

Creatives Magazine

Issue 3 | September 2022

#Showcasing Traditional and Cultural diversity through Creative Arts



An ekphrastic poetry whizz in the mould of Nqindi

Creativity Redefined: An encounter with the versatile Madlela

Dr Gasolo, the sophisticated and multifaceted creative

Rainbow's budding traditional aficionado, Umfanomsotho

A creative family affair

Raising the dust with the pace-setting Bolamba Performing Arts

The Shinning Ngiyesaba Traditional Dance Group

NO MORE WAITING FOR THE RAIN



Meet the convivial Jovis Jovara, Imbongi Engadumile



A highly fervent poet, Mjabulisi



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CONTENTS



08 Madlela Skhobokhobo

REGULARS

05 Editors Note

06 Meet the Team

FEATURES

- Creativity Redefined: An encounter with the versatile Madlela
- No More Waiting for the rain **19**
- An ekphrastic poetry whizz in the mould of Nqindi
- Dr Gasolo, the sophisticated and multifaceted creative **29**
- Rainbow's budding traditional aficionado, Umfanomsotho
- The Poetically Jovial Jovis Jovara, aka Imbongi Engadumile
- Raising the dust with the pace-setting Bolamba Performing Arts
- A highly fervent poet, Mjabulisi
- A Creative Family Affair

Special Mentions

Dr Omphile Marupi **33**



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16
23
19
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EDITOR'S NOTE

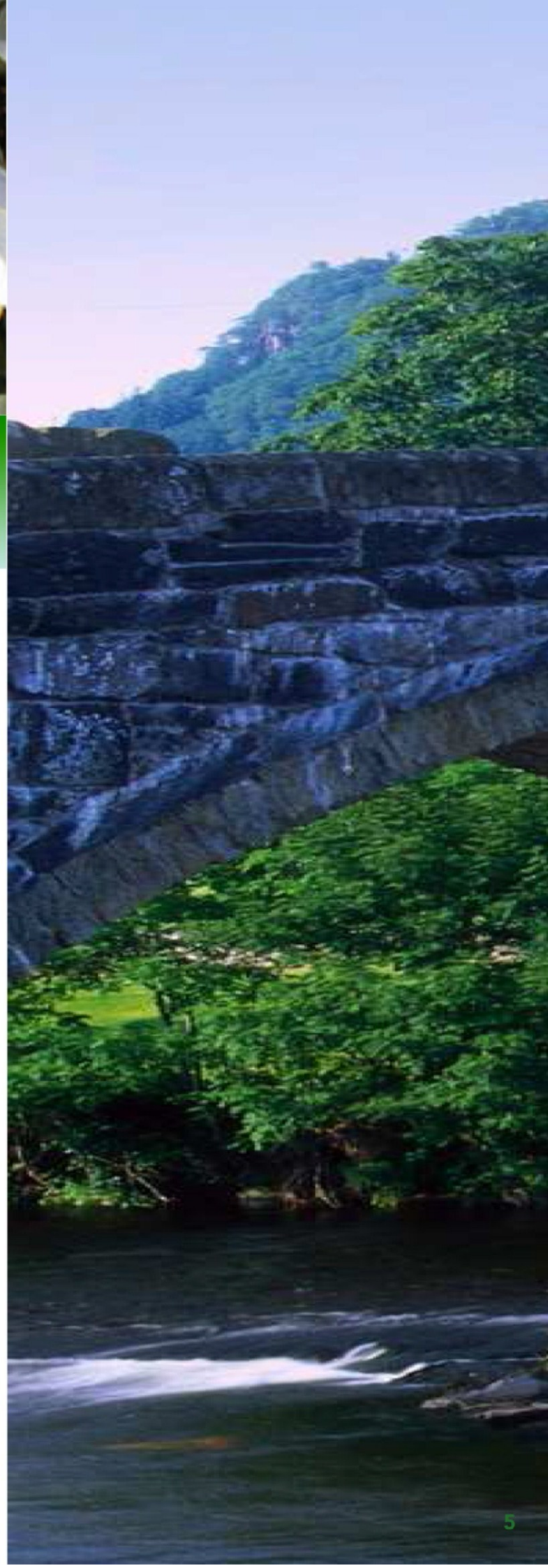
It is with great pride that we once again give you updates from the rainbow province as we continue to celebrate and showcase our talents. At Creatives, we appreciate your continued support through your feedback, constructive criticism and recommendations.

This special edition details the artistry obtaining in Matabeleland South as we celebrate the works by creatives from the province. This edition goes far and wide in flaunting our rich culture, values and traditions mirrored through our great and upcoming artists, including dance groups. Enjoy the read!

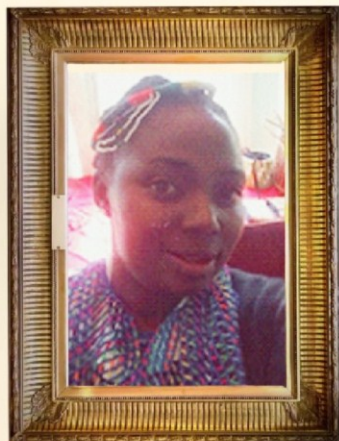
MMoYo

Mr Meluleki Moyo (Editor)

Cre**tives** Magazine



MEET THE TEAM



**Founder, Chief Editor
and Content Creator
Sithokozile Sibanda**

Sithokozile Sibanda is a Multi Award winning Arts Journalist and a Media and Journalism Expert. Her academic basket is assorted with a plethora of qualifications including a Master of Science Degree in Journalism and Media studies from the National University of Science and Technology, NUST, a Post Graduate Diploma in Media and Society Studies with the Midlands State University, MSU and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies attained from the Zimbabwe Open University, ZOU. Miss Sibanda is an Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, AWE, Cohort 3 fellow. She is currently enrolled in a one-year programme at the African Women Entrepreneurship Corporative, AWEC, Cohort 5, a training sponsored by the United States of America, USA. The 2021 Outstanding Journalist from the print media at the National Arts Merit Awards, NAMA, also scooped the 2021 Journalist of the year award at The Eminent in Sports Music and Academic Awards (TESMA) and the 2021 Outstanding Arts Journalist award nominee where she received a merit certificate at the Roil Bulawayo Arts Awards (RoilBAA). Miss Sibanda is also an avid reader and a researcher who has published more than 5 research papers in reputable journals. Her research interests are in the field of media, Journalism and the creative industry. She is a readily available presenter, facilitator and moderator at local and international research conferences..



