



MASIDLALE

2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION



NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION
LOTTO FUNDED

DRAMA FOR LIFE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ASSITEJ SA PRESENTS:

THE 12TH DRAMA FOR LIFE CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL,

MASIDLALE: EXPLORING CONNECTION

20-24 AUGUST 2020





MASIDLALÉ

12th Drama for Life Conference & Festive
In collaboration with Assitej SA
Exploring Connection

2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

Acknowledgements

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With Thanks from Drama for Life Team

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Creative Research Hub Director	Hamish Neill
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Welcome

I wish I could start this welcome note without needing to use the phrase "In times such as these..."

How have you heard these times described? Unusual, uncertain, unprecedented?

Well, artists big and small, we thrive on the unusual, certainty is boring, and we set trends not precedents. Yet, the thing that bothers me most about the times, is the prevailing fear that seems to penetrate everything. And while danger might be real and we need to prepare for it and meet it, fear is a choice.

We can instead choose courage and hope...

How do artists, kindle courage and hope?

We play.

The child who plays the monster, masters the monster.

The child, who plays hide and seek, waiting in the darkness kindles the hope that a brother or friend will find her. When she is big that hope remains even when she herself had put her in the darkness.

The one who looks up, makes eye contact and accepts the hand that beckons "come play" is never lonely.

Our invitation to you, artist big or small, come play with us.

"Masidlale!!!"

Put on your beads, let's dance until the dawn breaks.

Pick up your sticks, let's fight the beast - who is willing to play the beast?

Warmth & Wellness,

Dr. Petro Janse van Vuuren
Conference & Festival Curator & Head of Drama of Life



MASIDLALE

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Registration is required in order to participate in any of the events. All individual events require separate registration. You can do this by:

- » Clicking on any of the live links that appear after every event description or,
- » By visiting and following the “Masidlale” Exploring Connections page on Eventbrite or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/masidlale-exploring-connection-tickets-115631913165>



- » Visiting the Drama for Life Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dflwits/>





12th Drama for Life Conference & Festive
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MASIDLALÉ

2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

Programme

Wednesday – 19th August 2020

16:00 – 18:00

Official Opening 12th Drama for Life Conference & Festival

Opening: “Masidlale: Exploring Connection

By: Dr Petro Janse van Vuuren

Performance from Committee Learners:

By: Olivia Jack, Thabo Johnson, Siyabonga Mthethwa

Presentations:

By: Yvette Hardie (ASSITEJ SA) &

Lereko Mfono “Little Fist, Big Heart’ screening, as part of ‘In the Works’

Link to the Official Opening:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/official-opening-12th-drama-for-life-conference-festival-tickets-116880477655>



MASIDLALÉ

12th Drama for Life Conference & Festive
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2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

Day 1

Thursday – 20th August 2020

09:00

Morning Check-In by DFL's "Our HaPPy Place"

Facilitated by:

Welma de Beer & Manola Gayatri

Description: A daily, healing morning check-in led by Drama for Life pair, Welma de Beer and visiting post-doc fellow, Manola Gayatri, using memes, dance, story, and embodiment.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-our-happy-place-morning-check-in-tickets-116400177063>

10:00

Play-write- An open playwriting game

Hosted by

Karin Serres & Lereko Mfono

Description: This quick playwriting game makes use of playfulness as a tool to inspire a diverse audience to create for young audiences: to encourage feel how easy and joyful it might be, to bind people sharing the rules of the game and to showcase how divergent contemporary theatre worlds lightly connected.

Following a few simple, inspiring and playful rules, each participant writes a short theatre script, the key elements of which are determined by chance (rolling dice, throwing stones, tossing coins...etc.). The game will be held by Karin Serres and Lereko Mfono, who will guide and shape the storytelling, exploring childhood and adult playfulness, all combined with the element of surprise and chance!

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/play-write-an-open-playwriting-game-tickets-116562293959>

10:00

Presentation - Imagining Otherwise

Presented By:

Artist-Researchers from Imagining Otherwise (Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education), Youth co-creators in Cape Town and the University of Leeds.

Description: Imagining Otherwise is a youth-led participatory arts project in Cape Town and is a collaboration with education NPO Bottom Up, the University of Leeds, and the Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education, focusing on high school students at schools on the Cape Flats.

When the pandemic hit, we had to radically rethink how we would continue. Our presentation/sharing/performance will explore how we used WhatsApp to co-create our themes and insights into the meaning of spaces; how we reconceived collective workshops online; and the results of visual, film, and performing arts that the young people are creating using basic materials that have been delivered to create with in their homes. We will present with a panel of artist-facilitators and youth on the project to take the audience through our processes, and to highlight different aspects of this journey.

The presentation will be led by Artist-researchers from Imagining Otherwise (from the Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education, youth co-creators in Cape Town and the University of Leeds).

