

THE HILTON ARTS FESTiVAL

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

web *tickets*

Live More.

7-9 August 2026 Hilton College, KwaZulu-Natal



hiltonfestival.co.za



Hilton Arts Festival



[hiltonartsfest](https://www.instagram.com/hiltonartsfest)

Start your *Design* journey!

You deserve the perfect kitchen.



With the same floor plan, we can deliver the same look-and-feel at different price points to suit your home budget.

See how choosing different styles, finishes, countertops, hardware and appliances changes the overall cost of the kitchen of the same floor plan. View how the same look-and-feel can be created on any budget.



The Easylife Kitchens Digital Showroom allows you to get a real feel of how your selected materials, finishes and hardware can come to life. The Easylife Kitchens Digital Showroom is a smart way to give your favourite look and test drive before bringing it home.

Easylife Kitchens Pietermaritzburg
angela.l@easylife.co.za
073 991 1663
176 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg



easylife
kitchens
PIETERMARITZBURG

Thank you from all of us at the Hilton Arts Festival!

A Message from the Organising Team

Welcome to the 2026 Hilton Arts Festival.

Every year we are reminded that a festival of this scale is never the work of a handful of people. It is the result of an extraordinary collective effort – artists, technicians, volunteers, staff, sponsors, partners, suppliers, Hilton College, our funders and supporters, all working together to create something far greater than the sum of its parts. To every individual and organisation that has invested their time, energy and belief in this festival, we extend our deepest thanks.

We are equally grateful to you, our audience. Last year, you delivered the largest attendance in the Festival's history. The response was overwhelming, humbling and deeply affirming. Your continued support ensures that this festival not only survives but grows, evolves and remains a vital part of South Africa's cultural landscape.

In a world that is changing at an unprecedented pace, the arts have never been more important. They challenge us, comfort us, connect us and help us make sense of the complexities around us. They invite dialogue, celebrate diversity and provide a space where stories can be shared freely and honestly.

We are fortunate to live in a society that values freedom of expression – the ability to question, imagine, create and speak through art in all its forms. Festivals such as this exist because of that freedom, and they remind us of the essential role that creativity plays in building understanding, empathy and community.

So, whether this is your first visit or your thirty-fourth, thank you for being part of this beautiful, creative chaos. We invite you to explore, discover, be inspired and, above all, celebrate the remarkable power of the arts.



Cheers!
The Hilton Arts Festival Team

Credit Greg King

YOU CAN BOOK FOR ANY OF THE
TICKETED SHOWS AT WEBTICKETS
OR AT THE THEATRE BOX OFFICE
OVER THE FESTIVAL WEEKEND.

web tickets
Live More.



Scan this QR Code
with your phone camera
to book a show now!



FEST FOR ALL

Over and above all of the shows & events that you can book for on Webtickets, most of the following is on offer for free!



RETRO RIDES REVIVAL

An extravaganza on wheels!! Retro Rides Revival includes models that are considered vintage & classic as well as muscle cars. Expect to see beautifully restored vehicles and rare models from some of the world's most renowned manufacturers. Great photo opps! You will find them in the Chapel/Amphitheatre area

SIP & PAINT BY WE PAINT AFRICA A sip and sketch experience!

Unleash your creativity with We Paint Afrika! Join us for vibrant painting workshops, introducing young minds to the power of colour and self-expression. Dive into canvas and pottery painting sessions, complemented by a free juice or still water with every package. Let's paint, create, and inspire together for a colourful and unforgettable experience! Suitable for all.

Book your time slot at the stand near the Bell Tower. Cost: Canvas R200; Pottery R250



KIDZONE & TEENZONE (Costs apply to rides)

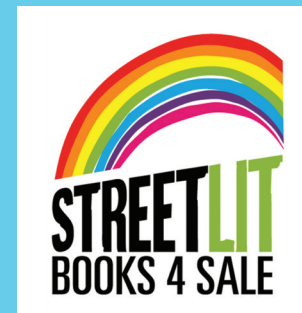
Step into a world of endless excitement in the ultimate play area for kids and teens! Our vibrant and safe space is packed with a fantastic array of inflatables, thrilling rides, and engaging activities that promise hours of fun and adventure. Come make memories, unleash your energy, and experience the joy of play like never before.



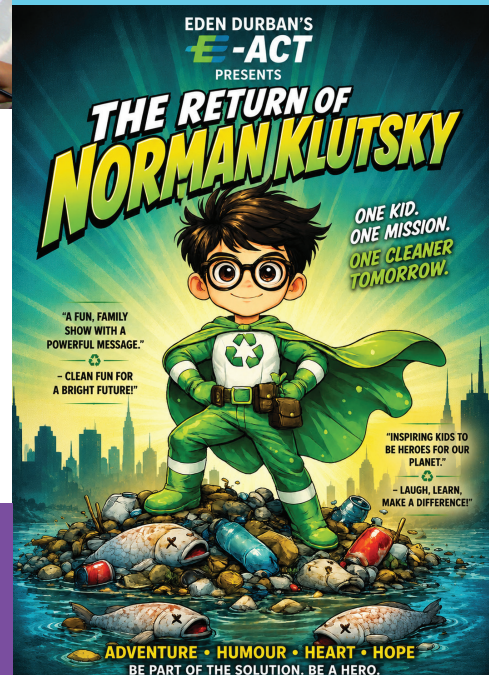
MONSTER MANOR: QUARANTINE ZONE

A toxic waste disaster has unleashed a terrifying zombie outbreak, and the quarantine has failed! Journey through dark corridors, abandoned laboratories and infected zones where live actors bring the horror to life. Expect jump scares, creepy encounters, unexpected surprises and plenty of screams. Whether you're brave enough to lead your group through the outbreak or you're the friend who uses everyone else as a human shield, Monster Manor promises a thrilling, laugh-filled, scream-inducing haunted house adventure. Will you survive the outbreak, or become a part of it?

