



JONGOSI YOUTH FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Dear Teachers

Thank you for deciding to bring a group of your pupils to Jongosi this year – **13 September 2019**. This is a long document, but contains all you need to know. It is important to remember these details:

Julia for bookings and payments: accounts@hiltonfestival.co.za

Sue for additional info regarding content / suitability of productions: clarence@icon.co.za

If you **HAVE** to phone us: 033 3830127; 082 469 7222

- Cost is R 410 per head which gives access to three productions as well as approximately 25 arts related activities in between the formal shows.
- Should your pupils only want to visit the exhibitions and visual arts talks and demonstrations the cost is R 120 per head. For those interested in Vis Art, please note the Pierneef and van Wouw exhibitions listed below.
- Should you wish your pupils to attend a specific workshop, please contact Sue. They will be specifically arranged at R 50 per head with a minimum of 20 pupils attending.

I am sure everyone will all have a blast! This letter is to help you make choices and to prepare your pupils for what they are going to see. It is an internationally recognised and documented fact that exposure to and involvement in the arts results in happier, more productive and balanced adults who are in high demand in the job market. With this in mind, Jongosi aims:

- To introduce young people to quality theatre of all genres;
- To teach them that theatre entertains, educates and provokes discussion;
- To provide arts related activities / workshops between the shows they will be seeing;
- To make the youth of today, the audiences of tomorrow.

The following productions have been selected as they represent as wide a range of subject matter and style of theatre. All are suitable for high school learners. I have indicated within each description those which are particularly suitable for the younger grades and those which are only suitable for higher grades. Certain productions will benefit from a quick lesson in the week preceding Jongosi . This will enhance your pupils understanding and enjoyment. (For example in 2016, a lesson in the crueller apartheid laws such as

Separate Development, Job Reservation and the Group Areas Act, were vital to the understanding of Sizwe Banzi is Dead.) **Now, to 2019**

For those teachers bringing Grades 6 – 9, I suggest that your choices should be: BENNY BUSHWHACKER, SCARED SCRIPTLESS, SPANISH FIRE, GALELA, PLASTOCRACY, THE KING OF BROKEN THINGS & THE FORGOTTEN YEARS OF DONALD K PUMKIN .

All productions are suitable for Grades 10 to 12. See my comments at the end of each description make your own assessment, depending on the sophistication of your group.

09h30: Benny Bushwhacker, Brutal Legacy, Quantitative Teasing, Breasts, Plastocracy, Sainthood, The Forgotten Years of Donald K Pumkin.

12h15: Two to Tango, The Revlon Girl, Spanish Fire, Feedback, Evil, The King of Broken Things, Galela.

15h00: Odd Man Out, Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Metaphor, Scared Scriptless, Unentitled, Kafka's Ape , Burning Rebellion.

For lectures, workshops etc scheduled at 11h00 and 13h45, please see end of this document. There is no booking necessary for these. All are welcome on a first come first served basis.

You will notice that there are strong themes running through this selection of work. Apart from those productions embodying the sheer joy of comedy and entertainment, themes of toxic masculinity, abuse of women, bullying, racism and the urgency to protect the environment prevail. This did not happen by choice. It is a reflection of the issues facing the world, and especially the youth. As a result, people in the arts industry are creating shows around these topical issues.

I know many of you will be disappointed that *Endgame*, *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act* and *Kunene and The King* are NOT here. It was financially impossible to bring them.

BOOKING PROCEDURES

1. Bookings open on **Wed 12 June** via email only: accounts@hiltonfestival.co.za.
2. Reservations can only be held for a few days so it is first come first served, whereupon you will be issued with an invoice. We accept neither cancellations nor refunds after invoice. Full payment is required within 7 days of invoice. Additional tickets may be booked dependant on availability. Venue capacities vary so book early.
3. Ratio of staff complimentary tickets to school group size is 1 to 25.
4. Please be at Hilton College by 09h00 at the latest.
5. On arrival, teachers please go directly to the Box Office to collect your school's schedule and admission wristbands. Your package will contain your schedule with venues clearly indicated as well as a map. Teachers please ensure your pupils know which venues to go to. It is up to the teachers to ensure they get to their venues on time. Due to the nature of festivals, should a production start late, please do not leave the venue area as **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE VENUE AFTER THE DOORS HAVE CLOSED.**
6. Bookings for the rest of the festival open on 12 August via www.hiltonfestival.co.za

PRODUCTIONS – LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

BENNY BUSHWHACKER - 09h30

Catch the world's funniest conservationist, BENNY BUSHWHACKER! What to expect? ...