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imagining-otherwise-tickets-116859232109>



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2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

Day 1

Thursday – 20th August 2020

11:00

**ASSITEJ SA "In the Works" Play Readings 4 young people
"Wanda's Wonderful Coils"**

Written by

Sihle Nontshokweni And Mathabo Tlali

Description:

"Wanda" is a story of a little girl with hair which looks like a beautiful cloud, but she fears that the hairstyles her mother does on her hair won't be suitable for school. She is afraid that her hair will be called a "bird's nest" in front of the whole school! What will Wanda do? A WANDA-ful thing happens when Makhulu arrives to share natural hair secrets which change the relationship between Wanda and her hair.

In the Works is part of a process of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) incubation by ASSITEJ SA that includes mentorship and other development processes for ten selected African writers, with staged readings and workshops at the ASSITEJ SA incubation festival, In the Works, in August 2020. The programme is sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-wandas-wandaful-coils-tickets-116600313677>

11:00

Workshop - Unmute Yourself: Session 1

Facilitated By:

Tamara Guhrs

Description:

Unmute Yourself! An interactive workshop series focusing on creative Drama games, expression and writing with 9-12-year old's during distanced learning in the time of COVID-19. This event will take place in three separate workshops.

Session 1: Unmute yourself 1:

Between March and July, 'Drama with Ms. Tamara' for Grades 4 to 6 at Sacred Heart College took a variety of different shapes.

From sending in video lessons, to playing games on Zoom, to doing masked spatial awareness games on the field, we tried to figure out how we could have fun, connect, and process what was happening around us. Eavesdrop on us as we reflect on the journey and ask the learners for their views on what works and what doesn't in distanced learning and hybrid classrooms.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unmutea-workshop-series-by-tamara-guhrs-tickets-116619573283>



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Day 1

Thursday – 20th August 2020

12:30

Forum Theatre - Altered by YOU: A forum Theatre Engagement

Presented by

Mathabo Tlali, Lindsey Morris, Tsholofelo Molefe, Shoeshoe Malebo, Lungisa Duruwe & Lulu Mokuku

Description:

It is said that the world is taking a break and things are moving slower. What happens when one's mental and emotional state does not slow down?

Altered by YOU explores a mental journey of a student who is in a seemingly web of depression. This is an interactive performance punctuated by reflections led by the Joker. The work seeks to find a language for the hidden parts of our minds where depression hides and thrives. It reimagines Forum Theatre and invites a dialogue that is sensitive to the plight of students and beyond.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/altered-by-you-a-forum-theatre-engagement-tickets-116700389005>

14:00

**ASSITEJ SA "In the Works" Play Readings4young people:
"First"**

Written By:

Jade Beeby

Description:

In the Works is a series of PlayReadings4youngaudiences. 'FIRST' is written by Jade Beeby and aimed at 13-16 years old.

"First" explores all the first moments in Jane and Johns relationship as well as all the possibilities that exist in one specific moment. How can a moment change if John chooses the wrong words, and what happens if Jane says something she doesn't mean? What happens if they could go back and change all the awkward moments? We follow the couple as they grow up and we watch as they deal with the difficulties of being in a relationship. We read, we feel, we understand, and we watch them grow into beings that mirror similar moments in our own lives thus making their story even more real.

In the Works is part of a process of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) incubation by ASSITEJ SA that includes mentorship and other development processes for ten selected African writers, with staged readings and workshops at the ASSITEJ SA incubation festival, In the Works, in August 2020. The programme is sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa.

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Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings-for-young-ppl-first-tickets-116601445061>



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Day 1

Thursday – 20th August 2020

14:00

Panel - Making Theatre Now

Facilitated by:

*Blink-the Market Lab 2nd year students “Amanda” Cast & Creative team,
The National School of the Arts*

Description:

A conversation between the Market Theatre Laboratory 2nd year students who created 'BLINK' and the creative team behind the National School of the Arts show 'Amanda'. These two creative teams come together to discuss the challenges of making work now during COVID-19 and the diverse strategies and promotional methods necessary during lockdown. The differences and similarities between Blink, a show created FOR an online platform, and AMANDA, originally created and performed for a live audience prior to lockdown and then streamed for the Joburg Theatre, will be discussed and highlighted.

Synopsis **BLINK** : In a world where social media is our news and statuses are headlines, the virtual spread of misinformation is as easy as a share. The 2nd year students Market Lab students presented a satire crafted around the twist of information in the online space – BLINK.

This smart and funny digital production came about because, in the midst of a global pandemic, the second years couldn't travel to Makhanda for the National Arts Festival, as they usually do. Instead, they explored the virtual world, investigating the possibilities at the border of theatre and film. The Market Lab students have consistently created relevant, innovative performances that move audiences, and this new experiment continues this tradition in a new medium.

