

Softcopy

ISSUE TWO 2022

'SGUDI SNAYSI'
AS THEMBI MTSHALI-JONES
IS HONOURED WITH A PhD IN
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

FASHION'S THULUBEKE NCANANA
WINS GOLD AT
THE WORLD SKILLS AFRICA COMPETITION

**FOAD GRADUATES
THREE PHD STUDENTS**
DURING AUTUMN GRADUATION
CEREMONY

DEAN'S DIALOGUE SERIES
**EXPLORES 'OTHERING:
A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE'**

DRAMA'S THEMBINKOSI MTHEMBU
AND WISEMAN MNCUBE
TO PLAY KINGS IN 'SHAKA ILEMBE'

CREDITS

ISSUE TWO 2022



FACULTY OF
ARTS &
DESIGN

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EDITOR'S LETTER

I wish to thank you all for the kind messages about the previous issue of Softcopy. It is always reassuring to receive positive feedback on the work we put out. As always, I must emphasize that a lot of people make this magazine the success that it is. From the subjects that we cover to the team involved in the production, I remain most grateful and appreciative.

The outgoing term was a busy one and this issue is a recap of some of the achievements from the Faculty of Arts and Design. I always say Softcopy offers the opportunity for one to pause and reflect on the impact of the work that we do in this faculty. I hope that as you read the stories featured in this issue, you are able to take stock of the important contributions we are all making to society.

In this issue, you can read about about Fashion Design's Thulubheke Ncanana who won a gold medal at the WorldSkills Africa Competition held at Swakopmund, Namibia earlier this year. In our graduation special we spoke to two of the three Faculty of Arts and Design PhD graduates from the autumn graduation. While graduation was virtual, the importance and significance of it cannot be underrated. My graduation ceremony was many moons ago but I remember it like it was yesterday. What was special about it is that my late grandmother who raised and supported me throughout my university journey was able to attend.

This issue also celebrates legendary artist, Mam Thembi Mtshali-Jones who was honoured with a PhD in Visual and Performing Arts by the faculty during the autumn graduation. While Dr Mtshali-Jones has been in the entertainment industry for decades, she is not about to retire anytime soon. She can currently be seen on eTV's 'Imbewu' where she plays MaNdlovu, matriarch of the Bhengu family.

As always, I look forward to hearing your views on this magazine. So, if you have anything to share, do email me on AndileD@dut.ac.za.

I send my warmest good wishes to you all.



Andile



Fashion Design's Thulubheke Ncanana wins Gold at the World Skills Africa competition

SIMANGELE ZUMA



Fashion and Textiles student at the Durban University of Technology, Thulubheke Ncanana, was part of the South African team that dominated at the WorldSkills Africa Competition held at Swakopmund, Namibia earlier this year.

The 21-year-old from Tshelimnyama in Marianhill was among the eight students from higher education institutions that represented South Africa in the competition. Ncanana was awarded a gold medal under the Fashion Technology category. Team SA managed to bring home eight medals out of the 16 categories contested.

Ncanana's journey with DUT began in 2019 when he enrolled for the Diploma in Fashion and Textiles based at DUT's Brickfield campus. He graduated three years later in the class of 2021 during the 2022 Autumn Graduation. He expressed his gratitude to his lecturers who encouraged him to enter the competition and helped when he was preparing himself for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Fashion student Thulubheke Ncanana won a gold medal in the Fashion Technology category at the WorldSkills Africa Competition held at Swakopmund in Namibia.

Photo Supplied.

"The competition was amazing and challenging at the same time as I had to finish all the requirements per task in a short space of given time. As I was returning back to South Africa I was very excited because the mission I was sent to do on behalf of South Africa and all the South African designers was complete and I came back home with a gold medal and a certificate as a result of potential and dedication," he said.

Tears of joy rolled down his eyes when he was announced as number one in his category, and he wished his late parents could have been there to witness him shine in front of the world. He was comforted by the thought that his parents are with him spiritually and are probably looking down on him and smiling at the progress he has made in his life.

Ncanana said this achievement proves he has what it takes to be part of the fine future that his education at DUT is helping to build.

He plans to start his own clothing brand called "The Red-line". Ncanana is hopeful that he will be appointed as one of the WorldSkills Ambassadors and also get a chance to represent South Africa at the WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai, China in October 2022.