“Greetings, people. I am Benny Bushwhacker (*aka* Ben Voss) - conservationist, environmental campaigner, and the only man to have walked the length of Africa barefoot. I'm touring the country to reveal what it takes to survive the African bush... and for the African bush to survive.

Whether it's my opinion on changing the Springbok emblem, how to spot a bull s****r in Kruger, or the relative chances of my estranged wife, Brenda, replacing the buffalo in the Big 5, I hope to keep you laughing with my 'wild' sense of humour and classic bush logic.

My stories are brought from bush to page by unofficial biographer, **John van de Ruit** of SPUD fame, from page to stage by South Africa's lioness of theatre, **Janice Honeyman**. Don't miss my hilarious look at life on the wild side.”

Sue's Comment: Sit back and be entertained! Suitable for all. Comedy with sound environmental / conservation education.

BREASTS: A PLAY ABOUT MEN - 09H30

Written by Greig Coetzee, featuring Tim Redpath, directed by Lynn Chernaly

First presented at The National Arts Festival in July 2000, *Breasts – A Play about Men* was performed by award winning writer, Greig Coetzee. Twenty years later, the content remains relevant, not only in terms of its insight into gender relationships and masculinity, but also in highlighting attitudes to race, class and culture that continue to permeate our society. Redpath takes on the challenge of presenting nine white male characters who talk about the women in their lives. Under a magnifying glass, exposed and in the spotlight, these characters give us tremendous insight into the attitudes of white, patriarchal SA. In the face of the #MeToo movement, and the startling statistics around gender based violence, our ultimate goal in presenting this piece is to open a discourse about sexism, toxic masculinity, and the gender divide.

Sue's Comment: Grades 10-12. Don't miss this SA classic. Amusing and entertaining.

BRUTAL LEGACY - 09H30

Daphne Kuhn and Lesedi Job present a rare theatrical opportunity, based on Tracy Going's story of triumph over abuse and adversity.

"Searing, heart-breaking, triumphant" - Sisonke Msimang

When South Africa's golden girl of broadcasting, Tracy Going's battered face was splashed across the media back in the late 1990s, the nation was shocked. Sensational headlines of a whirlwind love relationship turned horrendously violent, threw the "perfect" life of the household star into disarray. What had started off as a fairy-tale romance with a man who appeared to be charming, handsome and successful, quickly descended into a violent, abusive relationship. The rosy love-cloud burst just five months after meeting her "Prince Charming" when she staggered into the local police station, abused and bruised. A short relationship became a two-and-a-half-year legal ordeal played out in the public eye.

Directed by Lesedi Job, starring Natasha Sutherland with Charlie Bougenon and Jessie Wolhuter. Women abuse in South Africa has reached endemic levels. The objective is to empower, inspire and enlighten – and to maintain the momentum of the discussion around women, child abuse and the law.

Sue's Comment: A heart-warming, "must see" story of survival and triumph. Suitable for Grades 10 – 12, possibly Grade 9. Prep: be aware of the actual event; read the book; be aware of global movement against abuse of women.

BURNING REBELLION – 15H00

'I want you to behave like our house is on fire. Because it is.' – Greta Thunberg, 15-year-old climate activist

Our Earth is in trouble. The planet is entering a period of unprecedented, human-induced global warming. We are facing a future defined by civil unrest fuelled by unpredictable weather patterns that bring with them floods, rising sea levels, drought, food and water shortages and climate refugees. If we continue on our ecologically destructive path, catastrophic climate change will signal the end of our way of life. Given this fatalistic picture, it is easy to see why the young inhabitants of our planet are so angry. They are set to inherit an apocalyptic future which they neither caused nor asked for. From the next generation, the plea is simple: Governments! Politicians! Big business! Grown-ups! Let's fix this mess. Before it is too late.

