

2024 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



DAY ONE

Tuesday 8 October – Wits School of Education

27 St Andrew's Road Parktown, Johannesburg.

There is a canteen to buy lunch. DFL students' lunch is provided.

Registration

08.30 – 09.00

Space Frame Foyer

Students – Free

Public – R50 per day

Students – Free per theatre performance

Public – R50 per theatre performance

Welcome

09.00 – 09.15

Space Frame Theatre

Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren (Drama for Life, Head of Department)

Panel Discussion

Re-Building a Collective Home in Arts4Youth through collaboration and play for children and young people

09.15 – 10.15

Space Frame Theatre

- Ryan Dittman, Tallowah Suntsha (ASSITEJ SA)
- Tamara Guhrs (National Children's Theatre)
- Mfanafuthi Mbongwe (Play Africa)

Chaired by Alison Polley – Green

DFL Chair – Emma Hutton

There are two options to choose from:

Performance

Chiffonade

10.30 – 11.30

Space Frame Theatre

Michele Dhallu

Chiffonnade is a whimsical dance performance specifically made for toddlers and young children. The piece is created by French choreographer Michelle Dhallu of Carré Blanc Cie and has toured extensively in Europe and to acclaimed festivals around the globe receiving glowing reviews.

Chiffonnade is presented with support from The French Institute, ASSITEJ SOUTH AFRICA, and produced by the National Children's Theatre.

Chaired by Afolake Soogun

Lecture Series and Installation

Stacy Hardy, Thabang Matsaung	10.30 – 11.30	Lecture Room
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*What comes after the end of the world,
reimagining Césaire in Hillbrow*

Chaired by Hamish Neill

<i>Notebook of a Long Day's Journey into a Hillbrow Night</i>	10.30 onwards	Wozani Foyer
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As part of the above lecture

There are three options to choose from:

Performance

<i>Serurubele</i>	11.45 – 12.45	Wozani Studio
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A play about friendship for under 10-year-olds

Lalu Mokuku
Directed by Makhaola Ndebele

Chaired by Amanda Majwete

<i>The Adventures of Super Smanjie</i>	11.45 – 12.45	Space Frame Theatre
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African Futurism

Chaired by Zukhanye Tshandu

Installation

<i>uButana neNtwana</i>	11.45 – 12.45	Space Frame Foyer
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Solo Installation/ Performance
Black/ Queer/ Femme – exploring spirit in father child

Sboniso Thombeni
Dramaturgy by BK Ngobese

Chaired by Lucky Moeketsi

Performance

<i>The Sad Unsaid</i>	12.45 – 13.15	TBC – Site Specific
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Drama for Life Honours Creative Research
Performance Presentations

Phumudzo Matsila

Chaired by Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren

LUNCH and Open Performance

WSOE Learning in and through Drama	13.00 – 14.00	Under trees
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Chaired by Kabelo Mokgehle

Performance Presentation

<i>Kiza Speaks</i>	14.00 – 15.15	Derrick Lewis Room
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The story of a former child soldier in the Eastern DRC
The ethics and authenticity of using personal testimony in theatre of social change

Billy Langa, Bobby Rodwell

Chaired by Warren Nebe

There are six options to choose from:**Performance**

<i>The Curious Case of...</i>	15.30 – 16.00	Derrick Lewis Room
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Drama for Life Honours Creative Research
Performance Presentations

Vuyo Mthembu

Chaired by Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren

<i>The Unexperienced Yet</i>	15.45 – 16.00	Wozani Studio
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Solo Choreography
Tsholofelo Ndaba

Chaired by Lucky Moeketsi

<i>Ingonyuluka</i>	16.00 – 16.30	TBC – Site Specific
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Drama for Life Honours Creative Research
Performance Presentations

Siphelele Thungo

Processing

16.30 – 17.00

Derrick Lewis Room

Drama for Life Honours Creative Research
Performance Presentations

Katleho Moloi

Chaired by Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren

Workshop (For Wits School of Education Students)

Alison Polley-Green

15.45 – 16.45

Exam Hall

Power, Play, Process: The Arts and/vs Sport

What do the Windybrow Arts Centre, a building in downtown Johannesburg producing politically and socially progressive work since the 1980s, and the Olympic Games, the world's leading international sporting event, have in common?

Play is often associated as a childlike activity, reserved for fun and viewed as a childish pursuit, unnecessary or inappropriate for adults. In this lecture demonstration, and addressing notions of power, rules, competition and compassion, Alison will explore how play is developmental and surrounds us all the time, in our daily lives.