Strictly PG13. Not responsible for lost courage, damaged friendships, or sudden paranoia.



Street Lit is a powerful initiative of the Dennis Hurley Centre, empowering homeless and marginalised individuals through literature. Participants earn an income by selling quality second-hand books while building confidence, dignity, and purpose. Come browse the selection, support a seller, and be part of a story that brings hope and opportunity—one book at a time.



FREE LIVE MUSIC



Veranda Panda
Fri 19h00 Festival Marquee



Beat-Route
Sun 14h30 Festival Marquee



SPRINGBOKS
VS ARGENTINA
SAT 08 AUG 21H00

Festival Marquee, on the big screen



SPUD BOOK TALKS: BY JOHN VAN DE RUIT

SPUD HITS THE BIG SCREEN
VENUE LECTURE THEATRE B SAT 8TH AUG 10H15

Bestselling author John van de Ruit shares his behind-the-scenes experiences of having his books turned into films. All will be covered: fielding calls from famous producers, searching for an international star to play The Guv, swanning around the Berlin Film Festival with the producers, and the surrealism of hanging out with John Cleese in public. Discover why a fourth film was never made, what it feels like to be on a shoot in your old school dormitory, and why a terrified author and the Crazy Eight were forced to flee from a mob of teenage girls at the Spud – Learning to Fly premiere. An interactive Q&A session will conclude the talk.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FICTION
VENUE LECTURE THEATRE B SUN 9THH AUG 10H15

Spud author John van de Ruit focuses on the intersection of the fictional world and the events that take place in his new novel Spud – Two for the Road. While reflecting on personal moments and people from his own life that inspired characters in Spud’s diaries, he challenges the conventional understanding of truth and fiction. This event is a must for Spud fans, readers, writers and anyone who is fascinated by how ordinary life and daily events can inspire a much greater story that establishes a truth of its own. The talk will conclude with an interactive Q&A session.

 Exclusive Spud Launch – Spud: Two for the Road
Venue: Festival Marquee Fri 7th Aug 18h00

MIND MATTERS SUMMIT at Hilton festival

Mind Matters comes to the Hilton Arts Festival with a bold exploration of Mental Mastery – the ability to better understand, direct and unlock the potential of the human mind. At a time of rapid change and constant noise, the arts remain one of our most powerful tools for making sense of the world, challenging perspectives and inspiring new ways of thinking. This special launch event offers a first look at the Mind Matters Summit, bringing together ideas from neuroscience, performance and human potential, while celebrating the profound role that creativity and artistic expression play in helping us think differently, connect more deeply and become the architects of our own minds. Audiences will also have the opportunity to explore their own minds through guided meditation, breathing techniques for relaxation and focus, and by putting their mental resilience to the test with the exhilarating Momentum Multiply Ice Plunge Experience. If you're feeling brave, bring along a towel and give it a bash!



Bell Tower Lawn (behind the stage) Sat 08h00 90 min FREE
(bring a costume & towel if you want to do the free ice plunge experience)

FEST FOR ALL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCES

FRIDAY

TIME	Beer Tent Stage	Bell Tower Stage
11H15 - 12H00	Hilton College Competition Marimba Band	
13H30 - 14H15	Hilton College Dramatic Arts	
17h00		Hilton College Jazz Band

SATURDAY

TIME	Festival Stage	Bell Tower Stage	Amphitheatre Stage
09H00 - 09H45	Clifton Durban Orchestra & Choir		
10H00 - 10H45	ISPA Students	St Mary's DSG Touring Choir & African Music Ensemble	
11H00 - 11H45	St Anne's DSG Choir	Maritzburg College Jazz Ensemble	Clifton Durban Marimbas
12H00 - 13H00		KZN Youth Wind Band (Festival Stage)	
13H30 - 14H15	Pietermaritzburg Children's Choir	Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School Jazz Band	Eden College Dramatic Arts
14h30 - 15h15	Howick High Band	Cordwalles Collective & Rock Band	
15H00 - 15H45			Michaelhouse Marimbas
15h30 - 16h15		St Charles College Chamber Choir & Senior Band	
17h00 - 21h00		KZN Department of Arts & Culture	

SUNDAY

TIME	Festival Stage	Bell Tower Stage	Amphitheatre Stage
09H00 - 09H45	Hilton College Dramatic Arts	Hilton College & Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School String Ensembles	
10H00 - 10H45	Our Lady of Fatima	Durban Girls College Senior Primary	Epworth Dance & Marimbas
11H00 - 11H45	Durban Girls College Choir	Hilton College Brass Band	
12H00 - 12H45	The Wykeham Collegiate Choir & Orchestra	Epworth High School Choir	Cowan House Marimba Bands
13h00 - 13h45	Michaelhouse Jazz Band		
13H30 - 14H15		Maritzburg College Big Band & St John's DSG	
14h30 - 15h15		Clifton Durban	

THE HILTON ARTS FESTiVAL

7-9
August

2026

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



VISA

Our sincere thanks to FNB, whose continued partnership helps ensure the Hilton Arts Festival remains one of South Africa's leading celebrations of arts, culture and creativity.