Interior Design's Zubane makes KSA 2021 Student Design Competition top 5

ANDILE DUBE

*Interior Design's Lihlithemba Zubane.
Photo Supplied.*



Interior Design's Lihlithemba Zubane made the top five of the prestigious Kitchen Specialists Association of South Africa's (KSA) 2021 Student Design Competition.

For the competition, students were given two briefs to choose from. The first brief was designing a kitchen for a couple in their 40s living with an elderly female in her 70s. The second brief was designing a kitchen for a newly married couple between the ages of 26 and 28 living in a modest two room city apartment with a modern look and finish.

Zubane chose the second brief which meant designing a kitchen reflecting the young couple's cosmopolitan lifestyle.

The key points for the young couple's kitchen were a high-end look but on a set budget, focusing on clean lines and creating a sense of space in their apartment; space saving with storage, multi-functional space, ergonomic design and economically practical yet durable design. In order to meet the couple's key points, Zubane decided to use the neoplasticism style called De Stijl.

Explaining more about this modern art form, she said: "De Stijl is an artistic movement that started in the Netherlands

in 1917. This concept was developed after the prolonged World War I. Stijl's artistic community then tried to fulfil the wishes of the world community for a new system of harmony, that is, seeking new principles and aesthetics in art. Basically, De Stijl only dealt with painting. After all, Stijl's concept is an ideal abstraction of two-dimensional colour composition, but it also creates the impression of space. The use is very strong in interior and architectural areas."

De Stijl, elevates a dynamic form, the architecture is not seen as a cover for dead buildings, but it reflects time and space.

"So that the space feels more spacious I decided to keep the space as minimal as possible. With clean lines and making sure it is clutter free. The minimalism will serve to emphasize the design elements and the ingenuity of the furniture. Since they are a young couple, who I'm sure they still would love to host and entertain. The couple can achieve this by optimising the flow in the kitchen," she said.

On making the top 5, Zubane who graduated with a diploma in interior design earlier this year said: "I feel very happy, actually I am over the moon."



FoAD hosts online first year orientation for 2022

ANDILE DUBE

*FoAD's Executive Dean, Professor Runette Kruger.
File Photo.*

The Faculty of Arts and Design (FoAD) hosted its first-year student orientation via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 12 May 2022.

The jam-packed session featured presentations by the university's Student Support and Development Unit, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Student Counselling, Writing Centre, Library, Innobiz Entrepreneurship Centre and Campus Protection Services.

FoAD's Faculty Officer, Pragasen Reddy gave a presentation on the services provided by the Faculty Office, while FoAD's Open Access Lab Technician, Siphellele Njapha spoke about the use of the computer laboratory.



Professor Colin Thakur gave a keynote address titled, 'Netiquette: Managing your digital footprint.'
File Photo.

Professor Colin Thakur's keynote address titled 'Netiquette: Managing your digital footprint' was a hit with the students who couldn't help but react excitedly as he delved into the importance of using technology wisely.

Speaking to the students for the first time since assuming office, FoAD's Executive Dean, Professor Runette Kruger relayed the importance of hosting the orientation session for first year students.

"For me, the HoDs and for the lecturers, you are the most important part of this puzzle, we form a collective picture together- the picture of your education and your career that starts the first day that you are a student. In fact, your career starts when you receive your student number- in a sense," she said.

Prof Kruger assured students that they were well supported by the university and the faculty in their journey. She encouraged the students to make use of the services available to assist them with their studies and wellbeing.

"Please know that you are the most valuable members of our community. We value our people, as ENVISION2030 says and our people are students and also staff. So together we will be walking that path with you. I always think it is an incredible privilege to be part of anyone's journey who is improving their knowledge, improving their skills and just become different people than they would have had they not had access to education and that is the miracle of education," said Prof Kruger.

She concluded by wishing the first-year students well with their studies: "I wish you all the best in your studies and please make use of us- if I can put it that way."



Centre for General Education's Dr Benita Bobo.
Photo Supplied

DUT's Centre for General Education collaborates with SUNY New Paltz for COIL literature project

ANDILE DUBE

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Centre for General Education has successfully completed its first COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) project called, 'Literature for Change: Envisioning Sustainable Futures' with America' State University of New York at New Paltz (SUNY New Paltz).

The project, which ran for three months, saw 68 DUT students participate in online classes with SUNY New Paltz students in a collaboration of three modules; Cornerstone 101 which was taught by DUT's Dr Benita Bobo, Introduction to U.S. Literature, and Black History I lectured by SUNY New Paltz' Dr Sarah Wyman and Prof Anthony Dandridge, respectively.