Chaired by Kabelo Mokgehle

Lecture Series

Dr Sibongile Bhebe

15.45 – 16.15

Lecture Room

*The Joker's Traits: A Play Between Freedom and
Dilemma in Facilitating Issues of Oppression in Drama and Theatre Research*

Drama for Life

Lee-Ann Niacker

16.15 – 16.45

Lecture Room

*The Role of Theatre in Education in enhancing active inclusion for
healing and social transformation around bullying in schools*

Durban University of Technology

Chaired by Teto Mokaila

Wits School of Arts

**Downstairs Theatre, Wits Theatre Complex 24 Station Street, Braamfontein.
eMakhaya Theatre, University Corner 19^h Floor, Bertha Street, Braamfontein.**

**Public R50
Students free**

Downstairs Theatre

Buzani Kubawo

18.00 – 18.45

Downstairs Theatre

Struggle for Cultural Identity and Self-Expression

Siyamthanda Boo!

Chaired by Siphamahle Mabindisa

eMakhaya Theatre

Isibane

18.00 – 19.30

eMakhaya Theatre

Liso the Musician

Chaired by Ntokozo Deyi



DAY TWO

Wednesday 9 October – Wits School of Education

27 St Andrew's Road Parktown, Johannesburg.

There is a canteen to buy lunch. DFL students' lunch is provided.

Registration	08.30 – 09.00	Space Frame Foyer
Students – Free Public – R50 per day Students – Free per theatre performance Public – R50 per theatre performance		

<i>Songs of the Table</i>	09.00 – 10.15	Space Frame Theatre
Indigenous music production Asakhe Cuntsulana Chaired by Moeketsi Kgotle		

There are three options to choose from:

Workshop

DFL Masters Students	10.30 – 11.30	Wozani Studio 2
<i>Embracing Black Excellence and Inclusivity in Education</i> Chaired by Limpho Kou		

Lecture Series

<i>Finding Home Call and Response</i>	10.30 – 11.30	Lecture Room
Kabelo Mokgehle <i>Masixoxisane Mphakathi: Using ukuxoxisa to uncover community perspectives of black male psychotherapists in South Africa</i>		

Nobantu Shabangu

Becoming a Drama Therapist: Uphenyo wezinyathelo zephumelelo zocwepheshe be Drama Therapy

Merran Roy

Trusting the Flow: Visual Art Responding in Playback Theatre

Chaired by Nomfundo Ncanana

Performance

Yomelela, from Shadows to Light

10.30 – 11.30

Wozani Studio

Mandelaism in Etwata Mandela squatter camp

Alex Arts Academy

Masiza Mbali

Chaired by Leila Henriques

There are three options to choose from:

Performance

It's all about the Memories

11.45 – 13.00

Space Frame Theatre

Renos Nico Spanoudes

Chaired by Nobantu Shabangu

Installation and Conversation

Towards Collaboration – Rat

11.45 – 12.45

Wozani Foyer

Andrea Burgener

Chaired by Hamish Neill

Lecture Series

Manoko Francisca Tlhako

12.00 – 12.30

Lecture Room

Reflections on Gae Ga Go Laelwe: Translation as a metaphor for re-imagining and re-constructing home as a South African artist

Matshepo Molefe

12.30 – 13.00

Problematizing the English Translation of African Stories: Exploring how to make African Stories more accessible to broader audiences and the deaf community through visual storytelling techniques

Chaired by Moeketsi Kgotle

LUNCH

13.00 – 14.00

Under Trees

Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion*Yes, Let's Finance*

14.00 – 15.30

Space Frame Theatre

- Omphemetse Mokgosi (Drama for Life)
- Adelaide Makube (Lusa Social Entrepreneurship Institute)
- Paul Rabenowitz (Assembly Improv, Lightbulb Learning and Training)

Chaired by Hlubi Nontlanga

There are three options to choose from:**Workshop**

Albert Zitha

15.45 – 16.30

Wozani Studio 2

How can Arts Education methodologies build collaboration concerning the fractured and dysfunctional school system in South Africa and many other parts of the world?