Synopsis: **AMANDA:** Amanda Nxumalo is a 16-year-old grade 11 girl who has a crush on Katy, a white Afrikaans girl. Amanda shares a day in her school-girl life, a day filled with expectation, anticipation, innocence, joy, optimism and inevitable disillusion. Amanda won the NSA original works festival. This sensitive and entertaining one-woman play touches on issues of racism, sexism, gender-based violence, and prejudice. Amanda features matric actress Thabiso Mashiyakgomo in a compelling solo performance.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/panel-discussion-making-theatre-now-young-voices-tickets-116581577637>

15:00

Drama for Life Storytelling Theatre- Chapter 1 “Somewhere I belong”

Performed by:

Drama for Life Theatre Company

Description:

Interactive theatre geared towards children from 6 to 9 years old where children experience the art of storytelling. We believe that stories have the power to ignite the imagination, to grow new friends, to build hope, and create medicine for times of big change. Our STORY THEATRE is a simple celebration of the ancient form of storytelling. We invite you to come sit with us, listen and be transported into different worlds. We will invite you to participate, to show a hand, or stop your personal video, mute or unmute yourselves, or to dance and sing with us.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-storytelling-theatre-chapter-1-tickets-116630790835>



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Day 1

Thursday – 20th August 2020

16:00

Plenary - Dramaturgy Webinar

Facilitated by:

ASSTEJ (SA), Drama for Life & International speakers

Description:

A conversation with "In the Works" participants and mentors about creating theatre for young audiences. Theatre for young audiences (TYA) invites intergenerational collaboration that affects and shapes the processes and products created and allows children and the young to influence the theatre that professional artists create for and with them. With TYA specialists, Rives Collins (USA), Dominique Collett (Belgium) and Sarah Argent (UK) all renowned theatre practitioners, including input from the 2020 'In the Works' young playwrights who have been involved in a theatre mentorship since March this year.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/plenary-session-dramaturg-webinar-tickets-116587786207>

End of Day 1



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Day 2

Friday – 21st August 2020

09:00

Morning Check-In by DFL's "Our HaPPy Place"

Facilitated by:

Welma de Beer & Manola Gayatri

Description: A daily, healing morning check-in led by Drama for Life pair, Welma de Beer and visiting post-doc fellow, Manola Gayatri, using memes, dance, story, and embodiment.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-our-happy-place-morning-check-in-tickets-116400177063>

10:00

"In the Works": Series Reading

Hosted by

ASSITEJ (South Africa)

Description: The purpose of this shared playwriting experience is to connect all 9 In the Works 2020 playwrights together (and their dramaturgs), by developing collectively a unique fiction world to be read publicly and staged for young audiences.

Taking turns, each playwright will add their episode to the common script, in a linear way, as in a TV series, keeping their genuine way of playwriting, taking advantage of the element of surprise.

The more we share our stage worlds, the more we inhabit each other's fictions, carrying collective story and characters further and truly playing with the opportunity of co-writing, the richer this shared playwriting experience will be. We invite you all to share in the reading of how this collective writing activity unfolds...This playwriting chain exercise is led by Karin Serres and includes participation by the In The Works participants 2020 and their mentors.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-the-works-series-reading-1-tickets-116734733731>

10:00

Presentation - An applied Theatre investigation and Workshop (DFL Student)

Presented By:

Ntswaki Mpateng.

Description: The use of stories, images, embodiment and verbal engagement to explore the impacts of unemployment with young people of South Africa. Reason: This process is conducted to serve the purpose of an ongoing research that creates a dialogue about the impacts and the depth of unemployment in the lives of young people in South Africa, in the Communities we live in and in the way we experience it. As part of ongoing research, the purpose of this process is to create dialogue about the impacts and depth of unemployment in the lives of young people in South Africa, looking at the communities we live in and how we experience them. Making use of stories, images, embodiment and verbal engagement the workshop aims to invite participants into the space and engage with them through creative dialogue and stories while investigating the following themes; Identification of the depth of unemployment in the lives of young people. Testing the use of storytelling/online engagement and performance. Creating awareness/advocacy/agency and to explore new adaptations of creativity. Educate one another through point of views.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-applied-theatre-investigation-into-youth-unemployment-in-south-africa-tickets-116701440149>



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Day 2

Friday – 21st August 2020

ASSITEJ SA “In the Works” Play Readings4young people “Zwelitsha”

11:00

Written by:

Sanelisiwe Yekani

Description:

In the Works is a series of Play Readings4youngaudiences. 'Zwelitsha' is written by Sanelisiwe Yekani and aimed at 6-10 years old.

Zwelitsha is about a girl named Zukhanye, living in the township of Zwelitsha, who inherits superpowers from her mother. At first Zukhanye doubts her gift, but with the support of her friends she learns to trust her power, and we witness her rescue the people of her township.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-zwelitsha-tickets-116596383923>

11:00

Workshop - Unmute Yourself: Session 2

Facilitated by:

Tamara Guhrs

Description:

Unmute Yourself! An interactive workshop series focusing on creative Drama games, expression and writing with 9-12-year old's during distanced learning in the time of COVID-19. This event will take place in three separate workshops.

Session 2: Unmute yourself 2: Through the mirror

A live, interactive drama workshop where people of all ages can join in experimenting with games on Zoom.