**Editor
Meluleki Moyo**

With experience in pedagogy having taught at secondary and tertiary institutions over the years, Mr Meluleki Moyo brings a different flair to the Creatives team. He has previously worked under the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education as a Teacher, Content Writer and Creator. He is a News Correspondent with The Sunday News of the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group. Mr. Moyo has in the past been affiliated with organisations such as the Confederation of Southern African Football (COSAFA), Pro Africa Development Trust and the United States of America based Genius Plaza as a Media Officer, Researcher and Content Creator, respectively. He holds a Master of Science degree in Media and Society Studies with the Midlands State University, a Bachelor of Arts Special Honours degree in Communication and Media Studies with the Zimbabwe Open University as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economic History and English with the University of Zimbabwe. He is currently studying towards a Doctorate of Philosophy in Media and Cultural Studies with the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa.



**Multimedia Digital Designer
Makwelo Dube**

Mak's amazing journey with swatches and tools panels dates to a decade and a half, and he believes there is still a long stretch ahead with new discoveries in a technologically advancing world full of colour and vast opportunities for creativity. "All of us have the ability and the individual talents to embrace and display our uniqueness and potential. With every twist and turn there is always guaranteed adventure, professional growth and development", believes Dube. The vast experience he has in the creative world will surely be some life-blood to the sustenance of this digital project, as he has all the requisite skills and know-how needed to make it an excellent product having worked with on a comprehensive list of notable works, namely: FSG (Zimbabwe) Moonlight Assurance, Amakhosi, Ingwebu, and the 100th World Bible College event to name a few. The leadership proficiency evidenced by the establishment of a company, Trustee Legal Society (T.L.S), he established in 2016 will surely go a long way in assisting the management team at the Creatives Magazine. Learning is a continuous process.



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MADLELA SKHOBOKHOBO

2017 BEST NEWCOMER, ROIL BULAWAYO ARTS AWARDS, ROILBAA
2017 BEST ACTOR - ROIL BULAWAYO ARTS AWARDS, ROILBAA
2017 SONG OF THE YEAR - ROIL BULAWAYO ARTS AWARDS, ROILBAA
2017 SONG OF THE YEAR – SKYZ METRO FM AWARDS
2016 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD – ZIM ACHIEVERS AWARDS
2019 BEST TSHIBILIKA - SKYZ METRO FM AWARDS
2020 BEST TSHIBILIKA - ROIL BULAWAYO ARTS AWARDS, ROILBAA
2021 BEST TSHIBILIKA – ZIMBABWE MUSIC AWARDS, ZIMA
2018 ART RECOGNITION - MATABELELAND ENTERTAINMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA



Affectionally known as Madlela Skhobokhobo in entertainment cycles, Mthusi Bashimane Ndlovu is a deeply rooted spiritual person, a firm believer in the cultural and traditional practices and values, with attributes of an indigenous African. The Gwanda bred comedian comes in an array of artistic assortments including a director, writer, producer, musician and a Disc Jockey, spinning the decks at Skyz Metro FM radio station.

Madlela mentions how his mother influenced his singing career as she cultivated a culture of singing and praying as a family before they went to bed.

"My mother was so passionate about singing and this largely influenced me to consider music as one of my career paths...

Ngikhula (When I grew up), my mother was a lay preacher at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe (ELCZ), and she used to sing a lot", adds the proud father of four. Dielas, as he is also popularly known by this name is married to his gorgeous queen, Qhawekazi Moyo. On the theatre/acting side, as this gentleman is a multitalented creative,

he talks about his first breakthrough into this field while doing Form one at Manama high school. A village boy with little or no experience in as far as theatre art was concerned, joined a drama club where he would execute his acting skills and capabilities with so much zest that led him to take up this profession to a higher level. "I am glad, when I got to Manama I was taught indaba ze theatre and acting, remember I was just a boy from emakhaya ngikwazi the music side of art, I did not know the theatre side", he recalls. Madlela briefly explains how spirituality shapes his art as he waits for a calling to do as he has been directed and therefore he does not receive an inspiration from his fellow creatives."Whatever I do, I do not look at other artists for inspiration, my art is spiritual, ngiyalinda as my art is influenced by umoya, I don't even go deeper and I believe that this is how my art is different from eyabanye", he says. Dielas believes that snubbing traditional and cultural norms and values as Africans may present one with a lot of challenges in life. "As long as we are still running away from our shadow, we will never see Africa coming back to us, Africa in so many ways is not in our hands, we are controlled by other people's influences through culture such that we have forgot-



ten who we are". He adds that this is why as Africans we have lost a connection with what he refers to as iZithunywa, in African Spirituality, where in Christianity these are called Angels.

"If you lose a connection with iZithunywa zakho, uyadideka, idirection kayibuyi kuhle, iAfrica has no direction because we have lost our roots connection and this is why they say the face of Africa yinhlupheko (poverty)", he says.

Madlela says that if we can retrace and rediscover ourselves as Africans, Africa will be the number 1 continent in the world because we have it all. He explains that whatever we have is easily taken away from us because we are not properly aligned,

"Konke esilakho bayabuya basitshontshele bahambe lakho kibo sisale sihlupheka ngoba we are not connected to our roots".



Madlela mentions that as artists they are societal mirrors and it means that firstly they have to know who they are. "Nxaxaxa ngizazi mina njengo-Madlela Skhobokhobo, Mothusi Bashimane Ndlovu, whatever I do, kuyenelisa ukufundisa abantu ukuthi ngingubani, angifiki ebantwini ngizenze angani I am an American, something that I am not, ngihlala ngiyilokho engiyikho khona and by so doing I become a role model to other people ababuye bahawukele ubuAfrican engiyibo bona"

Madlela is currently a brand ambassador for Global Water Drillers and Ekhaya Takeaways. Previously he was the NetOne and Oasis Hardware shop brand ambassador.

Skhobokhobo has released three (3) albums with ten (10) tracks each, these albums are iDlozi lolaka, Majazana and Ntikoloshi. He has re-

leased the following singles,

Ama-International feat Noluntu J, Blue rose, Basotho and Mjox

Ama Yellow

Celebrate feat Themba Boyoyo Mathe

EmaSurbabzin feat Hwabaraty, Away and Bajilla

Umona feat Siza Mdlongwa,

Mcheznana, Bluerose and Basotho

Madlela is featured in Martin Sibanda song called Bayadideka and Thembisile track by Zhezhintons.