Explaining more about the international virtual exchange project, Dr Bobo said all the students had to work together to imagine change by analysing a work of literature that proposes a present or future society of collective human thriving.

"The aim was for our students to engage in different types of literature (poems and a short story) using Afrofuturism and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. This project ran over 3 months (starting in March, and ending in May), which coincided with the 1st semester at DUT and the Spring semester in the US," Dr Bobo said.

Because of the large number of DUT students enrolled in the Cornerstone module, they were split into two groups. The first half were partnered with Dr Wyman's class while the other half worked with Prof Dandridge's class.

Dr Bobo elaborated: "Each of the groups had an opportunity to work on the same four pieces of literature (choosing one to focus on). The groups were tasked with relaying the piece of literature to past and present events in both SA and the US. Each group then presented a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the project. We used asynchronous means to meet (e.g. Padlet and various free social media platforms), and synchronous means to meet (i.e. Zoom and MS Teams)."

According to Dr Bobo the 'Literature for Change: Envisioning Sustainable Futures' project was a success and they met the learning outcomes.

"The students also seemed to really enjoy participating in the project and reflected on how they learnt more about themselves and their partners," she concluded.



Keegan Naidoo with the team from S'yaphambili Women Beaders and models clad in Marigold apparel.
Photo Supplied.

Naidoo launches 'Marigold' clothing range decorated with exquisite beadwork by S'yaphambili Women Beaders

KHUMBUZILE MBUQE

Durban University of Technology (DUT) Fashion and Textiles student, Keegan Naidoo, has collaborated with informal traders' co-op, S'yaphambili Women Beaders to produce a high-end clothing collection beautifully decorated with exquisite bead work produced by the women.

Facilitated by DUT's Community Engagement Office, under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research Innovation and Engagement (DVC RIE), Naidoo and S'yaphambili Women Beaders' work was launched on Friday, 13 May 2022.

Naidoo was one of the winners of the Community Engagement Showcasing and Pitching Award for his Marigold Project.

The month of May was chosen to launch this clothing line to honour the women crafters who have designed the accessory pieces for the collection, recognise their roles

as mothers and celebrate the beautiful beaded products that they have produced.

On the 6th of April 2022, the Community Engagement Office, Naidoo, and the S'yaphambili Beaders, with three models held a photo shoot at the Vega School in Durban.

Speaking to the Community Engagement Office, Naidoo said, "It is so exciting to see everything come together. The garments needed the accessories and of course, the models to come alive. Everything is just brilliant. I want people to keep a lookout for what's in store!"

Thereafter the team moved to a new location, at the Amphitheatre at Durban's North Beach. The overcast weather turned out to be just the perfect setting for the rich yellows and golds of the Marigold flower, set off by the deep greens of the garments and beads.

Community Engagement Practitioner, Phumzile Xulu, was enthralled by the beauty of the garments and accessories, saying that seeing the project come to fruition had been amazing.

Xulu says, "While we all knew that this project would be a success it's been so amazing seeing everything fall into place, we are grateful that we have been able to facilitate a collaboration that not only showcases the work of a DUT student but also allows the informal traders to see their work in a new light. This just goes to show that we truly are an engaged university. We hope that this project will positively impact the livelihoods of the informal traders as it opens new market opportunities for them and that of our students."

DUT

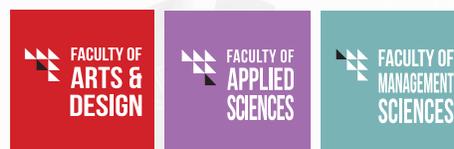
VIRTUAL AUTUMN GRADUATION

CLASS OF
2021

13 MAY 2022



16 MAY 2022



ENVISION2030 transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability
fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence



*School of Education students celebrating their graduation.
File Photo.*

Over 600 FoAD students graduate during the 2022 virtual autumn graduation ceremony

ANDILE DUBE AND SIMANGELE ZUMA

The Faculty of Arts and Design (FoAD) graduation on Monday the 16 May 2022 saw 603 arts and design students graduate.