Chaired by Nonkululeko Vilakazi

Interactive Installation*Postcards to Home*

15.45 – 16.30

Wozani Studio

Nonkululeko Vilakazi

Chaired by Lucky Moeketsi

Lecture Series

Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren

15.45 – 16.30

Lecture Room

*Teaching Honours Research
Experiments and challenges with AI*

Drama for Life

Chaired by Emma Dutton

Wits School of Arts

**Downstairs Theatre, Wits Theatre Complex 24 Station Street Braamfontein.
eMakhaya Theatre, University Corner 19th Floor, Bertha Street, Braamfontein.**

Public R50

Students free

Downstairs Theatre

LEGAGA 18.00 – 18.45 Downstairs Theatre

An exploration of a memory from childhood told through movement, song and text

Teresa Phuti Mojela

Newspaper 19.15 – 20.00 Downstairs Theatre

Investigation into Masculinity
Emotional, Physical and Mental Vulnerability

Lindokuhle Mdlozini

Chaired by Khensani Chauke

eMakhaya Theatre

iGwababa 17.00 – 17.45 eMakhaya Theatre

Secret love between friends

Phumlani Dabula

Chaired by Ross-Junior Hlongwane

F-R-A-G-M-E-N-T-E-D 18.00 – 18.45 eMakhaya Theatre

Smangaliso Ngwenya in collaboration with 3rd-Year
TAP Physical Theatre students

Chaired by Ross-Junior Hlongwane



DAY THREE

Thursday 10 October – The Market Theatre

138 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Newtown, Johannesburg.

Please can everyone bring their own lunch. There are fast food outlets in the precinct.

Lunch will be provided by Nando's for DFL Students.

Market Theatre

Registration	08.30 – 09.00	Gramadoelas
Students – Free		
Public – R50 per day		
Students – Free per theatre performance		
Public – R50 per theatre performance		

Performance and Playback Discussion

Hamish Neill	09.00 – 09.10	John Kani Theatre
<i>Leadership</i>	09.10 – 09.40	
Playback Discussion: Drama for Life	09.40 – 10.15	
Playback Theatre		
Chaired by Hamish Neill		

There are two options to choose from:

Workshop

Busisiwe Radebe, Estee Claasen, Traver Mudzonga	10.30 – 11.15	Sophiatown Room
<i>Water, Legislative Theatre</i>		
Chaired by Nobantu Shabangu		

Performance

JAM

10.30 – 11.15

Kippies

Johannesburg Awakening Minds is a theatre company that is comprised of formerly homeless men. The company was started in 2012 by theatre stalwart and actress Dorothy Ann Gould. Through the spoken word, poetry and performance, the JAM members have a purpose and a new lease on life.

Chaired by Leila Henriques

Panel Discussion

Re-Building the Table to Embrace the Global
Health Crisis in and through the Arts

11.30 – 12.45

John Kani Theatre

- Selloane Mokuku (Rhodes University, Koko Mental Health Project)
- Warren Nebe (Drama for Life Founder)
- Nomfundo Ncanana (Drama for Life)
- Sibusiso Vonder Fihlani (Africa Brain Art Festival Director)
- Merran Roy (Intlantsi Creative Development Project, Koko Mental Health Project)
- Vasintha Pather (Drama for Life)

Chaired by Linda Mdena

LUNCH

13.00 – 14.00

Gramadoelas

Panel Discussion

A South African Perspective on Creating
Equitable Spaces and Challenging Dominant
Narratives at Global Meetings

14.00 – 15.15

John Kani Theatre

- Tarryn Lee (Playback Theatre Drama for Life)
- Mammatli Thakhuli–Nzuza (Playback Theatre Drama for Life)
- Kathy Barolsky (Norway University of Technology)
- Cherae Halley (Playback Theatre Drama for Life, The Market Theatre Laboratory, Director)

Chaired by Limpho Kou

There are two options to choose from:

Workshop

Afolake Soogun

15.30 – 16.15

Sophiatown Room

Trauma Play: A workshop that includes all, embraces and grounds

Chaired by Teto Mokaila

Performance and Discussion

Uthaqa Lockdown

15.30 – 16.15

Kippies

Written by Warren Nebe

Directed by Empress Creative Taboo

Chaired by Matshepo Molefe

Performance and Discussion

*A Notebook of a Long Day's Journey
into a Hillbrow Night*

16.30 – 17.30

John Kani Theatre

Directed by Nhlanhla Mahlangu and Sibahle Mangena

Assisted by Khethukuthula Jele

The project is created by the Windybrow Arts Centre and the Wits Creative Writing Department, with support from the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago, Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud, and the Centre for the Less Good Idea.

Chaired by Warren Nebe

Evening Performances

R100 per ticket if pre-booked in a DFL block booking

Performance

Coal Yard

19.00 – 20.00

Barney Simon Theatre



DAY FOUR

Friday 11 October – The Market Theatre

138 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Newtown, Johannesburg.

Please bring lunch. There are fast food outlets in the precinct.

Lunch will be provided by Nando's for DFL Students.