With elements of hip hop, spoken word, movement and song, *Burning Rebellion* is an ecological protest poem that gives voice to a profound sense of injustice, a rightful rage, and a fear of what is to come.

Includes a Q & A.

Sponsored by the NLC.

Sue's Comment: Suitable for all grades. Make sure pupils are aware of the amazing worldwide movement spear-headed by Greta Thunberg. The environment is in the hands of the youth.

EVIL - 12h15

A chilling real-life account of the teenage years of Erik Ponti. A victim of an abusive step-father and drawn to petty crime, he is sent to an elite boarding school where institutionalised bullying is the currency of a violent student council. Here Erik befriends the gentle, non-violent Pierre and musters the strength and determination to confront the bullies. Voted one of the top plays of the Imagine Youth Festival in Edinburgh in 2016, *EVIL* confirms that young people don't just want to be entertained by theatre, they want to be challenged to reflect on the issues that touch their lives. Bullying remains a heartbreakingly prevalent problem in our schools.

Adapted from Jan Guillou's semi-autobiographical novel "Ondskan" and produced by the National School of the Arts with direction by Laine Butler and Mike da Silva, *EVIL* features the award-winning Jaques de Silva in a riveting solo performance.

Sue's Comment: Grades 10 - 12 . Strong message of hope as it addresses the issue of bullying. International script; award winning actor.

FEEDBACK - 12H15

Feedback is a fantastical murder mystery that, in the peculiar logic of playwright Andrew Buckland, becomes a hilarious, poignant, lyrical and quirky piece of Physical Theatre. This satirical comedy cunningly explores topics as diverse as food-consciousness and globalization, and, in the hands of performers TQ Zondi and Mpilo Nzimande, becomes an intense action-packed celebration of humanity and our capacity for greed and altruism. The actors takes us on a rollercoaster ride as they play scores of characters in this tale of two brothers, a detective, and a host of flying cheeses (amongst other foodstuffs) pitting their wits against the villainous Grave Brothers. First performed by Buckland and Lionel Newton, who won numerous awards for the show, it has now been given the high energy off-the-wall treatment by these highly physical clowns. The show is directed by Peter Mitchell. The team won an Ovation Award in 2015 for *Woza Albert!* and the top award at *Musho!* 2016 for *Termite!* Their production *Of The Ugly Noo Noo* is appearing on the Arena at the National Arts Festival, and their Silver Ovation Award winning production of *The Blue Period of Milton van der Spuy* is at The National Arts Festival Edge.

Sue's Comment: Suitable Grades 9 to 12. A classic SA script, superbly performed and directed. Highly topical content wrapped in satirical comedy.

Prep: knowledge of the massive waste of food by society and big business despite starvation and poverty.

GALELA 12H15

Splash! Splutter! Then shhhhhh... Would you dive in next?

Galela is the thirst-quenching story of a small community deeply affected by South Africa's water issues.

Three best friends bravely embark on a project to make their town's drinking water safe again. They soon discover that they have waded into hot water and that the problems affecting the town dam are deeper and murkier than at first glance. But Thabang, Zalo and Biggie are a trio not easily scared-off by the corrupt mayor and they dive in to fix the mess, proving in spectacular fashion that children with the biggest imaginations will save the world.

Directed by multi-award winning **Thembela Madliki** it features the energetic physical theatre talents of **Lerato Sefoloshe, Mlindeli Emmanuel** and **Tebogo Machaba**.

An epic adventure play!

Sponsored by the NLC.

Sue's Comment: ideal for Grades 6 - 8. The crisis of an ever drying world wrapped in an adventure story. Talks to environmental / conservation issues.

KAFKA'S APE 15H00

Kafka's Ape is a solo performance about a primate's struggle to overcome the confines of captivity. The play takes a metaphorical view on South African society. It highlights the complexities of identity in post-apartheid South Africa and in the human race in general. Red Peter, the ape, embarks on a journey ignited by finding a way out of a cage he was confined to after his capture; a journey in which he contests identity based on outward appearance. Through the journey of Red Peter the play provides a narrative that helps to question the understanding of otherness.

The script is an adaptation of the famous *A Report to An Academy*, by Franz Kafka. This production is performed by Tony Miyambo and has won a slew of national and international awards and nominations.