Madlela has worked on a drama project, Madlela 1, 2 and 3 and a Madlela series that played on Zimbabwe Television (ZTV). He has also done short movies that played on Mzansi Bioscope, Silence and Bafo My Blood.

All his projects are released under his recording and publishing entity known as Shilolo Media House where Skhosana, Blue Rose and BaSotho are artists who are signed under his

record label.

Commenting on the Ama International video, Dielas demonstrates his passion in supporting emerging artists who need more publicity for their works as he dedicates this project to all upcoming artists, not only those he featured but anyone who wishes to excel in their area of creativity. "Basically I did not do this track for myself, people know my music lendlela engihamba ngayo, this one is mainly for young people, those I am trying to introduce into the music industry, of course people know Mjox and uNoluntu laye uyan-gena kancane kancane and I had to give her a boost ukuthi abantu abangilandelayo bakwazi to recognize her, I have also introduced Blue Rose who has 2 tracks so far and we are saying isizwe asimbheke nangu uBasotho laye uyangena"

He is, no doubt, our Matabeleland regional creative ambassador, a philanthropist. He is one of our reigning creatives from our beautiful region, making waves locally and internationally with his incredible artistic feel. Madlela speaks fondly about Matabeleland where there is so much talent, commitment and high level of dedication by artists to shine in the arts and entertainment sector for the world to appreciate and avail creative opportunities for growth and development.

"We have the best, we are globe-trotting, we fill up auditoriums, we pull and thrill crowds, we are international, we are there with the best, I urge the world to take a look at us, I have done this track to give our upcoming artists a boost to activate the talent they already have", says Dlelas,

Skhobokhobo is one of the artists who have managed to professionalise their art and view it as a business when he explains that his works are not free of charge as he depends on his art for sustenance. "At this stage I cant perform at a function where I will not be rewarded financially for my work, that will be a waste of time, worthless, I cannot do that because ngisemsebenzini and this is how I survive, this is how I feed my kids. Any event that comes my way must have a financial value".

Dlelas provides a detailed analysis of the arts industry in Zimbabwe which he describes as one of the less recognised sectors as evidenced by limited resources channelled to support creatives involved in different forms of art. "The art industry in Zimbabwe needs financial injection and platforms that are going to pay us. If I produce a series and take it to a television station I must be paid in such a way that will change my life and everyone else involved in the production of such a project.



The government needs to pump in money kuboZBC so that when they employ us they are able to pay us. What we need is just financial injection. We also call for the private sector to invest in the arts industry ngoba I believe that akekho umuntu ilanga eliphuma lize litshone engalalelanga ingoma, siyahlabela emini abantu bahambe bekholisa ezomculo, ntambama befika ezindlini bayavula ama television, yithi lapho njalo acting kuma screens enu, this shows how important this sector is" •



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P V T L T D

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NOMORE WAITING FOR THE RAIN

...as Rural Arts In Motion (RAIN) takes care of the socio-economic business!

Seemingly a conclusion of the late Charles Mungoshi masterpiece, Waiting for the rain, the Nswazi ward 6 based traditional dance group, Rural Arts In Motion, RAIN, has embarked on a creatives overdrive, simultaneously eradicating poverty, identifying and nurturing talent in the process.



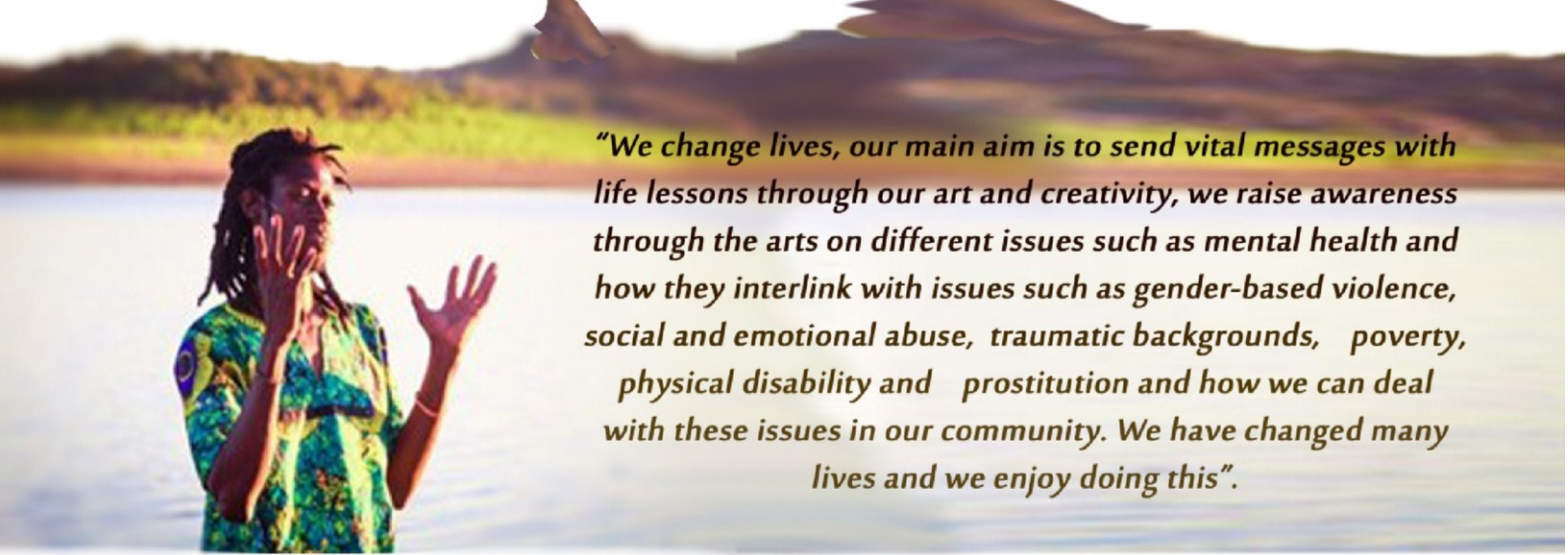
The group was established on 21 January 2019. The creativity they exhibit in their art is par excellent with a lot of energy, love and commitment in executing whatever task they are up to.

