

Young dancers celebrate South Africa

Artscape and the Western Cape Education Department are partnering in a new project to showcase the dance talent emerging from Arts Focus schools. Choreographers will help each school to produce a performance for the production of My Country - South Africa, which will be performed at the Artscape Theatre on 15 June at 7.30pm and 16 June, 2010, at 3pm and 7.30pm.

Some of the choreographers are graduates from Jazzart's Young Adult Training and Job Creation Programme as well as from Jazzart Dance Theatre, Ikapa Dance Theatre and Remix Dance Company. They include Ina Wichterich-Mogane, Ananda Fuchs, Gordon Andries, Sbo Ndaba, Abeedah Medell, Marlin Zoutman, Theo Ndindwe, Grant van Ster, Mziyanda Mancam and Douglas Griffiths. It is directed by Alfred Hinkel.

A number of works from the Visual Art and Design learners will be on display as a preview to their Matric exhibition scheduled for later in the year at the Iziko South African National Gallery. Graduates from the Arts Focus Schools currently involved in their internships at Jazzart Dance Theatre, La Rosa Spanish Dance Theatre and the UCT School of Dance will also be performing.

To ensure excellence

The Focus School project began in 2006 as one of the targeted interventions to establish selected schools in each district as pathfinders and lead institutions in their fields. Driven by the purpose of ensuring access to quality education in the full range of arts subjects, especially in disadvantaged areas, these schools have been promoted to ensure excellence in the nurturing and comprehensive training of learners with exceptional talent, interest or aptitude and to improve the supply of high-quality skills, particularly scarce skills, which are responsive to societal and economic needs.

This project forms part of Artscape's month of celebrating the achievement of the young in the Western Cape, where a platform for young artists is provided to demonstrate their skills in a professional environment. They are also introduced to the high standard of theatre practice and "behind the scene" team that help create that perfect memorable performance - an occasion where parents, friends and teachers can proudly indulge in their success.

Those taking part

Participating schools include: Alexander Sinton High (Athlone), Belhar High (Belhar), Cedar Secondary (Mitchell's Plain), Chris Hani Secondary (Khayelitsha), Eerste Rivier Secondary (Eerste Rivier), Schoonspruit Secondary (Malmesbury), South Peninsula High (Diep River), Worcester Secondary (Worcester) and Wynberg High, (Wynberg).

Ticket prices are R50, students and pensioners R30, schools R20 per learner. There is a discount for bulk bookings of 10 or more. Book through Artscape Dial-a-Seat on +27 (0)21 421 7695, Computicket, Shoprite and Checkers outlets or www.computicket.com.

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