We play with getting stuck and unstuck, finding flow, finding each other, and telling a group story.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unmutea-workshop-series-by-tamara-guhrs-tickets-116619573283>



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Day 2

Friday – 21st August 2020

12:30

**Presentation- WhatsApp Play
“The Shopping Dead”**

Written by:

Faye Kabali, Kagwa and Cast

Description:

The Shopping Dead is a fast-paced dramedy that follows the day in the life of four retail employees all relayed over their employee WhatsApp group. What begins as a normal day under COVID-19 pandemic ends up in a fight for their lives. Told through text, GIFs, memes, video and voice notes, The Shopping Dead elevates the ubiquitous texting platform into a stage that prioritizes accessibility.

This event will start on WhatsApp, where participants will be invited into the world of Mega Mart to experience an extract of the play. Once that extract is complete, the audience will be asked to join a Zoom call for a Question and Answer session about their experience of the show. Faye Kabali Kagwa, the producer of The Shopping Dead, will then speak about the process of creating the piece, and what the team are planning to do next.

The Shopping Dead written by Ncumisa Ndimeni and directed by Lesego Chauke was produced by Faye Kabali-Kagwa with the National Arts Festival as part of the Virtual National Arts Festival curated programme and performed by Kiroshan Naidoo, Chris Djuma, Kathleen Stephens and Tankiso Mamabolo.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-shopping-dead-a-whatsapp-play-experience-presentation-and-discussion-tickets-116608626541>

12:30

Panel - Our HaPPy Place

Facilitated by:

Welma de Beer & Manola Gayatri

Description:

Panel discussion aimed at addressing the challenges learners face daily especially during COVID-19. How various factors including physical disconnect, mental and socioeconomic have an impact on the ability to function in the present climate.

The discussion delves ramifications this type of “trauma” has not only on an individual’s mental state but also how this might manifest in the physical body additional what simple techniques can be implemented, such as body movement, to alleviate the effects of such traumatic circumstances.

Welma de Beer and Manola Gayatri are both celebrated Drama therapist with years of experience in their respectful chosen areas of focus. They will speak to how the idea of “Our HaPPy Place” grew from a thought to a thriving project within the Drama for Life community.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-our-happy-place-panel-discussion-tickets-116635340443>



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Day 2

Friday – 21st August 2020

ASSITEJ SA “In the Works” Play Readings4young people “Stranger Things”

14:00

Written by:

Siphumeze Kundayi

Description:

In the Works is a series of Play Readings4youngaudiences. 'Stranger Things' is written by Siphumeze Kundayi and aimed at 13-16 yrs.

Boniswa is a 16-year-old girl who has lost her way. Her life revolves around parties, being popular both on and off social media, and being beautiful. No one knows she is using all of these things as a distraction from the voices calling her. A reckless night where cops got involved pushes her mother too far and she is sent to stay with her grandmother Makhulu, an extraordinarily Diviner. While living with Makhulu, the line between the waking world and the spirit world dissolves and Boniswa finds herself on the journey that has been waiting for her since she was 10 years old.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-stranger-things-tickets-116596995753>

14:00

Online Activism Project: Ayihlome

Facilitated by:

The Drama for Life Masters Applied Drama & Theatre students

Description:

A Facebook event that will showcase 9 individual activations as a form of protest. Each activation addresses a different static situation, as we collectively set up for war.

This online experiment intends to take theatre as activism to new heights as we reimagine Applied Theatre and where it takes place, what the theatrical event could be and how the actor and spectator can dialogue

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-activism-project-ayihlome-by-dfl-applied-drama-students-tickets-116865569063>



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Day 2

Friday – 21st August 2020

Drama for Life Storytelling Theatre - Chapter 2 "How to be A Hero" & Other Stories

15:00

Performed by:

Drama for Life Theatre Company

Description: Interactive theatre geared towards children from 6 to 9 years old where children experience the art of storytelling. We believe that stories have the power to ignite the imagination, to grow new friends, to build hope, and create medicine for times of big change. Our STORY THEATRE is a simple celebration of the ancient form of storytelling. We invite you to come sit with us, listen and be transported into different worlds. We will invite you to participate, to show a hand, or stop your personal video, mute or unmute yourselves, or to dance and sing with us.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-storytelling-theatre-chapter-2-tickets-116631709583>

15:00

Presentation -Hillbrow Outreach Foundation's Cradle Project

Presented by:

Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Outreach Foundation

Description: Two collaborative projects between Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Outreach Foundation and an arts project in Loxton facilitated by Erica Lüttich propose a conversation about the two digital creative projects which were delivered between April and June 2020. We offer a conversation between the children, high school learners and facilitators from Loxton, Hillbrow, Soweto, and London, addressing questions around forms of facilitation, the comfort or the act of being held in a creative process, the challenges of access and the learnings for socially engaged theatre making.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/presentation-hillbrow-outreach-foundations-cradle-project-tickets-116578053095>

16:00

Plenary - Performance during Lockdown

Presented by:

James Cunningham | Buhle Ngaba | Jade Bowers

Description: A panel of seasoned theatre experts share their views on creating theater in the digital realm, during the time of COVID-19. A discussion between South African renowned theatre experts who share their views, and experiences on creating theatre in the digital realm, during the time of COVID-19. All our panelists created work for the first ever virtual National Arts Festival this year and have embraced the turbulent, shifting landscape of creating theatre now during the pandemic.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/plenary-session-making-theatre-during-covid-19-tickets-116861900089>

End of Day 2



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Day 3

Saturday – 22nd August 2020

09:00

Morning Check-In by DFL's "Our HaPPy Place"

Facilitated by:

Welma de Beer & Manola Gayatri

Description: A daily, healing morning check-in led by Drama for Life pair, Welma de Beer and visiting post-doc fellow, Manola Gayatri, using memes, dance, story, and embodiment.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-our-happy-place-morning-check-in-tickets-116400177063>

10:00

"In the Works": Series Reading 2

Hosted by

ASSITEJ (South Africa)

Description: The purpose of this shared playwriting experience is to connect all 9 In the Works 2020 playwrights together (and their dramaturgs), by developing collectively a unique fiction world to be read publicly and staged for young audiences.

Taking turns, each playwright will add their episode to the common script, in a linear way, as in a TV series, keeping their genuine way of playwriting, taking advantage of the element of surprise. The more we share our stage worlds, the more we inhabit each other's fictions, carrying collective story and characters further and truly playing with the opportunity of co-writing, the richer this shared playwriting experience will be. We invite you all to share in the reading of how this collective writing activity unfolds...

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-the-works-series-reading-2-tickets-116737090781>

10:00

Performance and Discussion: "Mother's Grimm"

Presented By:

Jade Bowers and Team

Description: Mothers Grimm gives familiar characters Goldilocks, Cinderella and Snow White a modern twist in a family sitcom. Mothers' Grimm is a coming of age play for children and pre-teens which tells the story of Goldi, an eleven old going through life changes. With the imminent arrival of a new sibling, Goldi begins to feel out of place and disregarded.

Goldi uses her vivid imagination and the power of storytelling to process the changes she is going through. It is a coming of age play for children and pre-teens which tells the story of Goldi, an eleven old going through life changes.

With the imminent arrival of a new sibling, Goldi begins to feel out of place and disregarded. Goldi uses her vivid imagination and the power of storytelling to process the changes she is going through. The six-episode theatrical series commissioned for vNAF2020 is aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 12, however, this fantastic tale is suitable for all.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mothers-grimm-performance-and-discussion-tickets-116590670835>



MASIDLALÉ

2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

12th Drama for Life Conference & Festive
In collaboration with Assitej SA
Exploring Connection

Day 3

Saturday – 22nd August 2020

ASSITEJ SA “In the Works” Play Readings 4 young people “Water No Get Enemy”

11:00

Written by:

Maimouna Jallow

Description:

In the Works is a series of Play readings aimed at young audiences. 'Water get No Enemy', is written by Maimona Jallow aimed at 10-13 yrs.

Oumou and Omar have seven days to save the Queendom of Nubiya and defeat the evil Council of Elders who have sold all their water to another Empire. Along the way, they are guided by the spirits of their women ancestors – Mekatili Wa Menza, Hatshepsut and Yaa Asentewaa. Will they find the sacred seed that will replenish their life source in time or will the world, as they know it, end forever?

In the Works is part of a process of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) incubation by ASSITEJ SA that includes mentorship and other development processes for ten selected African writers, with staged readings and workshops at the ASSITEJ SA incubation festival, In the Works, in August 2020. The programme is sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-water-no-get-enemy-tickets-116602736925>

11:00

Workshop - Unmute Yourself: Session 3

Facilitated by

Tamara Guhrs

Description:

Unmute Yourself! An interactive workshop series focusing on creative Drama games, expression and writing with 9-12-year olds during distanced learning in the time of COVID-19. This event will take place in three separate workshops.

Unmute yourself session 3: Write your way out of Isolation

This live, interactive writing workshop gives participants of all ages a chance to engage in expressive writing exercises, from create-a-character scavenger hunt, to lockdown haiku to social commentary. Have some pencils and a notebook or paper next to you when you join the Zoom room. You will have a chance to share your creations with other participants, but this is optional.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unmutea-workshop-series-by-tamara-guhrs-tickets-116619573283>



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Day 3

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12:30

Panel - Curating for Early Childhood Development

Facilitated By:

Pawel Galkowski, Futhi Mbongwe and Roshina Ratnam

Description:

Pawel Galkowski from Art Fraction Foundation (Poland), who will be speaking about curating a festival for young audiences and the small size network in the time of COVID-19

Futhi Mbongwe, operations supervisor, from Play Africa, a children's museum which focuses on developmental play and is based at the Constitutional Hill in Johannesburg, and

Roshina Ratnam from Inala Theatre based in Cape Town, who specialize in creating theatre shows for very young audiences. The panelists will discuss how their work has adapted and continued throughout the pandemic and how one can engage and delight an early year's audience through play and theatre.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/curating-for-early-childhood-development-tickets-116738210129>

14:00

**ASSITEJ SA "In the Works" Play Readings4young people
"Blue Days"**

Written by

Uvile Ximba

Description:

In the Works is a series of Play readings for at young audiences. 'Blue Days', is written by Uvile Ximba aimed at 13 -16 years.

