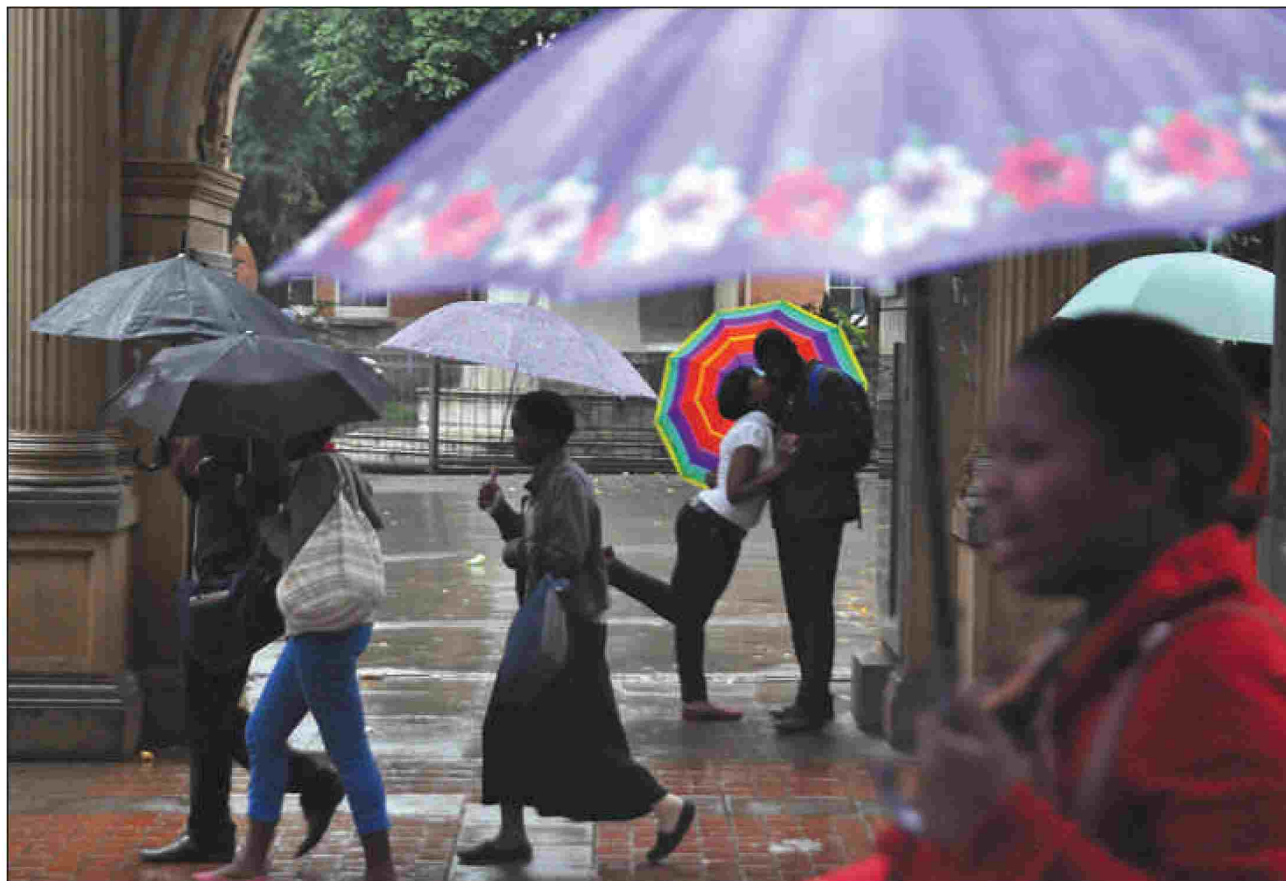


CITY SCENE: ROMANCE IN THE RAIN



Nkosenhle Thusi and Samkelo Gwala snatch a bit of privacy under an umbrella to kiss in the rain under the war memorial arch in the Tatham Art Gallery garden opposite the city hall yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:
JONATHAN
BURTON

Local film-maker captures excitement of MTB

ESTELLE SINKINS

IN the week that talented mountain biker Burry Stander was laid to rest, a young Pietermaritzburg film-maker has captured the magic of the sport in his film *Gravity*, which has its premiere at the Cycle Fest at Cascades this weekend.

There will also be public screenings of Jared Hinde's film — which features riding by Greg Minnaar, Tiaan Odendaal, Tim Bentley and Travis Walker — at Coffeeberry Cafe at 3 pm today and 2.30 pm tomorrow.

Since completing his film, Hinde, who finished his B.Tech in video technology at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) last year, has seen interest in *Gravity* skyrocket.

"Since completion, the *Gravity* preview featuring Greg Minnaar has received over 45 000 hits on Youtube and *Gravity* has gone on to receive awards from DUT for best camera, innovation and best B.Tech production," said Hinde, who lives in Scottsville.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

'Gravity' director Jared Hinde setting up the cable cam harness ready for filming.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Tiaan Odendaal on the Fern Cliff downhill trail.

"*Gravity* is a cinematic adventure sports programme that aims to put the audience in the pedals of experienced mountain bikers," he said of his film. "It will show you what it takes to beat the force, and the rush that can be experienced in doing so."

Asked how he came to make the film, Hinde said that, in between making dramas and documentaries for his course, he realised he had a passion for making adventure films. "Growing up as a kid I enjoyed ex-

treme sports ... and living in Pietermaritzburg there is a lot of mountain biking action around. That and going to the World Cup and seeing people like Greg Minnaar in action helped steer me towards this," he said.

Making a mountain bike film is not without its challenges, however. "We were shooting outdoors and in the mountains, so you need to have a different approach. And in terms of the equipment you use, you have to be more selective because you have to carry it up the mountain. It has to be light but also versatile," he said. "The action in mountain biking is also really fast and to get a good shot you need to do a couple of takes ..."

In addition to the action shots, Hinde shot scenes of bike building at the Moorewood Bike factory in Maritzburg, and showed the intensive training that riders have to do in and out of the gym.

• For more details, log on to www.facebook.com/gravitydthmovie
• arts@witness.co.za