Notably, three students graduated with PhDs in Education and Visual and Performing Arts, while six graduated with master's in fashion, photography, education, fine art, journalism and language practice. The graduation also saw seven students graduate with an honours in education. Two students received postgraduate diplomas in fashion design and three graduated with postgraduate diplomas in fine art. FoAD also had a high number of graduates with advanced diplomas in adult and community education and training, teaching, drama, fashion,

fine art, interior design and language practice.

A total number of 9081 DUT students from the Durban and Midlands campuses graduated, comprising of 5421 women and 3660 men. DUT awarded 8602 undergraduate qualifications whilst 479 students were awarded post-graduate degrees.

The total number of graduands per Faculty is as follows: Faculty of Management Sciences 3344, Faculty of Accounting and Informatics 2621, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment 1169, Faculty of Health Sciences 488, Faculty of Applied Sciences 852 and Faculty of Arts and Design 607.

The Autumn Graduation ceremonies were officially constituted by the DUT Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi. It was also announced that the virtual graduation ceremonies will be followed by celebratory physical graduation ceremonies. These dates and the venue will be communicated to all university stakeholders and the graduates of the Class of 2021, using the official DUT communications platforms.

PhD graduate and DUT's Educational technologist, Dr Mari Peté.
Photo Supplied



FoAD graduates three PhD students during autumn graduation ceremony

ANDILE DUBE AND KHUMBUZILE MBUQE

Two Durban University of Technology (DUT) staff members, Mari Peté and Gregory Streak and one student, Phenyane Tlali graduated with PhDs during the Faculty of Arts and Design's 2022 Virtual Autumn Graduation ceremony on Monday, 16 May 2022.

DUT's Educational technologist, Dr Mari Peté and Fine Art lecturer, Dr Gregory Streak both graduated with PhDs in Visual and Performing Arts, while student, Dr Phenyane Tlali obtained a Degree of Doctor of Education.

Dr Peté decided to pursue a PhD after coming across 'poetic inquiry', a new social science methodology, which has the potential to help the researcher illuminate those subtle human experiences that are not easily captured by traditional methods or instruments.

"Working in this way requires supervisors who are willing to help carve an unconventional research road, and I am deeply grateful to have worked with Professors Wade and Cronjé; also, to have "found my research tribe" of poetic inquirers," she said.

Dr Peté investigated DUT lecturers' encounters with technological teaching tools.

Explaining further about her study, she said: "I used Actor Network Theory, which helped me to look at humans and non-humans (technology in this case), performing together in networks. I did this to understand human agency. Countless times during 28 years of providing eLearning support to lecturers, I have witnessed how my colleagues improvise, while technological resources are not always reliable. Twelve lecturers generously granted

me interviews and I analysed the recordings by writing poems. But I also wrote poems from theory, from witness accounts and personal experience. Then I created a theoretical framework for the reader to interpret the collection of 46 poems.”

She stresses that she tried to do justice to capturing the drama, stress, humour -- most of all, her colleagues’ resilience.

Dr Gregory Streak’s thesis is titled, ‘Making Beyond Nothingness: An Artistic Challenge to the Unaesthetic Language of the Public Place’.

Education student, Dr Tlali’s title for his thesis is ‘Cultural Influence on Animal Colours in English Descriptive Essay writing at Lesotho General Certificate of Secondary Education (LGCSE)’. According to Dr Tlali, the interest in this research topic was inspired by the fact that Sesotho as a predominantly spoken language in Lesotho, is unique from English and has its own closed colour lexicon for animals.





*Legendary artist and honorary Visual
and Performing Arts PhD recipient,
Dr Thembi Mtshali-Jones.
Photo Supplied*

'Sgudi Snaysi' as Thembi Mtshali-Jones is honoured with a PhD in Visual and Performing Arts

ANDILE DUBE AND SIMANGELE ZUMA

Social media was abuzz with excitement when it was announced that South African legendary artist Thembi Mtshali-Jones was conferred an honorary doctorate in Visual and Performing Arts by the Durban University of Technology during the Faculty of Arts and Design's 2022 Virtual Autumn Graduation ceremony recently.

The award-winning Mtshali-Jones who currently stars as MaNdlovu on ETV's drama, 'Imbewu: The Seed' was born in 1949 and grew up in KwaMashu Township, Durban. Her long and accomplished television career includes starring in the popular sitcoms 'Sgudi Snaysi' and 'Stokvel' which were nominated for an International Emmy in 2004.