Blue Days is about searching, yearning and discovery, pain shared between a father, Ndikho and daughter, Viwe. After losing his wife, Ndikho continues live in denial, searching for any possible way to avoid his pain, hoping to have her return to him. Viwe, his daughter, confronts her loss without hesitation. The play carefully unravels Viwe's healing of herself and her father, the soft process of recovery after any loss. It is a journey that begins in her dreams and in her conversations with light. Blue Days is a story that deals with mental health, grief, spirituality, and belief, and reminds anybody that there is always light, even when it lies in shadow.

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Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-blue-days-tickets-116604399899>



MASIDLALÉ

2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

12th Drama for Life Conference & Festive
In collaboration with Assitej SA
Exploring Connection

Day 3

Saturday – 22nd August 2020

15:00

**Drama for Life Storytelling Theatre
“Stories from Africa”**

Written by:

Description:

An interactive Storytelling Theatre where children have the chance to create and act out their own stories.

We believe that stories have the power to ignite the imagination, to grow new friends, to build hope, and create medicine for times of big change.

Our STORY THEATRE is a simple celebration of the ancient form of storytelling. We invite you to come sit with us, listen and be transported into different worlds. We will invite you to participate, to show a hand, or stop your personal video, mute or unmute yourselves, or to dance and sing with us.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-lifes-theatre-company-stories-from-africa-tickets-116634180975>

End of Day 3



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2020 EXPLORING CONNECTION

Day 4

Monday – 24th August 2020

09:00

Morning Check-In by DFL's "Our HaPPy Place"

Facilitated by:

Welma de Beer & Manola Gayatri

Description: A daily, healing morning check-in led by Drama for Life pair, Welma de Beer and visiting post-doc fellow, Manola Gayatri, using memes, dance, story, and embodiment.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-our-happy-place-morning-check-in-tickets-116400177063>

10:00

Performance - -COVID-19 Reflection and Feedback

Performed by

Drama for Life Playback Theatre

Description: Online experiment as we set out to perform non-scripted theatre that is dependent on ensemble presented by Drama for Life.

Playback Theatre brings personal stories to life. Nothing is scripted, we facilitate stories shared by an audience; and our actors and musician spontaneously perform these stories.

For this conference and festival performance, Drama for Life Playback Theatre invites learners between grade 7 - grade 12 to share their stories of returning to school, or not returning at all!

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-for-life-playback-company-covid-19-reflection-and-feedback-tickets-116595276611>

Panel - Arts, Funding and the Future of Arts Interventions

10:00

How are our funders playing?

Presented By:

Tshego Khutsoane.

Description: How are our project partners strategizing and imagining the future? What does the funding landscape look like during Covid-19?

A panel conversation between various arts project sectors, including funders, project implementors and artists, focusing on their way forward during the pandemic.

Tshego Khutsoane will hold this vital conversation with strategic partners and find ways in which shared value can be achieved for all.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arts-funding-and-the-future-of-arts-interventions-tickets-116746601227>



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Day 4

Monday – 24th August 2020

ASSITEJ SA “In the Works” Play Readings4young people “Tokologo”

11:00

Written by:

Zintle Mbokane

Description:

'Tokologo', is written by Zinhle Mbokane aimed at 6-10 years. Tokologo the musical garment – A play that confronts the reality we are faced with as a country, which is the kidnaping and killing of children in South Africa.

This is achieved in a theatre approach that is entertaining, fun for kids. The musicality of this cutting-edge narrative is one that will leave the kid's off their seats amused, tapping, singing and dancing along. This piece further educates on how a child can prevent or find help, should they find themselves in such compromising situation.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-tokologo-tickets-116606375809>

Presentation Drama Therapy & The Digital Play-space: Welcome to the Imaginarium

11:00

Present by:

Monique Hill

Description:

This experiential session will explore the use of video chat as a space for connection, imagination, story-making, and play.

Incorporating elements of role-playing games and choose your own adventures, the participants will take an active role choosing how the story will play out, creating a narrative unique to the group.

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drama-therapy-the-digital-playspace-welcome-to-the-imaginarium-tickets-116743128841>



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Day 4

Monday – 24th August 2020

ASSITEJ SA “In the Works” Play Readings4young people “Lehe La Kganyapa”

12:30

Written by:

Modisana Mbale

Description:

In the Works, is a series of PlayReadings4young ppl. 'Lehe Le Kganyapa' is written by Modisana Mbale and aimed at 10-13 yrs.