Sue's Comment: Grades 10 to 12. This local production has won numerous awards and is well worth the watch. It raises the timeless and universal issue of human identity.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD AND THE BIG BAD METAPHOR - 15H00

Written by SA's own Mike van Graan, this is a fairy tale for the future. Imagine the end of poverty. A world with no hunger. Climate change will be reversed. Violence against women eradicated. Utopia? Perhaps. But hope is made of dreams. Join the energetic cast as they both entertain and educate through this romp beyond the bad wolves who threaten to eat our future.

It is designed by Wilhelm Disbergen and directed by Khutjo Green. Presented by the University of Pretoria.

Sue's Comment: Grades 10 to 12. A brilliant metaphor! Make sure everyone understands what metaphors are as well as their ability to be powerfully descriptive. Loads of fun.

ODD MAN OUT - 15H00

An Australian written comedy!

Alice and Ryan meet on a bus, and are quickly drawn to each other. They have little in common, except for a shared desperation to become coupled up. Alice is sensitive about her biological clock running out of time, and Ryan is fearful of loneliness. Alice marries the straight-talking scientist Ryan, but soon discovers that it is hard grind – and for a very different reason!

Described as a thought provoking comedy, the main theme is a couple dealing with the fact that the one is naturally socially adept - and the other isn't quite so good at that – and that's where a lot of the comedy originates. It may be a touchy subject for a light comedy but Williamson makes the most of things - packing the evening with heart-warming humour, home truths and loads of empathy. Written by Australian playwright, David Williamson, directed and designed by Megan Willson, starring Ahsley Harvey, Daniel Janks, Michele Levin and Russel Savadier

Sue's Comment Grades 10 to 12 Uplifting and really funny. Prep: make sure your pupils know what Autism Spectrum Disorder (Asbergers) is. A good quick read is Jodi Picoult's "House Rules".

PLASTOCRACY - 09H30

A sci-fi puppet voyage to a future world of wanton waste

A forlorn creature gathers itself together, slowly rising out of the discarded detritus of humanity. Gaining consciousness and determined to live, it tumbles over the landscape, hurtling downriver and

out into the ocean to meet a vast, swirling petrochemical ooze. In its mind, a single thought forms: what am I?

The play highlights the catastrophic effects of plastic waste on Earth's ecosystems – one refuse truck of plastic is dumped into the ocean every minute! – aiming to inspire the future conscious consumers our Earth so desperately needs.

Geoffrey, the eerie and strange creature in this piece, was created by performance artist and sculptor Francois Knoetze, whose work centres around the 'life cycles of discarded objects and explores junctures between material and social histories'.

Sponsored by the NLC.

Sue's Comment: ideal for Gr 6 – 9. Universally topical issues of littering and the harm caused by plastic. A heart-warming story where one cannot but love the puppet.

QUANTITATIVE TEASING - 09H30

Written by Mike van Graan, with original direction by Rob van Vuuren and starring Daniel Mpilo Richards.

A collection of (mostly) satirical sketches about contemporary South Africa from the sequels to *Pay Back the Curry*, performed by the multiple-award winning Daniel Mpilo Richards. Last seen at the Hilton Arts Festival in *Pay Back the Curry* which earned him the Naledi Theatre Award for Best Breakthrough Artist (2016), Daniel Richards takes a break from his film studies in Britain to perform at the 2019 Festival with sketches from *State Fracture* (for which he was awarded the Standard Bank Ovation Award for Outstanding Performance) and *Land Acts*, which won him the Naledi Theatre Award for Best Performance in a Solo Production (2018). *Quantitative Teasing* pokes fun, provokes and thoroughly entertains about a range of themes that tend to cause South Africans anxiety or irritation.

Sue's Comment: Mike van Graan is passionate about the state of SA and this shines through his satire. Get pupils to follow current affairs. Follow Mike on FB and Twitter. There is a 13+ restriction due to language.

SAINTHOOD - 09H30

It is a busy week for the students of St. Gabriel's School for Boys. With exam preparations underway and open day coming up, matric boarding house mates, Tebogo, Zwi, Will, Siya and George are...well ... a little more pre-occupied than usual:

Head Boy, Tebogo is at odds with a school teacher.