With a career spanning five decades, the multitalented Mtshali-Jones was honoured for her contribution to the arts. She began her career in the entertainment industry in the 1970s when she was discovered by Welcome Msomi and performed in the original 'Umabatha', the Zulu adaptation of Macbeth in the 70's. Thereafter, she joined the acclaimed musical 'Ipi Tombi' in which she took the lead female role as Mama Tembu. Mtshali-Jones toured the world with 'Ipi Tombi', including London's West End and New York's Broadway. Whilst in the US, she met with accomplished South African artists, Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba. She worked with both of them and together these three artists toured Europe and Africa.

In 1998, Mtshali-Jones had a residency at Galluadette University, Washington DC and in 2004 a second residency at University of Louisville. She was made Honorary Citizen of Louisville by the mayor. The Governor of Kentucky gave her the highest honour Kentucky can bestow on a

civilian by making her the Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

On her return to South Africa, Mtshali-Jones joined Siphso Gumede and created a five-piece band called 'Peace'. She thereafter joined the Market Theatre in Johannesburg in 1987 where she co-wrote and performed in several theatre productions such as 'Black and White Follies', 'Have You Seen Zandile?' and others.

Mtshali-Jones has been a juror for the International Emmy Awards for Film and Television since 2009 to date. She was appointed to the Advisory Board for the Chelsea Film Festival in New York, USA from 2015 to date. She currently sits on the board of directors for The Living Legends Legacy Fraternity trust.

After the ceremony, she took to social media to share her delight and reflected on her journey in the entertainment industry.



Dr Thembi Mtshali-Jones has been in the entertainment industry for over five decades.
Photo Supplied



*Dr Thembi Mtshali-Jones with her 'Imbewu: The Seed' co-stars.
Photo Supplied*

"I am so humbled by all the people who have been posting this milestone of mine and congratulating me. My journey has been long, one that has been filled with many challenges and achievements. This one is even sweeter because I have received it from my hometown," she wrote.

Mtshali-Jones said she dedicates her honorary doctorate to her peers who died without being celebrated.

"I accept this not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of many of my peers who have passed on before having the opportunity to be celebrated," she continued, "I started my career in the early 1970s and I had no idea that even after five decades I would still be standing strong

and still doing what I love. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has been and still are a part of my journey."

When Mtshali-Jones shared the news on her Instagram, celebrities and fans showered her with congratulatory messages.

@dineomoeketsi commented: "Sooooo proud of you Ma!!! So well deserved and ke that gown iyak'hlala. Congratulations Ma' wami." @manakaranaka wrote "Dr Mtshali Jones. Congratulations Ma."

@enhlembali_ gushed: "A huge congratulations mama" and @bubumazibuko wrote: "A Huge Congratulations MamT. Well deserved recognition."



*Dr Thembi-Mtshali-Jones in her graduation regalia.
Photo Supplied*

Dean's Dialogue Series explores 'Othering: A Feminist Perspective'

ANDILE DUBE

The Faculty of Arts and Design (FoAD) hosted its first Dean's Dialogue Series for the year on Friday, 20 May 2022. Titled, 'Othering: A Feminist Perspective', the seminar was headlined by interdisciplinary visual artist, Divya Mittal.

FoAD's Executive Dean, Professor Runette Kruger explained that the theme 'othering' will be split into two sessions. The first session is feminism which Mittal covered with her presentation titled, 'Genitalia, Goddesses and womxn's lives.'

"The second part of the 'othering' theme will speak to migration and displacement. And the overarching theme here in this series which we will also continue beyond that is the notion of 'othering' that takes place across vectors of unequal power. So, in terms of feminism, obviously the 'othering' entails the 'othering' of women in society broadly and on a personal level," said Prof Kruger.

She explained that the second session of the 'othering' theme will deal with migration & displacement. The topic and speakers for the second part are yet to be announced.

"In terms of the 'othering' of migration and displacement. Migrants are, of course, of the most vulnerable members of our society and we will be exploring the dynamics of 'othering' and looking at ways in which to counter othering, and of course, to address its effects," she continued.

Mittal spoke about her research which documented visible genitalia in artworks on display at the British Museum in London in 2014. Her research found that females were depicted with jewellery and objects, while males "despite the societal condition, historically exaggerated strength and valour."