Kganyapa is a water snake that is believed to have supernatural powers, causing natural disasters if its egg is stolen. When Kganyapa's egg goes missing Kganyapa takes Motlalepula's brother Thabiso with it under the sea. It is up to Motlalepula to find the egg and save her brother.

In the Works is part of a process of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) incubation by ASSITEJ SA that includes mentorship and other development processes for ten selected African writers, with staged readings and workshops at the ASSITEJ SA incubation festival, In the Works, in August 2020. The programme is sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa.

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Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assitej-sa-in-the-works-playreadings4-young-ppl-lehe-le-kganyapa-tickets-116606869285>

14:00

Reflective conversation: A closing of Masidlale: Exploring Connection

Present by:

Drama for Life Theatre Company

Description:

A reflective moment to consider all the learnings, experiences, workshops, conversations and discussions at the Conference and Festival. Led by The Drama for Life Theatre Company this will be a collective wrap up and gathering, reflecting on the 2020 Drama for Life Festival and Conference.

We invite the Drama for Life community: students, alumni, teachers, as well as all learners, artists, playwrights, children and those who have engaged in the many discussions, webinars, workshops, panels and performances throughout the conference and festival.

We will come together one last time to reflect on our collective experiences

Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reflective-conversation-a-closing-of-masidlale-exploring-connection-tickets-116750910115>



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Day 4

Monday – 24th August 2020

16:00

Playwriting Game Conclusion

Written by:

Karin Serres

Description: Play-Write: an open playwriting game: PART TWO-sharing and concluding.

If you are interested in trying out your writing skills or are an experienced, seasoned playwright looking for more creative ways to enhance your skill set. this game/ workshop experience is for you!

The broad scope of possible participants ranges from experienced playwrights to amateur ones, from kids and teens to adults and old ones.

Link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/play-write-an-open-playwriting-game-tickets-116733295429>

End of Day 4



MASIDLALE

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Get to know our Guests...

Karin Serres

•Karin Serres is an award-winning playwright from France. She is a grant holder in the Île-de-France region of the National Book Centre of France (CNL) and of the French Department of Music, Dance, Theatre and Performing Arts (DMDTS), she has written more than eighty theatrical pieces – often performed, translated and published – half of which are for a young audience. She has also written picture books and novels for children and young adults. She is also a board member of the ASSITEJ Playwrights Network, “Write Local, Play Global”. With a passion for the sensory diversity of languages, she seizes every opportunity to weave her writing together with the experience of other artists, thinkers and producers. She likes sharing artistic experiences, traveling and putting projects together. Writing somewhere else, in an unknown place, is one of her favourite creative energies.

Lereko Mfono

•Lereko Mfono is a multifaceted writer, performer and facilitator who honed his craft at the National School of the Arts and later studied Applied drama at Wits University-Drama for Life in Johannesburg. Lereko was selected into the ASSITEJ Inspiring a Generation programme that led him to travel to France, Paris in 2013 to develop self-penned Standard Bank Ovation award-winning play Narrative Dreams, which went on a national tour and was nominated for a Naledi Award. He also travelled to USA, Washington DC, in 2016 after being selected to take part in The Kennedy Centre’s New Visions/New Voices Festival where his play, The Kids From Amandla Street, enjoyed its development and a staged reading

Tamara Guhrs Schulz

•Tamara Guhrs Schulz is a playwright and arts educator who loves creating worlds and characters, talking philosophy and solving problems creatively with young people. She believes in imagination, working together, and says we shouldn’t be afraid of insects. She teaches intermediate phase drama at Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg, writes plays and stories and is mom to a nine-year-old.

Dominique Collet

•Dominique Collet has worked as a freelance actress, director and writer for several companies: National Theatre Gent, De Spelerij, HetGevolg, Ontroerend Goed, Lazarus, Ultima Thule, Bronks, De Filharmonie. Dominique started working with children and youngsters professionally at Kopergietery soon after graduating drama school. For 10 years she has been the co-artistic leader of Kopergietery ateliers. She creates work for and with children on a regular basis and in collaboration with different partners, including Imagine the international co-production “Pigeon” (in co-direction with Jo Timmins and Lyra Theatre) and Double Double Act with Unicorn Theatre London.



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Rives Collins

Rives Collins was honored with a Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence Award at Northwestern University, where he has taught in the Department of Theatre for the past thirty years. An acclaimed professional storyteller (ORACLE AWARD, National Storytelling Network), he is the co-author with Pamela Cooper of *The Power of Story: Teaching Through Storytelling*, proclaiming that, "Storytelling is at the heart of everything I do." In addition, Collins is head of the Theatre for Young Audiences program at Northwestern (JOHNNY SALDAÑA OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR OF THEATRE EDUCATION, American Alliance for Theatre and Education), and is an active professional stage director, specializing in the development of new work.

Ntswaki Mpateng

- This workshop is inspired the kind of childhood I had, being raised by parents who were both unemployed, by the observation and the statistics around unemployment and its impact in the lives of young people in S.A.