Experience
Hilton ANEW

Step into sophistication with a visit to **ANEW Hotel Hilton**. Situated in Hilton Village, our hotel offers a captivating backdrop for weddings, conferences, and special occasions. Dine in style at our modern restaurant and tea garden, or book an upmarket stay in the luxury self-catering **Hilton Homestead by ANEW**. Whatever the reason for your visit, you're welcome at **ANEW Hotel Hilton**.

hiltonres@anewhotels.co.za | www.anewhotels.com | +27 (0) 33 343 3311



ANEW®

HOTEL HILTON
PIETERMARITZBURG

JOIN ROCKJUMPER BIRDING TOURS

Select from **over 400 tours**
to **100+ destinations!**

-  Explore all 7 Continents
-  Unique Birding Cruises to Antarctica, Indonesia & more
-  Professional Tour Leaders
-  Small Groups
-  Private Tailor-made Tours
-  Long Established Reputation



ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures



White-necked Rockfowl by Rob Williams

Tel: +27 72 704 4177 | Email: info@rockjumper.com

www.rockjumperbirding.com

Welcome to the **Rockjumper Bird Arena** where you can find out more about **Rockjumper Birding Tours**, who although locally based, are the world's leading bird tourism company. We operate hundreds of birding tours every year to more than **120 countries**. Adam and Reece will also be doing birding walks and drives in the Hilton College Nature Reserve as well as presentations. We will also have available top range binoculars from our partners Zeiss at special festival rates. **Midlands Books & Collectables** will also be on site with an unbeatable offering of quality books (from natural history and Africana to popular fiction), coins and other collectables.

Midlands Books & Collectables deals in both rare and collectable books, as well as affordable used books. Speciality topics include Africana, birds and nature, travel and history; but a wide selection for every reader and book-lover will be on offer, including modern bestselling novels and much more. You are welcome to pop in and browse to your heart's delight.

BAMBURY STUDIOS

RECORDING • STREAMING • LIVE PRODUCTION • AV SALES

WWW.BAMBURYSTUDIOS.COM • 0812077673

**AV Solutions tailored to
your needs and budget.**

LIVE STREAMING + CAPTURE | AV SALE + INSTALLATIONS
LIVE SOUND + LIGHTING | RECORDING + AUDIO PRODUCTION

KZN ART FAIR 2026
AT HILTON ARTS FESTIVAL

INAUGURAL
KZN ART FAIR BRINGS
**CONTEMPORARY ART
AND DESIGN TO THE
HILTON ARTS FESTIVAL**

JOIN US IN MEMORIAL HALL
Hilton College, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands
7-9 August 2026 www.kznartfair.com

FAIR HOURS

Public
7-9 August: 10.00 - 18.00

TICKETS

4 day VIP pass
(including Vernissage preview)
6-9 August: R 550

Day passes
7-9 August
Adult: R 180
Senior: R 100
Student: R 50



Just GEEKIN' @ HAF



A bold, high-energy celebration
of geek culture.

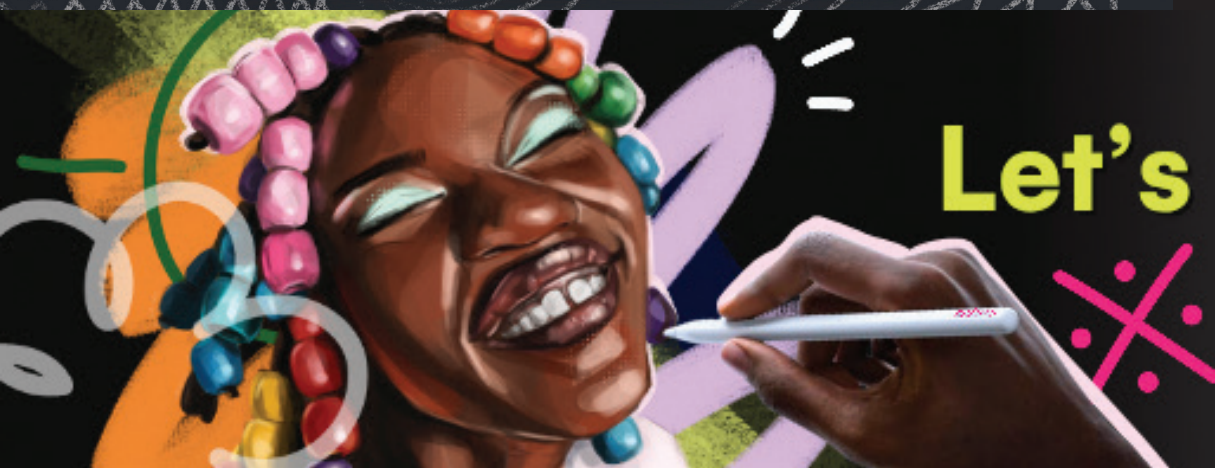
LOOT & COLLECTIBLES
ESPORTS ARENA
ARTIST ALLEY (UNFILTERED)
COSPLAY CHAOS
TABLETOP REALMS

Ticket Prices (All Multiple Entry):

Fri R75, Sat R75 and Sun R75.
Weekend Pass R100.

Let's Get Drawing!