Mittal is an interdisciplinary visual artist interested in exploring femininity, memory, bending binaries around gender and cultural identity. Her work touches on gender-based



violence and more broadly, feminism and human rights. Exploring personal states and ideas of self-representation, her work encompasses text, painting, drawing, bronze sculpture, and video. She graduated with a Diploma in Art & Design and a BA Hons in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London (2011-16). She went on to post-graduate studies and undertook a MA in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art, London (2016-18) and was awarded the degree with a distinction.

Mittal has considerable experience working in various capacities with international art fairs, galleries, cultural institutes, production and broadcasting companies in London and India. Her experience includes working with and documenting eminent and celebrated artists such as Tracey Emin, Gilbert & George, Yinka Shonibare, Eliza Bonham Carter and more at BBC World Service.



Photographer, Ian van Coller collaborates with scientist to document climate change issues

ANDILE DUBE

South African-born prolific photographer and Durban University of Technology alumnus, Professor Ian van Coller recently spoke about his passion for using photography to document environmental issues related to climate change.

Speaking at the Faculty of Arts and Design International Guest Talk seminar held on Friday, 26 May 2022 via Microsoft Teams, Prof van Coller's topic was 'Naturalists of

the long now – Paleoclimatology and my book-making Practice'.

Prior to documenting environmental issues, Prof van Coller's work addressed complex cultural issues of both the apartheid and post-apartheid eras, especially with regards to cultural identity in the face of globalisation, and the economic realities of everyday life.

Now based in Bozeman- a city in southern Montana where he works as a Professor of Photography at Montana State University, he has travelled around the world capturing many environmental issues including melting glaciers.

He said: "You guys have probably seen many pictures of melting glaciers as sort of a symbol for climate change, and at a point I realized that, well, when is it just another picture of a melting glacier? And you know, how much does the photograph actually tell me about climate change? What do I learn other than being kind of distraught about that loss?"

He then wanted to learn more about melting glaciers, so he began working with scientists to capture melting glaciers and has produced a number of photographic books that tell stories of the importance of glaciers and the catastrophic threat that they are under.

In Africa, Prof van Coller says there are three countries that still have glaciers, Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda, Kenya's Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. In 2016 he travelled to Mount Kilimanjaro to document and learn more about the precious mountain.

"Kilimanjaro has lost about 80% of its ice mass since the turn of the 20th century. The ice is about 15 meters," he explains.

Prof van Coller received a National Diploma in Photography from Technikon Natal in Durban, and in 1992 he moved to the United States to pursue his studies where he received a BFA from Arizona State University, and an MFA from The University of New Mexico.

His work has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally and is held in many significant museum collections, including The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Getty Research Institute, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Library of Congress, and The South African National Gallery. Van Coller's first monograph, Interior Relations, was published by Charles Lane Press (New York) in 2011.



*Fashion, beauty and fine arts photographer, Thalete Khomo at the KZNSA Gallery.
Photo by Paulo Menezes*

Photography alumni use imagery to explore Zulu culture at 'Nguni - Kwelakithi' exhibition

ANDILE DUBE

Five Durban University of Technology (DUT) photography graduates were part of the eight photographers from the province who showcased at the 'Nguni - Kwelakithi' exhibition which took place at the KwaZulu Natal Society of the Arts (KZNSA) Gallery recently.

The former DUT students; Thalete Khomo, Myllo Menorah, Simanga Zondo, Thembi Mthembu and Lindokuhle Ndlovu's work was featured alongside that of Minenhle Ntuli, Sethembiso Zulu and Thando Kunene.

Curated by renowned photographer, Mandisa Buthelezi the exhibition explored Zulu culture. She said the exhibition was important for photography and representation of the culture it aimed to showcase.

"It is also important for photographers (mainly young) to be able to freely utilise their cameras to explore the various elements and themes

that exist within their culture because this impacts their identity, sense of belonging and harnessing of their expression. More than anything it was important for me to do an exhibition for our people, about our people and by our people, said Buthelezi.

For the exhibition, contemporary photographer, Thalete Khomo exhibited portraits she took in 2019 during her residency at the prestigious Orms Cape Town School of Photography.

"The work I contributed to the exhibition was part of the Mthunzi wesithunzi III: ukuthwebula series I created in the year 2019 while I was in residency at the Orms Cape Town school of photography. This series was a way of me grappling with a then recent death of my late grandmother. The 3 figures in the work represent my great grandmother, Mkhe; my paternal grandmother, uGogo; and my maternal grandmother, uKhulu. That's why one of the works is titled: Mkhe, khulu, gogo," She explained. Khomo who has been a practising photographer for a number of years, said the exhibition was important because it showcased work by black creatives and is a representation of their culture and customs.