Buhle Ngaba

Buhle Ngaba is a multi-awardwinning South African actor, writer and speaker. She studied Acting and Contemporary performance at Rhodes University and Processes of Performance at the University of Leeds (UK). In 2016, Buhle was awarded the prestigious Brett Goldin Bursary, affording her an internship at The Royal Shakespeare Company (Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK). During her time there, Buhle began to conceptualise and write her first play, *Swan Song*. In 2017, she won two South African Kanna Theatre Awards including Best Upcoming Artist for *Swan Song*. Ngaba was named as one of the Mail and Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans (2016) and voted number 1 in The Superbalist Top 100 Entrepreneur List (2016). In 2016, Buhle received the Gauteng Youth Premiers Award for Excellence.

Jade Bowers

Jade Bowers graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Drama and Sociology. She was Artistic Director for the WALE 4.O Festival, Curator of Wits 969 2011 and named one of AfriPop's Five Female Theatre Makers in South Africa You Should Know. Jade Bowers Design and Management has co-ordinated the SA Theatre Season 2011, directed Juliet Jenkin's *The Boy Who Fell from the Roof* for UJ Arts & Culture in 2012. They also independently produced, directed and designed the 10th anniversary revival of the solo version of *Salaam* together with Ashraf Johardien, went on to develop *Clora*, a comedy/cabaret for the Drama For Life and they also collaborated on Robin Malan's *iHAMLET* which was nominated for best sound design at Naledi Awards 2013.



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Inala Theatre

- The Inala team are Asanda Rilityana, Roshina Ratnam, Joanna Evans and Pedro Espi-Sanchis. Inala Theatre are proud recipients of the 2020 Fleur Du Cap Award for Best Theatre Production for Children and Young People for their production Lumka!
- Inala Theatre is an exciting collective of South African artists brought together by a shared commitment to quality theatre for all ages. As one of the the first companies in South Africa to create work for pre-verbal audiences, they have played a pioneering role in the burgeoning Theatre for Early Years industry.
- Inala Theatre has had a long and fruitful relationship with ASSITEJ SA which has been integral to supporting the company's growth and helping organize national tours for young audiences and assisted the company in holding workshops for artists to help create TYA for children in their own communities.

Drama for Life Playback Theatre

- As South African schools enter a (re)phasing-in of education, this performance asks you as a beneficiary of education to share - what is your experience? What is your story? The performance will be an opportunity for you to express yourself over the loud voices of our ministers.
- Drama for Life Playback Theatre makes personal stories come alive. Through listening and being open to stories of all kinds, we break down the walls that divide us. It is in the recognition of the lived experiences of others and us that we stimulate empathy and promote a sense of wellness and awareness to those who witness a Playback theatre performance. Not restricted to a theatre space, we do this for all people. People of all kinds. The beauty of Playback lies in its simplicity; our bodies, our voices and the stories you tell are the raw ingredients for igniting a Playback theatre experience.
- Drama for Life Playback Theatre is based in Johannesburg as part of the Drama for Life Creative Research Hub. The company was founded in 2008 in association with the University of the Witwatersrand, and in 2016 the affiliate school was founded which offers training through the
- University of the Witwatersrand that is accredited by the Centre for Playback Theatre. Cherae Halley and Tarryn Lee, the only accredited trainers in Africa, are currently the directors of Drama for Life Playback Theatre.



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James Cuningham

James Cuningham: performer/writer Known for his versatile work as a performer and director, James has co-created 15 new South African plays, including Baobabs don't grow here, Black and blue, Wood for the trees, Jutro, Kaput, Heart's hotel and The famished road. This is James' fourth collaboration with Sylvaine Strike which began 20 years ago with the clown play Fortunately, at The Market Theatre. He has appeared in numerous film and TV productions in South Africa and the UK, including Chin up, now on Showmax, for which he received a Best Actor nomination at the Seoul WebFest, and most recently in Tim Greene's feature film Cabin fever, shot across six countries entirely in lockdown.

Tshego Khutsoane

- Tshego Khutsoane is a passionate creative practitioner drawn to work that explores complex human and social issues. An experienced theatre-maker and educator Tshego has honed her expertise enabling learning and engagement, in her work across multiple performance and facilitation contexts, for more than a decade. Her Masters of Business Administration (2019, University of Reading - as a recipient of the Johnny Clegg Scholarship for creative practitioners) compliments her Masters of Dramatic Arts (2013, University of the Witwatersrand), positioning her to communicate ideas easily and effectively across many ages and levels of education, with a particular interest in issues intersecting with concepts of identity.

Monique Hill

Monique was one of the first cohort of drama therapists trained at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa in 2014/2015. She has also qualified as a Certified Cyber Therapist, trained by the Online Therapy Institute in the UK. She is currently based in Phuket, Thailand, and runs a private practice: Drama Therapy Online. She is a pioneer of text-based online drama therapy, offering sessions via email and instant messaging, in addition to video call. She also runs webinars to train drama therapists in online techniques and ethical issues, which have reached therapists in 13 countries and 5 continents. She can be contacted at moniqueh@dramatherapyonline.com