www.dwebaschool.com

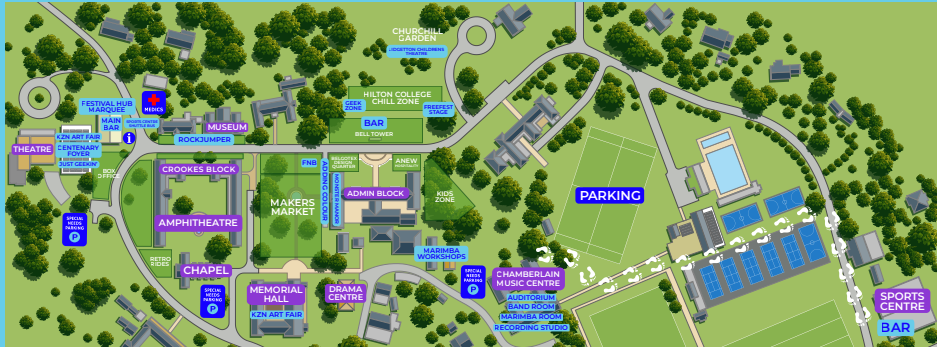


START	EVENT	GENRE	COST	DUR (mins)	VENUE
Jongosi Day Programme (Schools Only)					
07H45	Constellations	Drama	Package	75	Main Theatre
	Shackleton	Theatre/Story Telling PG12	Package	60	Drama Centre
10H00	Adding Colour	Art	Package	60	Admin Block Lawn opp. Bell Tower
	Be A Pop Star	Music	Package	45	Chamberlain Recording Studio
	Jongosi Visual Art Programme	Art	Package	60	Memorial Hall
	Midnight in Parys	Drama PG16	Package	75	Main Theatre
	Netphlix	Comedy/Satire PG13	Package	60	Drama Centre
	Stuck in Dubai	Comedy PG13	Package	60	Sports Centre
	World of Wonders!	Magic/Illusion	Package	60	Festival Marquee
11h15	Hilton College Competition Marimba Band	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
12h00	Adding Colour	Art	Package	60	Admin Block Lawn opp. Bell Tower
	Be A Pop Star	Music	Package	45	Chamberlain Recording Studio
	Jongosi Visual Art Programme	Art	Package	60	Memorial Hall
	Out of Bounds	Drama PG12	Package	80	Sports Centre
	Shackleton	Theatre/Story Telling PG12	Package	60	Drama Centre
	The Tramp	Musical Theatre	Package	85	Main Theatre
	World of Wonders!	Magic/Illusion	Package	60	Festival Marquee
13h30	Hilton College Dramatic Arts	Drama	Free	45	Festival Marquee
14h30	Adding Colour	Art	Package	60	Admin Block Lawn opp. Bell Tower
	And the Girls in Their Sunday Dresses	Drama PG16	Package	75	Main Theatre
	Day in the Desert	Physical Theatre	Package	50	Drama Centre
	Jongosi Visual Art Programme	Art	Package	60	Memorial Hall
	Marimba Madness	Music	Package	45	Marimba Tent
	"Master Harold"...and the Boys	Drama PG13	Package	80	Sports Centre
16h00	Better Together - A Tribute to Jack Johnson	Live Music/Musical Tribute	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Just Geekin'	Geek Culture/Gaming/Art	R75 (multi entry)	All Day	Library (Theatre Foyer)
	Karen & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG16	R180	45	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	Kiss that Frog	Children's Theatre	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
	KZN Art Fair	Visual Art	R100 (multi entry)	All Day	Memorial Hall
16h15	Bassey & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG13	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room
17h00	Hilton College Jazz Band	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Out of Bounds	Drama PG12	R180	80	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
18h00	Exclusive Launch - Spud Two for the Road with author John van de Ruit	Book Launch	Free	60	Festival Marquee
	How to Cook your Husband	Caberet/ Dark Musical Comedy PG16	R190	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	Jagged Little Tribute - The Music of Alanis Morissette	Musical Tribute	R180	50	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Lumo Party ft Giselle Niemand	Teen Dance Party/Ages 12-18	R100	180	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	The Tramp	Musical Theatre	R220	85	Main Theatre
	Weightless	Physical Theatre	R180	60	Drama Centre
18h15	Dubious Gurus	Music/Spoken Word	R150	65	Chamberlain Band Room
19h00	Veranda Panda	Live Music	Free	60	Festival Marquee
20h00	Going South	Live Music	R160	65	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	Netphlix	Comedy/Satire PG13	R180	60	Drama Centre
	The Carmen Rodrigues Show – What We Become	Live Music	R190	65	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	"J-Cue Dancefloor vibes with disco, house and timeless grooves.	DJ	Free	120	Festival Marquee
20h15	Melanie Lowe	Live Music	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room
20h30	Arno Carstens	Live Music	R250	75	Sports Centre(10 min walk from info)
	Stuck in Dubai	Comedy PG13	R220	60	Main Theatre

PLEASE NOTE

The Sports Centre is approximately a 10-minute walk from the Festival Information Tent

The Sports Centre is approximately a 10-minute walk from the Festival Information Tent and main precinct. If your performance is scheduled at the Sports Centre, please allow sufficient time to make your way to the venue. We recommend arriving at least 15 minutes before the advertised start time. Late arrivals may only be admitted at a suitable break in the performance.



SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

START	EVENT	GENRE	COST	DUR (mins)	VENUE
07h00	Rockjumper Birding Drive	Outdoor Birding Adventure	R950	180	Meet at Info Tent
	Rockjumper Birding Walk	Outdoor Birding Adventure	R450	120	Meet at Info Tent
08h00	Mind Matters Summit Mental Fitness Session	Meditation- Breathwork- Ice plunge!	Free	60	Behind Bell Tower Stage
09h00	Clifton Durban Orchestra & Choir	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Retro Rides Revival	Retro Vehicle Display	Free	all day	Chapel Lawn
10h00	Better Together - A Tribute to Jack Johnson	Live Music/Musical Tribute	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Born Wild, Raised Otherwise	Multimedia Wildlife Talk	R100	45	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
	Homegrown	Classical Music	R150	70	Chapel
	ISPA Students	Drama	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Just Geekin'	Geek Culture/Gaming/Art	R75 (multi entry)	All Day	Library (Theatre Foyer)
	Karen & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG16	R180	45	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	KZN Art Fair	Visual Art	R100 (multi entry)	All Day	Memorial Hall
	Midnight in Parys	Drama PG16	R220	75	Main Theatre
	Rob van Vurren Live!	Comedy PG16	R180	55	Drama Centre
	St Mary's DSG Touring Choir & African Music Ensemble	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Monster Manor	Interactive Haunted House	R50 (at the door)	All Day	Campbell Block(adjacent to craft market))
10h15	Behind the Crimson Door	Cirque PG16	R220	80	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
	Spud Talk - The Truth about Fiction with Spud author John van de Ruit	Talk	Free	45	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
10h30	Bassey & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG13	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room
	The Great Big Enormous Turnip	Children's Theatre	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
11h00	Be A Pop Star	Music	R80	45	Chamberlain Recording Studio
	Clifton Durban Marimbas	Live Music	Free	45	Amphitheatre Stage
	Maritzburg College Jazz Ensemble	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Meet & Greet Book Signing with Spud author John van de Ruit	Book Signing	Free	60	Merch Stand in Festival Marquee
	St Anne's DSG Choir	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
11h30	Rockjumper Birding - Spectacular Birds of the World	Bird/Wildlife Talk	R80	60	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
12h00	Going South	Live Music	R160	65	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	Kiss that Frog	Children's Theatre (10 min walk from info)	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
	KZN Youth Wind Band	Live Music	Free	60	Festival Marquee
	Shackleton	Theatre/Story Telling PG12	R180	60	Drama Centre
	The Carmen Rodrigues Show – What We Become	Live Music/Show	R190	65	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Skippy Kubheka	Live Music	Free	180	Food area opp. Theatre
12h15	Reflection (a Piano, a Barstool, a Lifetime)	Cabaret	R180	70	Chamberlain Band Room
12h30	Bump & Grind	Comedy	R220	70	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
	Constellations	Drama	R220	75	Main Theatre
	Mama-Demic (incl Q & A)	Film PG13	R100	90	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
	Opera Trios: Love Triangle	Classical Music/Opera	R150	50	Chapel
13h00	6 Sense (incl Q & A)	Film	R50	60	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
13h30	Eden College Dramatic Arts - The Return of Norman Klutsky	Children's Theatre	Free	45	Amphitheatre Stage
	Marimba Madness	Music	R80	45	Marimba Tent
	Pietermaritzburg Children's Choir	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Pietermaritzburg Girls High School Jazz Band	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
14h00	Be A Pop Star	Music	R80	45	Chamberlain Recording Studio
	Day in the Desert	Physical Theatre	R180	50	Drama Centre
	Jagged Little Tribute - The Music of Alanis Morissette	Musical Tribute	R180	50	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Roti Queen	Drama PG13	R180	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
14h15	Dubious Gurus	Music/Spoken Word	R150	65	Chamberlain Band Room
	Sired (incl Q & A)	Film PG12	R50	35	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
14h30	Cordwalles Collective & Rock Band	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Howick High Band	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	"Master Harold" ... and the Boys	Drama PG13	R180	80	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
	The Great Big Enormous Turnip	Children's Theatre	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
	The Tramp	Musical Theatre	R220	80	Main Theatre
15h00	Father's Day (incl Q & A)	Film	R50	60	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
	Guy Buttery	Live Music/Afro Fusion/Folk	R180	70	Chapel
	Michaelhouse Marimbas	Live Music	Free	45	Amphitheatre Stage
	Rockjumper Birding - Antarctica & the Southern Oceans – the Last Great Wilderness	Bird/Wildlife Talk	R80	60	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
	Rockjumper Birding Drive	Outdoor Birding Adventure	R950	180	Meet at Info Tent
15h30	St Charles College Chamber Choir & Senior Band	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Rowan "The Grand Duke Raw" Mpangase	DJ - Sunset Session	Free	180	Festival Marquee
16h00	Britney in the Underworld	Cabaret PG13	R180	50	Chamberlain Band Room
	Epilogue	Comedy	R180	80	Drama Centre
	Guenter Nerlich - The Mississippi & Me	Live Music/Blues/Soul/Americana	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	How to Cook your Husband	Cabaret/ Dark Musical Comedy PG16	R190	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	Sent & The River Gives (incl Q & A)	Film (double bill) PG13	R50	60	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
16h30	And the Girls in Their Sunday Dresses	Drama PG16	R220	75	Main Theatre
	Burning Rebellion (2025)	Film	Free	30	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
17h00	KZN Department of Arts & Culture - "Battle of the Arts Centres"	Live Music	Free	240	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Opera Trios: Love Triangle	Classical Music/Opera	R150	50	Chapel
	The Ancient Scrolls Of Lukutona (incl Q & A)	Film/Fantasy PG13	R50	30	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
	World of Wonders!	Magic/Illusion	R180	60	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

START	EVENT	GENRE	COST	DUR (mins)	VENUE
17h30	Reflection (a Piano, a Barstool, a Lifetime)	Cabaret	R180	70	Chamberlain Band Room
18h00	Jagged Little Tribute - The Music of Alanis Morissette	Musical Tribute	R180	50	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Sri Niveshan Munsamy	Live Music/Classical Indian	R180	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
18h30	Rugby Mad	Comedy	R220	55	Main Theatre
	Shackleton	Theatre/Story Telling PG 12	R180	60	Drama Centre
19h00	Behind the Crimson Door	Cirque PG16	R220	80	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
	Melanie Lowe	Live Music	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room
	DJ Kevin Cotton	DJ	Free	240	Festival Marquee
20h00	Guenter Nerlich - The Mississippi & Me	Live Music/Blues/Soul/Americana	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	How to Cook your Husband	Cabaret/Dark Musical Comedy PG16	R190	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
20h30	Britney in the Underworld	Cabaret PG13	R180	50	Chamberlain Band Room
	Dead Dad	Comedy PG13	R180	60	Drama Centre
	The Opera Singer	Drama	R220	80	Main Theatre
21h00	Springbok Rugby: Argentina v The Springboks + DJ kevin Cotton	Sport	Free	80	Festival Marquee