Deputy Head Boy, Zwi is organising the school dance.

First Team Rugby Captain, Will is preparing for a big game.
Siya is trying to navigate a new relationship.
and George is well...good ol' George.

Yes, a little more pre-occupied than usual especially when the five friends find themselves in the centre of a serious investigation that not only threatens to unravel the tragic intricacies of the St. Gabriel's community but what little is left of their innocence.

But worry not, keep calm, everything is under control, the children are in safe hands.

Sue's Comment: ideal for Gr 10 to 12. Inspired by actual events in SA schools over the past few years. It deals with issues of bullying, toxic masculinity, abuse and racism.

SCARED SCRIPTLESS - 15h00

A great acting skill is the art of improvisation – having to make something up quickly when things go awry. Here it is wrapped up in comedy! Come and laugh at this hilarious improv comedy show where everything's made up on stage based on audience suggestions!

Join 4 top comedians for good, clean, off-the-cuff hilarity, as you, the audience, get to direct the show and be a part of the comedy fun!

It's a side-splitting feast of Improv Comedy Games just like the popular US TV show - "Whose Line is it Anyway?"!

Sue's Comment: This show serves two clear purposes for Jongosi. It is good clean fun for all, determined by the audience itself. It is also an example for quality improvisation for dram students to aspire to. Suitable for all grades!

SPANISH FIRE - 12H15

Join the international award-winning guitar duo CH2 and The Montoya Spanish Dance Theatre in a thrilling stage production called Spanish Fire! Corneille Hutten and Maria Lorca Montoya have shared many a stage, bringing an exciting combination of VIRTUOSO guitar work and Spanish dance to the stage... not just in the ways of traditional flamenco rhythms, but with the sounds of familiar songs of the heart and melodies that carry you to a world away from the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives!!!

CH2 will be joined on stage by Maria Lorca Montoya and 2 of her dancers to set the stage on fire with fancy footwork, gentle use of flamenco fans, enticing rhythms of castanets all combined with the brilliant string work of a top quality guitar duo.

Sue's Comment: Suitable for all ages. Spectacular to watch and listen to. Remember theatre is also meant to provide sheer entertainment – this is just what this is.

THE FORGOTTEN YEARS OF DONALD K. PUMKIN – 09H30

Join Donald K. Pumkin, reluctant philosopher and a genuine 21st century Don Quixote, as he journeys through his lost and forgotten years while attempting to sell you a vacuum cleaner. This is a story that reveals how important it is to obey your heart bravely and to pursue your dreams fearlessly in a world that prefers the normal, predictable people to the romantics. Missing your calling in life is far more hazardous than missing the school bus...

Written and Directed by Michael Taylor-Broderick, performed by Bryan Hiles.

A Theatresmiths Production.

Sue's Comment: Suitable for all ages, but particularly ideal for Grades 6 to 9. A little gem of magic

THE KING OF BROKEN THINGS – 12H15

The world does its best to break everyone and everything, but afterwards, most things are stronger in their broken places. The King of Broken Things is an adventurous and magical excursion into the rehabilitation of broken and discarded objects, hearts included. This bittersweet journey, viewed through the unfiltered eyes of a child, wise beyond his years, will, whether you're 7 or 87, rehabilitate your heart. An ingenious mix of old school theatre magic and modern technology brings this enchanting tale to life in the most endearing way imaginable.

“Sheer theatrical genius” -Barry Meehan; “Profound and poignant.” - The Witness

Written and directed by Michael Taylor-Broderick and performed by Cara Roberts. A Theatresmiths Production.

Sue's Comment: Ideal for Grades 6 – 9 but suitable for all ages. This story gets right inside your soul. It is sheer magic. Do your pupils know what a POW in World War II means ...just a spot of history!

THE REVLON GIRL – 12H15

Winner of the **Silver Ovation Award** at The National Arts Festival 2018, and nominated for four **Naledi Awards**, with Heidi Mollentze winning the Best Supporting Actress Award, it is set 52 years

ago in the small coal-mining town of Aberfan in Wales, which was hit by a devastating event that killed 116 children and 28 adults.

The Aberfan disaster was the catastrophic collapse of a colliery spoil tip at 9.15 am on 21 October 1966, engulfing the local junior school and other buildings.