The group is under Umzingwane, Matabeleland South provincial district and is made up of 32 individuals between the ages of 10 and 62. The members consist of 12 widowers, 10 orphans, 5 youths, 5 elders. Among the 32 members are 19 dancers, 2 poets, 16 actors where some individuals perform more than one art genre.

The RAIN management team is made up of 3 founders, Thubelihle Ngwenya who is also the executive director and writer of the group, Lawrence Mpfu is their talent coach and Omega Ndlovu who is the organizational signatory.

Sibongile Dlamini is their secretary while their treasurer is Serve Ngwenya. When asked how they came up with this name, one of the founders of this group, Thubelihle Ngwenya explained that they discovered that in rural areas there is so much unidentified art talent that is abused in several ways such that people end up engaging in illicit and uncouth behaviours such as drug abuse, hence the formation of this dance group, RAIN to keep people occupied doing something good for themselves.

“Water is life, RAIN provides water and bring life to many things, this is why we chose RAIN, we thrive to revive even the inactive but talented, we groom from zero talent to champions”, says Thubelihle. This is a group that specializes in Ndebele dances that include the following as explained by Thubelihle Ngwenya.



“We change lives, our main aim is to send vital messages with life lessons through our art and creativity, we raise awareness through the arts on different issues such as mental health and how they interlink with issues such as gender-based violence, social and emotional abuse, traumatic backgrounds, poverty, physical disability and prostitution and how we can deal with these issues in our community. We have changed many lives and we enjoy doing this”.

Isitshikitsha: is a war prophecy dance performed before going to war or when coming from there, Indlamu: is a motivational or celebration dance without prophecy before or after war Ibhiza: is a celebration dance but now they dance it embuyisweni Abazingeli: this type of dance has a bit of spiritual secret where they would dance at home and the wild animals will just come zingabizwanga and they will slaughter it enjoying, thankful for they believed that isintu sabo sizasebenza Ijukwa: bebeligida nxa izifuyo zilahlekile, bengagida kwakuphuma amadlozi abalayele ukuthi izifuyo zidlela ngaphi Hosana: Leyi yingoma yokucela izulu.

The RAIN traditional dance group discovered that their Ndebele originality has faded, therefore they established an entity that is meant to revive the Ndebele tradition and cultural practices to bring back what they call “ubuntu bethu”.

This is a group/ organization that owns several mines however not yet functional due to limited equipment. Under their organization they also take care of orphans and widows in several ways.

“We comfort them, iarts iyakukhupha ubuhlungu olabo enhlizweni ikwenze uqine, sabona kubalulekile ukuthi babe yingxenywe yethu ngoba bayathola ukududuzeka le-healing. Sibancedisa ngokubafundisa ukuthunga impahla, cooking, farming. Siyadinga amadonations from people singathola esikutholileyo we buy groceries for them”, says Thubelihle.

The Rural Arts In Motion also conducts talk shows where discussions on various topical issues are discussed and explained. They discuss the following as explained by Thubelihle; “Sihamba sidinga ukwazi kabanzi ngendawo esilazo kithi ukuthi zethiwa kutheni ezinjengabo Lumene falls, Fort Umlugulu, Dianas pools lezinye indawo, eyinye I talk show yethu ihlangene emotional and physical abuse, teenage pregnancy and poverty issues”.

This is a dance group that has also produced a movie series which they say it can be aired on television station for at least 9 months on a weekly basis. Thubelihle reveals that one of the episodes focus on Inzilo which she explains in detail here; “Ku Inzilo umama wayesetshonelwe ngumkakhe odadewabo bomkakhe babuya umfowabo sengcwatshiwe bafika balwa kakhulu sebemhlokumeza sebethi kangenwe ngumalume ovele sephelelwe ngumphako. Umfelwakazi wayala basebemzilisa baqeda ukumzilisa bamxotsha Life became harder every day lenzilo esebuyele kubo”. “uSikhosini is all about ijaha ebelimele lihlale esihlalweni sikayise owashonayo. Lihlale isihlalo sokuba yinkosi manje untombazana ebelimtshadile ubengatholi ingane isikhathi sesiside”. Financial challenges prohibit them from realizing their full potential in as far as their art is concerned. “We have an alarming rate of vulnerable individuals, some are women and children where girls face challenges in acquiring sanitary wear and other clothing items such as pants and tights”, says Thubelihle, who also



added that they cannot work in their mines because of machinery challenges. Thubelihle revealed that some orphans are staying with abusive guardians where they are emotionally and physically abused, this is a group that needs special care and encouragement and the most painful thing is that after comforting them they go back to that home again where the scars will be opened. "If only we had a place of our own ukuthi bathole ukuhlala and heal manje, aaah, tight", says Thubelihle. Thubelihle explains how they have managed to raise awareness on sensitive and crucial issues affecting society, the group has enjoyed a lot in the

arts industry, and they look forward to showcasing their traditional practices to the whole world. "We change lives, our main aim is to send vital messages with life lessons through our art and creativity, we raise awareness through the arts on different issues such as mental health and how they interlink with issues such as gender-based violence, social and emotional abuse, traumatic backgrounds, poverty, physical disability and prostitution and how we can deal with these issues in our community. We have changed many lives and we enjoy doing this".

They have exhibited their works at various arts occasions such as the Chibuku traditional dance competi-

tion, the Intwasa Arts Festival, the First lady's cooking competition club. The group looks forward to receive more enlightenment on how they can market their art on digital and offline platforms.





MENU

- Isitshwala and Offals.....
- Isitshwala & Beans.....
- Isitshwala & OxHead.....
- Isitshwala & Oxtail.....
- Isitshwala lamangqina.....
- Isitshwala & Beef.....
- Isitshwala & Beef Bones.....
- Isitshwala le Nkukhu makhaya.....
- Isitshwala & Roasted Chicken.....
- Rice & Chicken.....



BRAAIS

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- Chakalaka Sausage.....
- Chicken.....
- Goat Meat.....



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- Soft drinks 300ml.....
- Minute Maid.....
- Pet Drinks 500ml.....
- Dragon.....
- SipSip Yoghurt.....
- 100% Juice.....
- Amaheu.....



An ekphrastic poetry whizz in the mould of

NQINDI

He is no doubt a legendary icon, a traditional and cultural aficionado leading the poetic industry all the way from his base in Matabeleland South where he was born and raised. His fusion of several poetic techniques that he chants with a loud thunderous roar of a lion for a purposive message intended to be received by an actively engaged audience during his performances is a delight.