A statement by Russel Hlongwane of KZNSA Gallery read: "This exhibition convenes an orchestra of voices to imagine, erase, accept and contend with the contemporary question of being umZulu particularly in one's own cultural milieu; and in the world at large. If the camera was the primary weapon to bring the native to the world, herewith the camera is used to introspect upon ourselves for our own sense-making."



*Jewellery Design students work currently on exhibition at the Phansi Museum
Photo by Dr Marlene de Beer*

Fashion and Jewellery students collaborate to interpret 'Ubuntuart'

ANDILE DUBE

The Faculty of Arts and Design's Department of Fashion and Textiles has collaborated with the Jewellery Design and Manufacture Programme to produce garments and jewellery accessories that tell stories of 'Ubuntuart'.

The exciting collaboration has culminated in an exhibition called 'Ubuntu Art- Artefacts as Seeds of Destiny' which opened on Youth Day, 16 June 2022 at Durban's Phansi Museum and is expected to end on 16 July 2022. As part of the project, fashion and jewellery students were taken on a guided tour at the Phansi Museum

where they learned about the histories of 'Ubuntuart' artefacts housed by the museum.

"They were not merely told of the origins of the objects, or their function and how they were made, but their importance as cultural artefacts along with anecdotal stories from those communities that created them. The concept that heritage artefacts can be prompts for innovative and new design, that an artefact has a story behind it and that it can 'talk' to one, emphasizes how ideas can come from everywhere. These 'talking object/artefacts' for the students, were the conceptual impetus behind the designing of the garments and jewellery," said Fashion Design's Lee Scott.

Scott who spearheaded the project alongside Jewellery Design's Dr Marlene de Beer, explained that third year fashion students worked in pairs to create a mini range of two garments that were inspired by the designs and silhouettes of the artefacts at the Phansi Museum.



"It was vital that the two different outfits show their individual influences and concepts and yet still visually work as a cohesive pair. The students included printing, the dying of fabrics, embroidery, and a variety of other fabric manipulation techniques to show their creative concepts in the round," she said.

Second year jewellery design students were also tasked with working in pairs to produce jewellery based on their interpretation and the history behind the artefacts.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to design wearable artefacts grounded in their cultural history, which they embraced wholeheartedly. We are delighted by this opportunity to collaborate with both the Phansi Museum and Department of Fashion Design," concluded Dr de Beer.

*Fashions students made garments interpreting the history 'Ubuntu-art' artefacts housed at the Phansi Museum.
Photo by Val Adamson*



*Fashions students made garments interpreting the history 'Ubuntu-art' artefacts housed at the Phansi Museum.
Photo by Val Adamson*

*Drama's Thembinkosi Mthembu as King Dingiswayo.
Photo by MultiChoice*



Drama's Thembinkosi Mthembu and Wiseman Mncube to play Kings in 'Shaka Ilembe'

ANDILE DUBE

Two Drama & Production Studies alumni, Them-binkosi Mthembu and Wiseman Mncube, have been announced as part of the star-studded cast of the much-anticipated drama series, 'Shaka Ilembe' set for release next year.

Mthembu who currently plays Mabutho on One Magic's 'The River', will portray King Dingiswayo and Mncube will play King Zwide. Mncube is currently on SABC1's 'Uzalo' as Dr Sibonelo Mhlongo.

Produced by Bomb Productions in partnership with MultiChoice, the series is set in the 1700s and tells the story of the making of the iconic African king, with iterations from his early childhood through to adulthood.

Mthembu and Mncube will star alongside Nomzamo Mbatha as Queen Nandi, newcomer Ntando Zondi as the young Shaka, Lemogang Tsipa as the adult King Shaka and Senzo Radebe will play the role of King Senzangakhona.

Mbatha who is famous for her roles on Isibaya and Amazon's 'Coming 2 America' will also serve as executive producer for the series.

She said: "I am honoured to bring the giant that is Queen Nandi to life. History will remember those who informed its people of where we come from, to better understand who we are. I am fortunate to be part of a project that is much bigger than ourselves and to tell this story in our own language. Impi iyeza!"

