without compromising our humanity, as we engage with the enormous challenges of change in the 21st century? And, in so doing, how can we effectively use the arts, without compromising its aesthetic power, to bring about meaningful, sustainable social transformation and healing?

Our unique programme of education prepares arts-based researchers, arts activists, theatre-makers, performance artists, directors, applied drama and theatre facilitators, drama educators, arts educators, drama therapists and expressive arts therapists to create interventions, performances, rituals and processes that skilfully and appropriately address social transformation and healing in a wide range of education, health and social contexts.

## Drama for Life achieves its objectives through:

- A postgraduate academic programme of excellence
- A comprehensive accredited short course programme
- A dynamic research hub for research projects and research thrusts
- A comprehensive community, national and regional engagement programme that facilitates projects, teaching and learning, performances and festivals
- An international annual research conference
- A regional centre of Drama for Life based in Gaborone, Botswana
- A pan-African network of Drama for Life

## Drama for Life offers a unique and original range of approved degrees in Africa:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in the field of Applied Drama and Theatre (AX000)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in the field of Expressive Arts Therapies (AX000)
- Bachelor of Arts with Honours in the field of Applied Drama: Theatre in Education, Communities and Social Contexts (AH000)
- Bachelor of Arts with Honours in the field of Drama Therapy (AH000)
- Master of Arts in the field of Applied Drama: Theatre in Education, Communities and Social Contexts (AC000)
- Master of Arts in the field of Drama Therapy (AC000)
- Master of Arts in Dramatic Art by Creative Research and Dissertation (AR000)
- PhD by Creative Research and/or Dissertation (AD002)

## Short course programme

Our short course programme consists of the following accredited courses:

### Introduction courses

Introduction to Playback Theatre, Introduction to Applied Performing Arts & Arts Management for Youth, Drama Therapy, Introduction to

Theatre in Education, Introduction to Theatre of the Oppressed: Image Theatre, Process Drama, Theatre-Making, Applied Drama Techniques for adolescent HIV/AIDS education, Introduction to Expressive Movement Therapy, Introduction to Applied Drama Facilitation Techniques, Introduction to Theatre-Making Techniques and Strategies for Youth, Stories of Identity: Using Theatre to Build Community Through Personal Narratives.

### Intermediate courses

Advanced Skills in Playback Theatre, Applied Performing Arts & Arts Management for Youth, Drama Therapy, Theatre in Education, Theatre of the Oppressed: Forum Theatre, Process Drama, Theatre-Making.

### Advanced courses

Role Theory in Drama Therapy, Developmental Transformations, Advanced Expressive Movement Therapy, Advanced Applied Drama Techniques for Adolescent Education, Advanced skills in Theatre of the Oppressed, Advanced Applied Performing Arts and Arts Management for Youth, Psycho-social Training in Playback Theatre, New Histories, New Consciousness in Cultural Leadership, Performance Dialogues for Social Transformation, Internship Supervision in Clinical, Psycho-education, and Community-based Drama Therapy.

## Drama For Life research community, national and regional projects

Drama for Life projects offer a platform for practice-based training and research, and in-field experience and engagement with communities, using an interdisciplinary and integrated arts approach to address issues of human rights and social justice, social cohesion and diversity, HIV and AIDS, sexual reproduction, health and wellness, as well as environmental sustainability. These projects are premised on an ethos of ethical, professional, interdisciplinary and creative practice in the field of arts development, education, therapies and activism.

## Drama for Life projects include:

- **Drama for Life Sex Actually Festival** – An annual national arts festival that provides a platform for cutting-edge visual and performing arts about sex, sexualities and sexual health in partnership with the Goethe- Institut and Business and Arts South Africa
- **Drama for Life SA Season** – A festival for unique new South African voices in theatre
- **Drama for Life Human Rights and Social Justice Season** – A multidisciplinary arts-based intervention that speaks truth to power in partnership with Robert F Kennedy Human Rights
- **Drama for Life Lover + Another National Poetry Slam** – A performance-poetry festival intervention in partnership with AIDS Health Foundation (AHF), South Africa
- **Drama for Life Mvuso School and Community Education Project** – A drama education and drama therapy training project for teachers, community artists and school children, in partnership with Rand Merchant Bank (RMB)
- **Drama for Life Blood Sugars Research Project** – A Drama for Life and Wits Health Communications Unit project about diabetes in partnership with the Wellcome Trust and Baragwanath Hospital
- **Drama for Life AMP! Initiative Project** – A Drama for Life, UCLA Arts and Global Health, and Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project (CTAOP) partnership for the purposes of sexual health education
- **Drama for Life Sexual Health Education Research Project** – A participatory-action research project that explores the efficacy of Drama for Life’s reflective practice and critical reflexive praxis in partnership with DST and Universities of South Africa/HEAIDS
- **Drama for Life Playback Theatre Company** – The only accredited professional playback theatre company in Africa
- **Drama for Life Theatre Company** – A professional performance-as-research theatre company with performer/facilitators, performer/drama therapists, performer/theatre-makers, performer/researchers in partnership with the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project
- **Drama for Life Moutse East Community and Schools Festival** – A drama education, applied theatre and performance-based rural school and community intervention in partnership with the Moutse East Villages, Limpopo
- **Drama for Life Life.Beats Radio Dialogue Show and Radio Drama Training** – A partnership with Voice of Wits (VOWfm)
- **Drama for Life AFRICA Project** – A Southern African Development Community (SADC) project in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Goethe-Institut
- **Drama for Life Build a President Project** – A social media activism project that aims to build constitutional democracy in partnership with Nelson Mandela Day
- **Drama for Life BYSTANDER Project** – A project that explores the role of the “bystander” within the context of prejudice, discrimination and psychosocial violence in partnership with the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies (WiCDS) and Rosa Luxemburg
- **Drama for Life Unravelling Stories of HIV/AIDS** – A performance ethnographic, photographic and documentary project that explores the intimate life stories of people living with HIV, in partnership with Anglo American
- **Drama for Life Africa Research Conference** – An annual international research conference in partnership with the Goethe-Institut
- **Drama for Life Drama Therapy Internship Programme** – A clinical, psycho-educational and community-based internship placement programme for hospitals, special-need schools, clinics and other health and community sites in partnership with HWSETA
- **Drama for Life Applied Drama and Theatre Internship Programme** – An applied drama and theatre internship programme in schools, community settings and projects run by Drama for Life

Drama for Life is an active partner of Botswana's Maitisong Festival, Swaziland's Bushfire Festival, South Africa's National Arts Festival and several schools' festivals.

Drama for Life is supported by its extensive partnerships with the Wits School of Arts, Wits Counselling and Careers Development Unit, Wits Student Development and Leadership Unit, Wits Transformation Office, Wits Theatre, the Faculty of Humanities and Wits Student Affairs.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Facebook: Drama for Life

Twitter: @Drama\_for\_Life

Our CSI media and communication partner is Flow Communications

Our CSI publicity and marketing mentor is BUZ Publicity

**Join our student campaign to raise funds for Drama for Life student scholarships**

**#IAMTakingControl**

**Go to [www.dramaforlife.co.za](http://www.dramaforlife.co.za) and DONATE now**

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