His name is Lerato Ndlovu, well known as Nqindi in the arts industry. He is a prodigy, not only locally but internationally where we see him on international platforms, exhibiting his poetic aptitude that is narrative, observational, persuasive and heavily lyrical, expressed in isiNdebele language. Nqindi clearly brings out what he focuses on in his poetry and how this relates to the African culture, Nqindi has always been fascinated about art since his early years in primary school, where he was largely involved in various art genres and poetry stands out as his major area of specialisation that he is well known for. He can tell a story that serves to inform, educate as well as to entertain. In communicating his messages through poetry, Nqindi does it in an ekphrastic way, that acknowledges how much he appreciates art as an important vehicle for social change.



“Nxa sikhuluma nge culture sikhuluma ngabombongi bakithi, Imbongi yikuxwayisana, ukufundisana, ukutshe-la abantu ngezinto ukuze bananekele, ukufundisa ngengozi, ngemikhuhlane, ngento ezinengi ezingabe Zinhle, lezinganhle ukuthi abantu balimuke, siyaxwayisa, siyancedisa, siyakhuza njalo”.





His comic style chuckles the fans who are mostly in stitches throughout his presentation. Nqindi is traditionally and culturally clad. Among his many accomplishments in the creative industry, Nqindi managed to release his first poetry album with poems such as Samora Machel, Izibingo zikaLobengula, izibongo zamakhosi eZimbabwe. In this album, Nqindi traces the history of Mthwakazi traditional leaders (iZinduna).

According to Obert Dube, the award winning Pan African poet, he recognises the immense contribution by Nqindi in the arts industry where he reveals how much of a role model and inspiration he is especially to upcoming poets. Obert describes him as uNqindi Omnyama, the best Zimbabwean Poet. He mentions that he likes his energy, facial expressions, gesture, confidence and his natural appearance especially while on stage. Nqindi reveals how he is able to moentise his art as he explains that he depends on it for sustenance and he is doing quite well to afford his family a decent living. It was in 1997 when he started making money out of his praise poetry where he started performing in several functions such as weddings, culture celebrations and birthdays.

Isintu sakithi simnandi nxa umuntu ebonga.

lona isiko lakwethu liyimpilo yethu liyikuphila kwethu, nxa sisenza lezi ezamasiko mina ngizizwa ngikhohlisa, ngiyakubonga lokhu engikwenzayo njalo ngiyakujabulela. laloba ngingelamali ekshwameni, ngingela kudla, kodwa ngingabonga ngizizwa ngingosuthiyo ukuthi sengingalala nginjalo, mina ngikhohlisa, laloba ngingelamali ekshwameni, ngingela kudla, kodwa ngingabonga ngizizwa ngingosuthiyo ukuthi sengingalala nginjalo, mina ngiyakubonga lokhu engikwenzayo njalo ngiyakujabulela.

Ukuvunula leyi imvunulo leyi kungikhumbuza izolo, ukuthi izolo lihlale liyinamhla ngoba vele ngeke sikwekele okwakwethu, isiko lakithi lihle, emasikweni kulenhlonipho, kulokuzibutha, ukukhulisana lokuncedisana lokuhloniphana, sithi Nkosi ubelathi ngoba isiko liyimpilo yethu, isiko liyikuphila ngifisa ukuthi ngabe abantwana bayakufuza lokhu bakwenze ukuze babe lempilo enhle njalo thina siyajabula nxa sikhohlisa sitshayelana izandla sisenza into ezinhle, sincoma ngesiko lakithi sikhohlisa kuyikuphila thina sikuzwa kumnandi •



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Dr Gasolo,

THE SOPHISTICATED AND MULTIFACETED CREATIVE



people, 'I also like to hang around elders and they also like to have me around them, I guess that's where all the influence comes from". Dr Gasolo appreciates the recognition that we (Creatives magazine) have given him as one that goes a long way in ensuring that his brand continues to grow, 'For me to be interviewed by a publication like yours it is a big recognition that I don't take lightly'.

This art guru has written, directed, produced and featured in a number of stage plays such as Identify Matters where he was the writer, director and producer. He acted in a play by Cont Mhlanga called Uproot the Rot and Civilian by Thulani Mbambo. Dr Gasolo has recorded one poetry album with ten tracks and 3 singles. The following are some of the productions he has been involved in; Nyaminyami - series by Cont Mhlanga (actor), Insuku Zokucina - series by Raisedon Baya (actor), Ekhonei - series by Vincent Ngwenya (Continuity manager), Golden Belt - series by Dumoluhle Dube (Writer, Continuity manager), Jaiva S'bone - drama by Multi Media Box (actor), Xola Sitha Sami - drama by Dorothy Maseko (actor and production manager).

He is Prince 'Mazilankatha' Ncube, well known as Dr Gasolo after having rebranded from Mazilankatha recently. His art industry career dates back to the year 1999 while he was still at school. He indicates that since then he has always known that he is an artist. In 2011 he took arts as his full-time occupation/job. When asked about what he does in the creative industry, Dr. Gasolo explains, "Dr Gasolo does almost everything in the arts, scriptwriting, directing, producing, acting, poetry, artist management". He reveals that he is a cultural activist as evidenced by how people know him as a man who is deeply rooted in culture. "In everything I do and everything I am, the Ndebele tradition is visible, most of my art portrays the African Tradi-

tion mostly the Ndebele tradition and cultural practices", says Dr Gasolo. His lyrical content and the way he dresses is also evident enough to show his culture.

This cultural enthusiast is also the founder and the current director of Maskand' Emuntwini Movement which is a drive that seeks to promote, protect and preserve Maskandi music which is a Ndebele cultural heritage.

Dr Gasolo says that the late legendary creative icon, Cont Mdladla Mhlanga, a playwright, filmmaker, theatre director, a man who had a gift of storytelling is his biggest role model who largely influenced his passion for the arts industry as he moulded him to be what he is today. He says the other influence is from old



He has performed in various occasions such as the Inxusa Arts Festival, Independence Dance Gala. He mentions weddings, traditional gatherings and other family events as occasions where he says he feels closer to his audience and he loves the chemistry and the attachment with them.

In his opinion Dr Gasolo briefly explains why the coverage of tradition and culture in the arts industry is very low, "I think the reason is that the generation of our fathers even from our grandfathers lost our identify and adopted foreign traditions thinking that it is Christianity that led to us the younger generation to see our identify and tradition as an outdated "thing" or something which is demonic".