CEO of General Entertainment & Connected Video at MultiChoice, Yolisa Phahle commented: "Being able to bring this important story to the screen with such stellar talent speaks to the heart of MultiChoice's ongoing commitment and investment in our local entertainment industry. We are committed to telling great African stories and this is a proudly African series told through the lens of Africans for the very first time."

Creative Director at Bomb Productions, Angus Gibson, added: "It is a cast with deep talent. It is magical witnessing these performers bring life to characters we only know from the history books. When the cast arrive on set, fully dressed in wardrobe and hair from the period, I am blown away."

According to a statement by MultiChoice and Bomb Productions the production has been six years in the making. Historians, academics and family descendants, including the late King Goodwill Zwelithini and Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, have served as consultants.

"We want people to learn about our history and culture, but we also want to keep viewers glued in anticipation. This drama seeks to uncover nuggets of history, but creates narrative in the gaps by putting known characters alongside fictional characters in order to keep the story moving," Phahle said.

Miss South Africa Top 30 finalist, Lisanne Lazarus.
Social Media Image



Journalism alumna, Lisanne Lazarus makes it to Miss SA Top 30 once again

SIMANGELE ZUMA

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Journalism Alumna, Lisanne Lazarus, has once again made DUT proud after being named in the Miss South Africa Top 30 for the second consecutive year.

The 26-year-old from Amanzimtoti, south of Durban, did not let her disappointment of being eliminated in the Miss SA Top 30 last year, discourage her from entering the prestigious pageant once again. It has always been her dream since she was a little girl to be Miss South Africa, so when the entries for 2022 opened, she did not hesitate to submit her entry once again.

This former Miss DUT has always been a hard worker, in 2017 she completed her National Diploma in Journalism, *cum laude* and she also obtained the prestigious Dean's Merit Award. She is now based in Johannesburg where she works as a Content Marketing Manager at Vodacom Financial Services.

Lazarus is proof that giving up is not an option as she previously entered the Miss SA three times and never made it beyond the shortlist. Last year, in her fourth attempt, she made it to the Top 30 and she is hopeful that this year, the fifth time around, she will go beyond the Top 30 and all the way to the be crowned Miss South Africa. She indicated that every time she was rejected from Miss SA, she would work even harder to ensure that she made a strong come back to the competition. She believes this competition will fulfil her desire to be of service to others.

Lazarus feels blessed, honoured and grateful that the Miss SA judges and South Africa see potential in her. She said this motivates her to push herself even harder in the competition. She also expressed her gratitude to her family who have been on this journey with her and offered her love and support through the hardships.

She said she would use the Miss SA platform to advocate for early childhood development and gender equality in the workplace, which are things that are close to her heart.

Her focus is now on making it to the Miss SA Top 10 and Lisanne is requesting support from the DUT community, in the form of votes. To submit your vote for Lisanne Lazarus into the Miss SA Top10, please go to the link: <https://missa.page.link/lisanne> #MissSA2022.



THE LONG-AWAITED ANIMATION SHORT COURSE IS HERE!



Are you creative, imaginative and love drawing and designing? This first of its kind, official course offered in Durban, is perfectly suited for you. Forbes cites South Africa as seeing the emergence of some of the largest animation studios on the continent... Africa's answer to DreamWorks, Disney, and Pixar. Animation has been identified as expanding exponentially in South Africa, more so during the pandemic.

A local company has recently entered an agreement with the Employment for Skills and Development in Africa Program – E4D, aiming to expose 10000 school-leavers to the animation industry, empower 6,000 creatives with enhanced portfolios and market access; and create 200 more jobs. Further, Disney has announced ten original animated short films sourced from creators across the African continent will debut on their streaming service in late 2022. Netflix and Cartoon Network have commissioned several South African productions. Opportunities exist both in SA and internationally for 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional and Motion Graphics Animation in media, advertising and movies.

Hands on training in specialised software and equipment used in 2D and 3D animation, facilitated by a 3D Animation Producer, Director and Animation Studio Owner, this course will equip you with a strong foundation in the principles of Animation and Story-telling, using the most popular form of Animation in modern industry – 3D Animation, advancing you into further formal programmes, integrating into industry or venturing into personal entrepreneurship both locally and abroad.

- Blended learning mode (campus/ online and independent)
- Affordable fee
- Certificate of completion
- 13 weeks – first semester

Semester 2, 2022

Schedule: 2 X 2 hours a week - to be arranged with participants.

**For queries contact Garreth August
garretha@dut.ac.za**

Fee : R5500