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

START	EVENT	GENRE	COST	DUR (mins)	VENUE
07h00	Rockjumper Birding Drive	Outdoor Birding Adventure	R950	180	Meet at Info Tent
	Rockjumper Birding Walk	Outdoor Birding Adventure	R450	120	Meet at Info Tent
08h30	Songs of Praise	Chapel Service	R150	60	Chapel
09h00	FEDA Winning Production (Festival of Excellence in Dramatic Arts)	Drama/Youth Culture /PG13	R75	35	Drama Centre
	Hilton College Dramatic Arts	Drama	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Hilton College & Pietermaritzburg Girls High School String Ensembles	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Retro Rides Revival	Retro Vehicle Display	Free	all day	Chapel Lawn
09h45	Bassey & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG13	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room
10h00	Constellations	Drama	R220	75	Main Theatre
	Durban Girls College Senior Primary Ensemble	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Epworth Dance and Marimbas	Dance/Music	Free	45	Amphitheatre Stage
	Guenter Nerlich - The Mississippi & Me	Live Music/Blues/Soul/Americana	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Just Geekin'	Geek Culture/Gaming/Art	R75 (multi entry)	All Day	Library (Theatre Foyer)
	Karen & Me	Musical Tribute/Cabaret PG16	R180	45	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	KZN Art Fair	Visual Art	R100 (multi entry)	All Day	Memorial Hall
	Our Lady of Fatima Ensemble	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Sired (incl Q & A)	Film PG12	R50	35	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
	Monster Manor	Interactive Haunted House	R50 at the door	All Day	Campbell Block (adjacent to craft market)
10h30	Kiss that Frog	Children's Theatre	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
	Netphlix	Comedy/Satire/PG13	R180	60	Drama Centre
11h00	Durban Girls College Choir	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Hilton College Brass Band	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Mama-Demic (incl Q & A)	Film PG13	R100	90	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
	Meet & Greet Book Signing with Spud author John van de Ruit	Book Signing	Free	60	Merch Stand in Festival Marquee
	Opera Trios: Love Triangle	Classical Music/Opera	R150	50	Chapel
11h30	Reflection (a Piano, a Barstool, a Lifetime)	Cabaret	R180	70	Chamberlain Band Room
	Rockjumper Birding - Birds and Wildlife of Ngorongoro & the Serengeti	Bird/Wildlife Talk	R80	60	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
12h00	Be A Pop Star	Music	R80	45	Chamberlain Recording Studio
	Cowan House Marimba Bands	Live Music	Free	45	Amphitheatre Stage
	Epworth High School Choir	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	Midnight in Parys	Drama PG 16	R220	75	Main Theatre
	Roti Queen	Drama PG13	R180	60	Chamberlain Marimba Room
	The Carmen Rodrigues Show – What We Become	Live Music	R190	65	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	The Wykeham Collegiate Choir & Orchestra	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
12h30	Epilogue	Comedy	R180	80	Drama Centre
	Marimba Madness	Music	R80	45	Marimba Tent
12h45	The Most Amazing Show with Corne & Twakkie	Comedy PG16	R220	60	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
13h00	Born Wild, Raised Otherwise	Multimedia Wildlife Talk	R100	45	Lecture Theatre A (Theatre Foyer)
	Michaelhouse Jazz Band	Live Music	Free	45	Festival Marquee
	Sound Collective	Live Music	R100	70	Chapel
	The Ancient Scrolls Of Lukutona (incl Q & A)	Film/Fantasy PG13	R50	30	Lecture Theatre B (Theatre Foyer)
13h15	Britney in the Underworld	Cabaret PG13	R180	50	Chamberlain Band Room
13h30	Maritzburg College Big Band & St John's DSG	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	The Great Big Enormous Turnip	Children's Theatre	R80	45	The Lidgetton Theatre
14h00	Better Together - A Tribute to Jack Johnson	Live Music/Musical Tribute	R180	70	Chamberlain Recital Hall
	Going South	Live Music	R160	65	Chamberlain Marimba Room
14h30	Beat Route	Live Music	Free	105	Festival Marquee
	Clifton Durban Ensemble	Live Music	Free	45	Bell Tower Lawn Stage
	The Opera Singer	Drama	R220	80	Main Theatre
	Weightless	Physical Theatre	R180	60	Drama Centre
15h00	Drakies Live '26	Choir	R220	120 (incl inter-val)	Sports Centre (10 min walk from info)
	Melanie Lowe	Live Music	R180	60	Chamberlain Band Room

FEATURE FILMS

Discover powerful stories from around the world through our curated programme of independent films, documentaries and South African cinema.

KZN TOURISM FILMS



The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film Authority is committed to positioning the province as a premier destination for tourism and film production. Through strategic partnerships and support for flagship creative economy events like the Hilton Arts Festival, the Authority continues to stimulate economic growth, create opportunities for local film and tourism businesses, and showcase the province's diverse cultural, natural and creative assets to local and international audiences. As part of this broader mandate, the Authority supports initiatives that strengthen KwaZulu-Natal's tourism and film sectors while reinforcing the province's reputation as a destination of choice for visitors and filmmakers alike.



6Sense

SAT 13h00 | R50 | 60MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE B | ALL AGES

The film 6 SENSE is the inspiring story of acclaimed Gqom music producer Mxshi Mo, tracing his remarkable journey from the foothills of the Drakensberg to international recognition. Through this intimate, self-narrated documentary, Mo reflects on losing his sight, discovering electronic dance music and using creativity to overcome adversity. A powerful portrait of resilience, talent and self-belief, the film celebrates music's extraordinary ability to transform lives. Directed by Amilcar Patel and Chris Kets.