Dr Gasolo reveals what can be done to ensure that we uphold our traditional and cultural practices as Africans who are in the arts sector, "For the creative industry to portray our tradition I think we need to go back to the issue of identity and know who we are first then we portray who we are instead of imitating others who are doing their own culture which has nothing to do with us". He says that as a people we are nothing without a culture or a tradition.

Dr Gasolo further clarifies, "Our culture and tradition is what defines us and if you don't know the definition of a word you will always abuse it, putting it where it does not fit. Am sure you can agree with me that those who do not understand their

culture and tradition (the definition of who they are) always abuse themselves".

Dr Gasolo embarked on a massive and impressive drive that is characterised by his long walk from his rural home in Matshetsheni to Gwanda centre where he later proceeded from Gwanda to eSigodini until he reached Bulawayo. Dr Gasolo sheds light on the motive behind this walk he coined "Dr Gasolo Long Walk To Success" when he indicates that as local artists they need support from the local leadership and business community. He states that artists can do anything to receive that kind of appreciation hence his fervour to do the long walk.

This gutsy man mentions some of the public misconceptions and myths regarding the artists and the arts industry where people largely





believe that there is poor quality delivered by artists from Matabeleland. Dr Gasolo dismisses such misapprehensions that are meant to bring down the creative industry.

He has carried out several investigations from people who are complaining about quality, this he did with an intention to enlighten people on the importance of supporting and embracing local talent in order to avoid painting the creative industry with a bleak picture. "When one complains about poor quality of music by a particular artist, I make sure that I dig deeper to find out what exactly do they mean by poor quality, in most cases I have gathered from the participants that they have quite vague

and queer assessments that only do more harm than good to the career of a creative. As someone who believes in constructive criticism such sweeping statements are just meant to humiliate individuals as they are primitive and they need to be avoided", says Dr Gasolo. He says most of the comments are quite baseless "Bathi hayi yikuthi vele ama local artists into abayenzayo kayizwakali laloba lapho sengibafakele ukuthi nango uzibani kodwa baswele isizatho sokuthi kahle kahle abakusolayo kuyini". So that artists receive the kind of criticism they deserve for their growth and development in the various categories they are engaged in, Dr Gasolo says that this walk is meant to show people that as artists they have the strength to even go an extra mile to meet the business community, local leadership and the general public so that they are able to push their art to a greater level by appreciating and supporting what they do. When the business community supports him as an artist they are not only uplifting him as an individual but they are also doing this for the community that tends to benefit. Dr Gasolo gives an example on this when he talks about the issue of brand ambassadorship where people relate more to people they know as compared to when a local company gets a brand ambassador based in Harare whom the locals in Gwanda know but cannot relate to.

"To have a brand ambassador from the community for a local business abantu abanengi kuyabachaza njalo abanye kabasathengi ngoba bebefuna ukuthenga kodwa sebethenga ngoba bebone ipikitsha yomuntu abamaziyo who they can relate to", this is one way he says the business community can support local artists in turn this boosts their businesses.

"The message that I am putting across to people is that let's support each other as a community", reveals Dr Gasolo.

When asked what he would do given an opportunity to change the arts industry in Zimbabwe, Dr Gasolo says, "I don't think we have an arts industry in Zimbabwe. What I see is an arts sector not an industry, so given an opportunity I will turn this sector into an industry that employs a good number of citizens and generate revenue for the nation" ●



Rainbow's budding traditional aficionado,

*"Ngiyenza engikuphilayo,
ngiqgoko engiyikho khona,
ngendlela engiyiyo yona",...*

Umfanomsotho



"Mina nginguNkosiphile Ketumile Dewa, insizwa encane ephuma phansi phetsheya eGungwe, eman-gweni", the young and extremely passionate award winning Afropop star does not shy introducing himself.

He is a unique character who showcases his traditional and cultural practices as a pure African who is a proudly Sotho descendent, something that young people of his age often shun.

Known as Kay Kid Umfanomsotho in the arts and entertainment sector, Nkosiphile is a Ndebele by socialization as he was raised by his aunt who is a Ndebele. His art is in Sotho and Ndebele, same applies to his birth names, Nkosiphile

(Ndebele) and Ketumile (Sotho). He reveals that he can speak Sotho, however he is not fluent in the language perhaps because he did not grow up in an enabling environment with Sotho speakers and that at school he learnt Ndebele. The little that he knows about the language, he ensures that it is applied to his music as he is proudly Sotho. "I portray the Ndebele and Sotho culture in my art in several ways, my dressing is Sotho with ijali, induku lengwani, for anyone who is not aware of how the Sotho people dress I am a pure representation of the Sotho dresscode. Umuntu uhle ebone ukuthi siyambatha thina ingubo all the way from Lesotho ngoba bagqoka njalo. My

lyrics are largely in Ndebele with Sotho phrases here and there. Those not familiar with the Sotho culture can get an appreciation of who we are and how we live from my art".

Kay Kid explains that his art is indigenous and original, "Ngiyenza engikuphilayo, ngiqgoko engiyikho khona, ngendlela engiyiyo yona, the language I use ihambelana legama lami elilesiSotho lesiNdebele dresscode and the language I am using kuhambelana lami. The way I present myself on stage, videos and my music is different as I bring out the African child in me, something that is scarce here in Zimbabwe". His sound is Afro Pop, music that he says it appeals to both the young

and old who can gladly listen and relate to it in every aspect of his music including his lyrics. He says that his songs are like painkillers where he is able to deal with people's emotions and bring happiness to those in pain through his soothing rhythmic and lyrical content in his songs.

Kay Kid Umfanomsotho believes that his passion for the arts industry is a calling, he refers to it as "ubizo", he says that he loved singing while at school where he used to be in a drama club, he would also start songs in choir groups, He has always had a passion for music since his high school days at Mzinyathini High where he used to perform under the Imbazo drama club, leading in songs and he was also part of the school choir. "I started singing at high school choir and drama group then one day I just decided to write something that I later recorded and the response was overwhelming, it was

amazing how people began to ask when I was likely to drop another song and this encouraged me a lot to seriously focus on music". "A high school friend of mine who used to be also part of the school choir motivated me to go to the studio as I was highly encouraged by what he did soon as we finished from 4. He went to the studio and recorded his first song that he shared with me, ngayizwa imnandi ingoma yakhe and I felt challenged and this is why I had to write something down, got to the studio and recorded a hip hop trap song called Basidlela umona".