Registration	08.30 – 09.00	Gramadoelas
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Students – Free

Public – R50 per day

Students – Free per theatre performance

Public – R50 per theatre performance

Panel Discussion

Dreaming Backwards NPC

Re-Building the Table to Embrace
Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage

09.00 – 10.30

John Kani Theatre

- Panel Chair – Themba Mhkoma
- Dr Azam (Leading Like Mandela Foundation)
- Dr Blackie (Children's Memorial Institute)
- Prof Mathole Motshekga (Kara Heritage Institute)

DFL Chair – Limpho Kou

There are two options to choose from:

Performance

Mwana

10.45 – 11.45

Sophiatown Room

Gcebile Dlamini

The Johannesburg for the Blind and Inner City Play Project

Chaired by Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren

Workshop

Bongani Ngomane

10.45 – 11.45

Kippies

*Public Ethnography as a Method for Social Justice:
Collaborative Art for Building Inclusive Communities*

Chaired by Zukhanye Tshandu

Performance and Lecture

Mabaphile

12.00 – 13.30

John Kani Theatre

Dr Ayanda Khala

University of Kwa-Zulu Natal students, Hexagon Theatre

Respondent by: Mihla Sikenya, Thembeke Mpanza, Fezile Radebe

Chaired by Warren Nebe

LUNCH

13.30 – 14.00

Gramadoelas

Panel Discussion

Building the Table

14.00 – 15.30

John Kani Theatre

- Chaired by Kai Crooks-Chissano
 - Dr Munyaradzi Chatikobo (Cultural Policy and Management, Wits)
 - Lonwabo Mavuso (Andani, Director)
 - Gregory Maqoma (Vuyani, Director)
 - Caryn Green (Sibikwa, CEO)
 - Greg Homan (The Market Theatre, Artistic Director)
 - Alison Polley-Green (ASSITEJ SA)
 - Dr Sibongile Bhebhe (Drama for Life, Deputy Head of Department)
 - Mandisi Sindo (Shack Theatre, Director)
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Evening Performances

R100 per ticket for all if pre-booked in DFL block booking

Performance

Laaitie Metta Biscuits

19.00 – 20.00

Mannie Manim Theatre

Roles and Responsibilities:

Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren:	Head of Department
Dr Sibongile Bhebhe:	Deputy Head of Department
Warren Nebe:	Founder of Drama for Life
Hamish Neill:	Director of Drama for Life Creative Research Hub
Leila Henriques:	Program Director
Matshepo Molefe:	Deputy Program Director
Siphamahle Mabindisa:	Logistics Manager
Ross-Junior Hlongwane:	Technical Director
Khensani Chauke:	Deputy Technical Director
Kirsten Dickinson:	Head of Social Media
Ruby Katz Wright:	Head of Social Media
Moses Rasekele:	Head of Audience Development

Conference Committee:

- Warren Nebe
- Leila Henriques
- Dr Sibongile Bhebhe
- Dr Petro Janse Van Vuuren
- Hamish Neill
- Linda Mdena
- Nobantu Shabangu
- Nonkululeko Vilakazi
- Hlubi Nontlanga
- Matshepo Molefe
- Khensani Chauke
- Siphamahle Mabindisa
- Nomfundo Ncanana
- Ross-Junior Hlongwane
- Zukhanye Tshandu
- Amanda Majwete

Re-Building the Table: Arts Under Re-Construction

Programme Note:

We are thrilled to welcome you to Re-Building the Table: Arts Under Re-Construction, a four-day conference and festival where artists, thinkers, and creators from across South Africa come together in a celebration of collaboration, creativity, and renewal. This unique event offers a mix of 22 theatre productions, 4 art installations, 6 panel discussions, 6 workshops and 12 paper presentations – all aimed at exploring the possibilities of finding a new sense of "home." In a time marked by increasing alienation, isolation, and war, we gather to reimagine what home means to each of us and how we can cultivate it together with artistic practice and shared experience.

Through collaboration and dialogue, we hope to break barriers and discover new ways of belonging, whether through performance, embodied workshops, creative experimenting or discussion. The conference will provide a space where artists and participants can explore these themes and build meaningful connections.

We are proud to foster an actively inclusive environment, bringing together artists from diverse geographies, and disciplines. The programme is designed to open up spaces for innovation, reflection, and creative exchange. Join us for Re-Building the Table, where art becomes the foundation for reconnecting with ourselves and one another, as we seek a path to reconstruct the world around us.