Sent & the River Gives

SAT 16h00 | R50 | 60 MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE A | PG 13

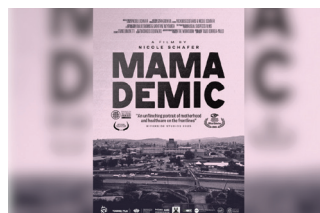
This compelling film double-bill celebrates the resilience and potential of South Africa's youth. SENT, directed by Ayanda Halimana, follows seven-year-old Thulile, whose first solo trip to the local shop takes a frightening turn, becoming a powerful story about childhood innocence and vulnerability. THE RIVER GIVES, directed by Mlungisi Ntuli, follows the inspiring EnviroChamps of Imbali and Ashdown as they protect their rivers and wetlands while confronting the social and environmental challenges facing their communities.



Father's Day

SAT 15h00 | R50 | 60MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE A | ALL AGES

In this film, 12-year-old Alakhe, raised by his single mother, is chosen to deliver a Father's Day speech at school. Determined to discover the father he's never known, he embarks on a journey that uncovers long-buried family secrets and challenges everything he believes about his past. Heartfelt and emotionally engaging, FATHER'S DAY explores identity, belonging and the meaning of family. Directed by Tumelo Lekana.



Mama-demic

SAT 12h30 · SUN 11h00
R100 | 90 MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE A | PG 13

MAMA-DEMIC is a documentary film by award-winning director and producer, Nicole Schafer. Inside the maternity ward of a busy South African public hospital, doctor Ayanda Ntinga, a single mother of twins, navigates the demands of motherhood alongside her medical career. She dreams of becoming a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology, but budget cuts have reduced the number of training posts. As she faces mounting health and social crises - from staff shortages to power cuts and a rise in teenage pregnancies - Dr Ntinga is determined to make a difference in young women's lives. Filmed in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg. Bought to you by Thinking Strings Media.

INDEPENDANT FILMS



The Ancient Scrolls of Lukutona

SAT 17h00 · SUN 13h00
R50 | 30 MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE B | 13 +

The story follows Anila, a faithful elf handmaiden from the forests of Tarasina. She seeks counsel from an ancient tree, discovering that an ancient evil - a dragon returning from the stars - is biding its time to re-enter the world.



Burning Rebellion

SAT 16h30 | FREE | 30 MIN
LECTURE THEATRE A

BURNING REBELLION (2025) is a climate justice film created by Well Worn Theatre Company and Amehlo Productions. The film is an adaptation of Well Worn's original 2019 protest poem - a live theatre performance created in response to a moment of global defiance, sparked by the youth of the School Strike 4 Climate Movement. Inspired by spoken word and hip hop culture, and blending words, movement and song, it channels the rage, fear and hope of a generation confronting social and ecological collapse.



Sired

SAT 14h15 · SUN 10h00
R50 | 35 MIN INCL. Q&A
LECTURE THEATRE B | 13 +

The award-winning short film, SIREN, tells the story of a young girl stuck in a system that she cannot escape. Written poetically with dialogue rich in Zulu heritage, parallels are found between motherly figures and their subjects. Starring internationally acclaimed talent, characters that burn right off the screen with charisma, creating connections that cross borders. This short film confronts a difficult conversation which hopes to leave audiences aware and asking themselves how they can bring about change. Filmed on the iconic KwaZulu Natal coastline, what dark secrets are hidden behind the beautiful visual landscape? Written and directed by Mthokozisi Zulu, featuring Minnie Dlamini, Zazi Kunene and Elihle Mfenqa. Winner of the Durban 48 film project 2026.

Thought-provoking, inspiring and entertaining, these screenings offer a chance to experience the magic of storytelling on the big screen!

Festival Programme

Subject to change without notice.



6 SENSE
SAT 13h00 | 60MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE B | R50
FILM / BIOGRAPHICAL | ALL AGES

The film 6 SENSE is the inspiring story of acclaimed Gqom music producer Mxshi Mo, tracing his remarkable journey from the foothills of the Drakensberg to international recognition. Through this intimate, self-narrated documentary, Mo reflects on losing his sight, discovering electronic dance music and using creativity to overcome adversity. A powerful portrait of resilience, talent and self-belief, the film celebrates music's extraordinary ability to transform lives. Directed by Amilcar Patel and Chris Kets.



DAY IN THE DESERT
SAT 14h00 | 50 MIN | DRAMA CENTRE
R180 | PHYSICAL THEATRE | ALL AGES

Fiona is an upright, cautious citizen who rarely ventures beyond her front door. When her exuberant and adventurous friend Andromeda arrives with an irresistible invitation, Fiona reluctantly agrees to step into the unknown. Soon the pair are airborne and heading for the Kalahari Desert on a journey that will test her fears, challenge her assumptions and reveal unexpected possibilities. Drawing on physical theatre and European clowning traditions, DAY IN THE DESERT transforms an ordinary day into an extraordinary adventure. With humour, playfulness and theatrical invention, two performers create a richly imagined world in which friendship becomes the catalyst for courage, curiosity and self-discovery. Beneath its light-hearted surface, the production explores themes of fear, risk, resilience and the importance of embracing life's uncertainties. Written and performed by Jenine Collocott and Barbara Dreager with direction by Vika Dahlberg.