"Hey ngabalesikhwele esikhulu honestly esangikhuthaza ukuthi lami ngizame, kuyinto enhle ayenzayo eyangikhuthazayo he surely influenced me to get into the studio to record". He laughingly states that jealousy influenced and encouraged him to record his first song, since then he never looked back as he is releasing hits that get

played on national radio stations. His works are widely recognized not only locally but internationally, he is indeed a hard worker quite optimistic about a positive future in the music industry. Kay Kid also believes that art is in his blood, it's a calling that gives him all the wisdom to excel in whatever he does. He discloses that he is largely inspired by Emtee, Blaq Diamond, Sjava and Aubrey Qwana in as far as his music is concerned. Kay Kid has so far released the following five singles, Ngimtholile ft Fab_G Mshanakagogo, Shona Malanga ft B.L.U.E Nyambose from Durban in South Africa, Lengoma, Ubambo lwam and Ngyavuma ft Zhezingtons. He has also released the Ehlathini Live sessions, a compilation of his songs, the sessions were shot in the bush as his genre allows him to be in such places. Umfanomsotho recently released a music video called Imibuzo.





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This young man has made crowd thrilling performances in various functions such the Black Diamond Show, XQ show as well as the AAG function. He has also exhibited his art at the Miss Gwanda culture at Asima conference room, the all black (red carpet event) at Gwanda hotel and at the.Tsunami album launch for Master Zhoe at Gwanda district club at several weddings and parties. When he performed alongside the Black diamond, his main sources of inspiration , he demonstrated his talent in such a way that he felt like it was his first time on stage.

In 2021 Kay Kid Umfanomsotho scooped two awards, the Best Afropop song award and the best video of the year award at The Eminent in Sports Music and Academic Awards (TESMA) organized by the Edu Foundation Trust, an event that was held at the Gwanda District club.

Kay Kid believes that people must be reminded of who they are and where they come from as he says "Kuqakathekile ukuthi abantu bazi imvelaphi yabo, imvunulo, inkolo lolimi lemisebenzi engabaphilisa" Ukuqakatheka kwemvelaphi yethu kuyasisiza on how we present ourselves in public, lokwazi ukuthi sikholelwa entweni ezinjani, sisuke sibekwazi ukuthi kuyini okuzilwayo, kuncedisa ukwazi ukuthi Senzeni singenzi ●



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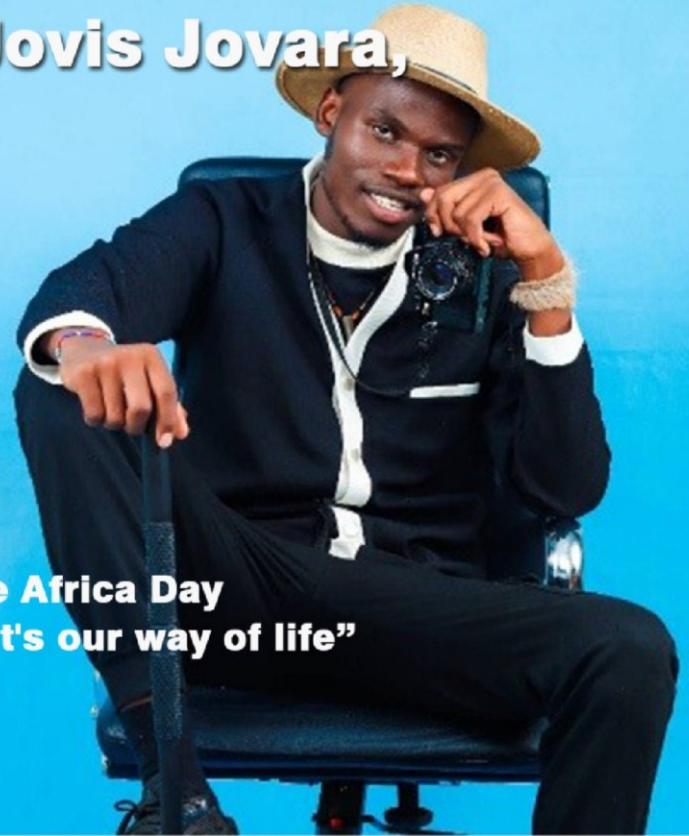
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The Poetically Jovial Jovis Jovara, *aka Imbongi Engadumile*



“Mina ngokwami akumelanga kube le Africa Day because every day it's Africa Day that's our way of life”

Articulate Dube is one of the few poets we have in our province, we boast of this kind of diversity in as far as the arts industry is concerned where we manage to represent almost all art genres. This young man well known as Jovis Jovara, Imbongi engadumile in the entertainment sector is also an actor, writer and a comedian, notable attributes he largely demonstrates through his poetry. He has two years' experience in the creative industry.

Jovis believes that it is important for people to understand their tradition and cultural practices as Africans as this ensures that they are closely attached to their roots and to be proud of who they are and where they come from as this has spiritual benefits. He explains, “Indlela oyiyo kumele uyilandele ngoba udalelwe yona ngeke ufune

ukuyaphila impilo yezinye izizwe wena umnyama lokho kutshengisa ukuthi wena awuzithandi indlela odalwe ngayo uthi umdali wenza iphutha. Ungananzelela indlela yethu ilobuntu omdala uyamazi omncane, omncane uyamazi omdala ubusazi ukuthi nxa uyintombazana nxa kusebusuku ungabona umuntu wesilisa uphephile kodwa manje uyabaleka ngoba uyakudlwengula. Enye into esuke ibe yinkinga ama Africa azenza ama Africa nge Africa Day kuphela. Mina ngokwami akumelanga kube le Africa Day because every day it's Africa Day that's our way of life”.

Jovis reveals how art is a powerful vehicle for taking Africans back to their roots where they are expected to observe the beliefs, attitudes, norms and values as practiced by our ancestors, this is in the African spirituality realm. He is proud to be

one of the creative traditional and cultural artists from Matabeleland South province where his style is more traditional and cultural, bringing out the African being in him. ‘Art yindlela yokubuyisa umuntu empandeni zakhe. Jovis briefly explains his journey into the arts industry, “I grew up reading a lot of Ndebele books, prose and poetry works, I used to write beautiful compositions that used to be read in front of other children at school, people used to compliment my works. I was very scared of standing in front of people and this is why I used to stammer a lot. Someone introduced me to a Tune me application, this is where I used to record myself and share this with my friends, then one of my friends submitted my poem at the Zimbabwe Council of Churches competition and I later received an



an email saying I have been selected as the number one poet, this marked a huge breakthrough into the poetry industry. I used to say abantu bayadlala bathi uJovis uyakude, ngaphi kude bantu". Imbongi engadumile explains how his poetry is different from that done by others, "I am not doing praise poetry, I do spoken word, something that people are not really used to".