Beautifully written by Neil Anthony Docking, and poignantly told through the eyes of four grieving mothers, it is brilliantly infused with humour, and honours those who lost and survived the loss.

'... an astonishingly fine piece The performances are so close to the bone that you understand these women from the inside out Beautifully written and directed with a sophisticated edge Text heavy, exceptional theatre ...' R Sassen, My View

Sue's Comment - a masterful piece of theatre and example of story-telling through drama. Prep: research the Aberfan disaster.

TWO TO TANGO

Andrew Stark and Liza Boyle have been married for twenty-one years. And it shows. Apart from coping with the daily stresses of raising their two teenaged daughters, looming mid-life crises and economic stresses, they continue to be confounded in their quest for the ultimate South African accessory... a black friend. Two To Tango is a comedy-drama about a superficially liberal white couple negotiating post-Apartheid challenges. Should they have jumped on that gravy train after all? Is it easier to broker a BEE deal than date night?

Paul du Toit and Sue Diepeveen perform in this remake of Mike van Graan's 2006 full-length play. Under the direction of Ira Blanckenberg, this rendition explores how decades later, there still lacks genuine change in the New South Africa. Andrew and Liza's relationship mimics our fraught political climate and highlights the effort required of both parties for a coherent community.

Sue's Comment: Ideal for Gr 10 - 12. This classic Mike van Graan script is as pertinent today as the day it was written. It deals with the issues all we South Africans face every day, talk about and cause to wonder where our children should be living. For those children it raises the issue of where THEY should be right now. Here or not?

UNENTITLED - 15h00

Written and performed by iainEWOKrobinson and produced by Amehlo Productions.

Iain EWOK Robinson returns to the stage with his seventh Spoken Word Theatre piece. This one-man performance sees him stuck squarely at a crossroads, not by choice, but because history put him there. He didn't ask to be born white. Who would? What does that even mean, anyway? Now he's stuck, not sure which move to make or which direction to take. He's stuck, trying to kill time ...but history won't die.

EWOK is an award winning performer, Hip Hop artist and published poet. *Unentitled* was first commissioned by the Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield University, Connecticut, in 2017 as part of

their Global Theater Series. The Hilton Festival will see the South African premiere of the seventh in the series of EWOK's signature style: humorous and hard hitting, cutting edge and close-to-the-bone.

Sue's Comment: He is brilliant, unique and a legend in his own time. His message is serious and relevant, all wrapped in a style to which the youth relates. Suitable for all over 15 ...even adults!

WHAT TO DO BETWEEN SHOWS

Between your first and second, and between your second and third shows, the following are available free of charge. Further info will be available and emailed to you once it is ready.

11h00 to 12h00 and 13h45 – 14h45

The HAF Flagship Exhibitions:

ABSA Pierneef and van Wouw Exhibition - CFI Buzz Rooms. A scoop for KZN!!!!!!
Inspiration from Great Nature – an Andrew Walford Exhibition – Normand Dunn Gallery

All other exhibitions:

Raymond Slater Library
Grindrod Bank Theatre Foyer
Perspective Tents
Memorial Hall Foyer

Demonstrations:

Living Art demos - Perspective Bell Tower Tent: watch an artist create a piece in an hour, talking about technique.

Talks:

Paul Bayliss, Curator of the ABSA Collection
Strauss auctioneers
AFDA : Acting for Film and TV
AFDA: Fim Practice through an Educator-Practitioner's Lens
Emma Durden: Surviving the SA Theatre Industry
John Soderlund: The Guitar Fix

Street Theatre:

Norman Klutsky: Eco Warrior of the High Seas
The Goal
Waiting

Movies:

Sides of a Horn
Hilton College Imibono Video Competition Winners will be screened before Sides of A Horn.

Music:

Listen to school marimba bands in the Festival Marquee

Crafts and Food:

Walk around and indulge yourselves!

Workshops:

Should you wish your pupils to attend a specific workshop, please contact Sue on clarence@icon.co.za. They will be specifically arranged at R 50 per head with a minimum of 20 pupils attending.

Thank you and enjoy your Jongosi experience!

Sue Clarence

Festival Director