Leila Henriques, Programme Director

Abstract and Call:

(Re) building the table: Arts under (re) construction

"If as the pragmatists say, truth is created and recreated in a matrix of social interactions and interpersonal transactions, if expanded democracy is modelled on social cooperation, why not explicitly use this flow to generate art that is itself a process of discursive meaning creation through cooperative action?

In pragmatism, philosophy has a more modest role; it is no longer the distributor of truth but the active tester of hypotheses.

Just so, the socially cooperative artist is an interactive tester of proportions rather than an individual dispenser of a finished aesthetic product...

Mutual creation has its pleasures. Pragmatist philosophers and cooperative artists share an abiding anti-elitism, a belief that philosophy, art, and pedagogy can and should be created for and with all strata of society."

- Tom Finkelpearl from What We Made: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation

In a post-Covid reality, we sit with a massive global divide between the North and the South, growing economic conflict locally and globally, a danger of international human rights law collapsing and the growing threat of extremism aided and abetted by social media. Alienation, isolation and violence have become critical public health and socio-cultural concerns.

In light of the devastating challenges we face, collaboration takes on new meaning. Collaboration has the potential to ignite and restore relationships, partnership building, mutual understanding, and respect.

Performing and visual arts have long addressed alienation and isolation through storytelling and the lens of collaboration. Artistic collaboration offers a chance for us to see ourselves in the eyes of the other, it offers a reflection to steer us back to ourselves, to steer us home.

This is a call to explore the role collaboration plays in (re) building a collective home.

We intend to explore what home means to (re) build the table for all artists. How do we find home in our bodies, hearts, and minds, how do we find home in our city Johannesburg, in our country South Africa, in our continent Africa, and in our world? Can collaborative practices help us find our way back to ourselves – separate in our unique expressions, connected in our relationships, and our humanity, simultaneously? And what are the obstacles to collaboration? Are these perhaps to do with the idea of a fixed home? A home with no belonging, no change in our minds, hearts, and bodies, and our cities, land, continent, and world? How can we use collaboration and collaborative practices to grow our idea of what home is and could become?

The 16th Drama for Life Conference and Festival aims to interrogate “collaboration” as a value principle that engenders home, belonging, and inclusion. In investigating collaboration, the conference and festival aims to shed light on the extensive range of artistic works, approaches, and methods that are available to forge relationships based on sound human rights and social justice principles.

We invite knowledge, critical conversations, creative workshops, and artistic work that speaks to one or more of these questions:

- What will it take for us to (re) build the table for everyone?
- What role can Applied Arts, Arts Education, Arts Therapies, Community Arts, Psychodrama and Sociodrama, and Arts Research play in enhancing collaboration and active inclusion for healing and social transformation?
- As South Africans, Africans, and Global Citizens how do we find each other and collaborate for the sake of human and environmental rights, and social and climate justice for the sake of reversing the local and global crises we face?
- What can we learn from innovative collaborative theatre-making practices, both historically and in contemporary times?
- How can Arts Education methodologies build collaboration concerning the fractured and dysfunctional school systems in South Africa and many other parts of the world?
- Are the Arts Therapies adequately addressing the local, regional, and global mental health pandemic? In what ways can the Arts Therapies better address mental health as a public health issue?
- What modes of research are serving the need to (re) build the table? What can we learn from the research that centres itself on collaboration and partnership building?
- How do indigenous knowledge systems and practices inform our contemporary discourses on collaboration in the arts?

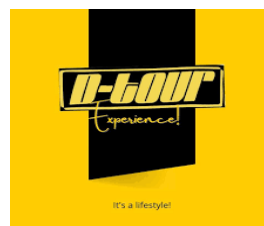
The call is for stories, presentations, performances, experiments, and workshops from artists, arts educators, applied theatre facilitators, art therapists, students, and researchers who have collaboration and interdisciplinary innovation at the core of their praxis.

Thank You!

Firstly, thank you to all the artists, academics, practitioners, and students who gave their time to share their valuable work with the conference. Thank you to the Wits School of Education, the Wits Theatre and The Market Theatre for so generously opening your doors for us. Thank you FLOW Communications and Ella Marren for helping us at every turn with creating our artwork and communication strategy. Thank you Nandos for answering our call and making our lunch time a joyous celebration. Lastly, thank you to our partners for their guidance and generous contributions, ASSITEJ SA, DFL PLAYBACK, the National Children's Theatre, Moses D productions, the Windybrow Theatre, UKZN, Rhodes University, DUT, Buz Publicity, FATC and the Market Theatre.

Thank you to all of our partners. Without you, none of this would be possible.





Map for the Wits School of Education



Map for the Wits Theatre Complex and eMakhaya Theatre