Last year, 2021, Jovis Jovara scooped the best poet award at The Eminent in Sports, Music and Academic awards (TESMA) at Gwanda district club, an event that was organized by the EduFoundation Trust of the Matabeleland South province. He also came first as a poet at the Zimbabwe Council of churches function held in Harare last year.

Jovara has released several collaborative projects with artists who include Intercessor, Ronnie B ,Sengezo, Zhezhangtons, Zagoe Radge, Genteel, Khoikhoi and Kay Kid Umfanomsotho. He is looking forward to release an album by early next year 2023, this will be his first

album with DJ Drums as his producer. He has released the following poems Indlovukazi, Uthando lusehlule Uthando lomzali, Asechithekile and Shona malanga. Jovis is in the process of writing a novel. He does comedy tiktok, he however states poetry as his main area of specialization in the arts industry. Shortly, Jovis Jovara will be releasing a short film on gender based violence.

He wishes to work with Madlela Skhobokhobo, Hwabaraty, Msiz kay, Zamoh Cofi., Obert Dube locally. He was largely inspired by Zamoh Cofi who used to work with a lot of renowned artists such as Big Zulu, Ricky Rick, Obrey Qwane, Black Diamond. "He is my role model to the extent that when he replies to my messages , angilali, ngiyahlanya kakhulu ngiyafisa ukuthi lami in future ngifike ezingeni akilo"Imbongi engadumile states some of the challenges he faces in the arts industry where he mentions lack of sponsorship, limited recording facilities, he also wishes to be signed under some record labels as he believes he will greatly benefit from such arrangements. Marketing his art is one of the areas he hopes to get assistance in so that he is not only known in the community. Jovis also talks about limited shows in as far as his art is concerned and this is an area that he believes can be opened up so that they too can have a wide coverage and market themselves in many platforms like any other cre-



ative in the industry.

"I will fight for every artist to be able to get a sponsor or a record deal, I also urge our arts organisations to hear our cries and respond accordingly for our growth in the sector as most of us depend on our art for survival" ●





Raising the dust with the pace-setting

BOLAMBA PERFORMING ARTS

This is a Kafusi traditional dance group under Chief Mate's area in Matabeleland South province, located along the border of Zimbabwe and Botswana. The group was established in 2019, it showcases, maintains and sustains various cultural and traditional practices through dance.

They specialise in the Zimbabwean, Tswana and Sotho dances while at the same time educating youths about their tradition and cultural practices through dance. The dances include the Setapa, Tsutsube iHosana, Jerusalem and iBhiza. The founder also mentions that they share their experiences with relatives in Botswana. The Bolamba performing arts is made up of 12 members who consist of dancers and the administrative staff. Africa Mate ,Uteng Slaigwana Nare ,and Halifeli Ngulube. The group won the 2017 Inter District Chibuku neShamwari competi-

tion that was sponsored by Delta Beverages, a position that qualified them to the final competition at the national level where they scooped the third position. The Bolamba performing arts came first in the 2022 inter district Chibuku neShamwari competition and they are currently preparing for the finals that will be held in Harare this year. Transport challenges hinder them from executing all the tasks they are expected to do as a group that wishes to reach out to every part of the country, exhibiting their culturally and traditionally rich art to the general populace of Zimbabwe. The group has performed in various gatherings that include state functions, Schools, Weddings, and the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF). The group is currently working on raising funds to record their album ●



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A highly fervent Mjabulisi, the poet

Zwelithini Dlamini whose stage name is Mjabulisi is a poet who describes himself as a vibrant, dedicated, committed, strong, courageous and unshakable as far as entertainment is concerned.

“Poetry swallowed me whilst I was loitering around the world of art, it was a magnet rather than I was attracted”, he comically describes how he ventured into this type of art.

He is one creative who embraces his culture that is clearly portrayed in his dress, African attire that he usually wears and the way he acts on stage.

He has showcased his creativity in several places, he has performed in various weddings in Bulawayo, birthday parties, different events in Gwanda, cultural, festivals. He has

also had the privilege to perform in Victoria Falls at a function for the first lady, Amai Auxilia Mnangagwa. Mjabulisi has entered poetry competitions, he took part in the Havilla school of language competition held in Harare where he emerged as a champion who walked away with a trophy and prize money. He also participated in the Lafarge poetry online competition where he came first.

Besides being a poet who has done exceptional performances in various platforms and released an album with 16 poems called Sisempini. Mjabulisi is also a writer who has co-authored and launched two books with Portia Tshuma, *Ithen-del'elihle likhala ligijima* and *Survival of the Fittest*. In his works he has collaborated with other poets

who include Desire Moyoxide and Thaluso da Poet.

He explains that it is important for one to know their traditions as he explains, ***“When they get to know about their traditional life people will value it the most, embrace and respect it, we cannot run away from our origins”.***

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A Rainbow philanthropic touch...



ZBC Montrose Studios Head of Station, Dr Omphile Marupi donating a wheelchair to 14 year old Ivis Ngu-lube at Ngoma Village, Gwanda ●

A CREATIVE FAMILY AFFAIR

THE SHINNING NGIYESABA TRADITIONAL DANCE GROUP

This is a family traditional dance group that was established in 1987. The founder is Leonard Dube. They are based in Gwanda north, Mtshazo business centre. The group specializes in Ndebele and Shona traditional dances that include isitshikitsha, isitshingo, izangoma, ijukwa amabhiza, iwosana, muchongoyo, mbende, dihne and mande.

The group acknowledges the opportunity they have been awarded as they have been part of national celebrations such as the independence day and heroes day commemorations ●

They are also engaged as trainers in traditional dance schools programmes where they also partake as one of the adjudicators. One noteworthy dance competition they were part of was the 13th world festival for youths and students in North Korea held in 1989 where they came first. Ngiyesaba traditional dance group took part in the 2022 Chibuku ne-Shamwari traditional dance group competitions held at Manzamnyama beer garden in Gwanda.



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