AND THE GIRLS IN THEIR SUNDAY DRESSES
SAT 16h30 | 75 MIN | THEATRE
R220 | DRAMA | 16+

AND THE GIRLS IN THEIR SUNDAY DRESSES by Zakes Mda is set during a devastating economic crisis in Lesotho, where soaring prices and widespread shortages force people to queue for days to buy basic necessities. In one such queue, two women from vastly different social backgrounds meet and form an unlikely bond. The Lady, a retiring prostitute, clings to the glamour and appearance that have long defined her identity and survival. The Woman, a domestic worker, brings a grounded perspective shaped by years of hardship and resilience. As they share a single chair and pass the time together, they reveal stories of love, loss, abandonment, and endurance. Through humour, wit, and poignant conversation, the play explores class inequality, gender, dignity, and survival. Directed by Princess Mhlongo and performed by Gontse Ntshengang and Tshireletso Nkoane.



ARNO CARSTENS
FRI 20h30 | 75 MIN
SPORTS CENTRE | R250
LIVE MUSIC | ALL AGES

For the first time, ARNO CARSTENS performs live at the Hilton Arts Festival with his band, David Watkyns and Giovanni Serici. One of South Africa's most celebrated artists, Carstens is a platinum-selling singer-songwriter, award-winning musician and accomplished fine artist. He rose to fame as the iconic frontman of Springbok Nude Girls before launching a hugely successful solo career spanning eight acclaimed albums. With his distinctive voice, compelling stage presence and fearless creativity, Arno continues to captivate audiences through both his music and visual art.



BASSEY AND ME
FRI 16h15 • SAT 10h30 • SUN 09h45
60MIN | BAND ROOM | R180
COMEDY CABARET / MUSIC TRIBUTE
13+

Acclaimed international cabaret artist Tonya Koenderman is set to dazzle audiences with her latest show, BASSEY AND ME — a heartfelt tribute to the legendary Dame Shirley Bassey. After more than 60 years in show business, Dame Shirley Bassey remains an icon, and the production celebrates her extraordinary journey from humble beginnings to international superstardom. Tonya pays tribute to all the songs Bassey made famous: Diamonds Are Forever; Goldfinger; Big Spender; I am What I am and This Is My Life, among others. Koenderman also narrates her story — the struggles, the heartbreaks, and the triumphs. She shares the personal impact Bassey had on her own life, recalling how a shy little girl with a big, belting voice was inspired by Sundays spent listening to Bassey records over and over again. The show draws parallels between the two performers, highlighting the qualities that first drew Tonya to her idol.



BEHIND THE CRIMSON DOOR
SAT 10h15 & 19h00 • SUN 10h15
80 MIN | SPORTS CENTRE | R220
CIRQUE SHOW | PG 16

BEHIND THE CRIMSON DOOR is a spectacular, theatrical fashion experience created by renowned designer Gert-Johan Coetzee in collaboration with performance company The Cirk. Blending couture, aerial artistry, dance and storytelling, the production follows the journey of Charlotte, a young farm girl who leaves home to chase her dreams in the big city. As she confronts fear, temptation and ambition, she discovers that the greatest barriers to our dreams often exist only in our imagination. Set in a surreal world of doors, dazzling fashion and breathtaking performances, BEHIND THE CRIMSON DOOR is a powerful celebration of courage, transformation and the magic that happens when you dare to step into the unknown.



BE A POPSTAR
SAT 11h00 • SAT 14h00 • SUN 12h00
45 MIN | R80 | CHAMBERLAIN MUSIC
STUDIO | ALL AGES | INTERACTIVE
MUSIC EXPERIENCE

If you have ever wondered what a day in the life of your favourite singer feels like, this is the activity for you! An immersive experience in the newly built Hilton College Recording Studio will allow you the opportunity to stand behind a microphone and record your own voice to a song of your choice. You will then have the opportunity to sit with a professional studio engineer and master your vocal line with multiple effects so that you can sound like the real deal!



BETTER TOGETHER - A TRIBUTE TO JACK JOHNSON
FRI 16h00 • SAT 10h00 • SUN 14h00
70 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN RECITAL HALL
R180 | MUSICAL TRIBUTE | ALL AGES

Durban audiences are in for a laid-back, feel-good evening of sun-soaked melodies and timeless acoustic vibes as The Black Lapels present a special Jack Johnson Tribute Show, BETTER TOGETHER. Known for their warm, engaging performances and rich acoustic sound, The Black Lapels will be joined by the dynamic Obed Ephraim on drums, bringing an added rhythmic depth to the stripped-back, surf-inspired groove that defines Jack Johnson's music. The show will celebrate some of Johnson's most beloved songs, including: Flake; Better Together; Bubble Toes; Sitting, Waiting, Wishing; ... and so much more.

Audiences can expect an evening of storytelling and easy-going musical charm — a perfect escape into the world of one of modern acoustic music's most iconic voices. Whether you're a long-time fan or simply looking for a relaxed night out filled with great songs and good energy, this tribute promises to deliver an authentic and uplifting live experience.



BORN WILD, RAISED OTHERWISE
SAT 10h00 • SUN 13h00
45 MIN | LECTURE THEATRE A | R100
MULTIMEDIA WILDLIFE TALK | ALL AGES

BORN WILD, RAISED OTHERWISE is a funny, gripping and deeply human keynote about our species' lost connection with the natural world — and the profound need to reclaim it. Drawing on two decades as a safari guide, wilderness broadcaster and storyteller, James Hendry takes audiences on an extraordinary journey through Africa's wild places, from close encounters with buffalo and charging leopards to moments of quiet wonder among vultures, birds and ancient mountains. Along the way, absurd guest encounters, hard-won field lessons and deeply personal stories of friendship and loss reveal something larger: wilderness is not separate from us, but part of who we are. Blending humour, adventure and reflection, this is far more than a talk about nature. It is about fear and belonging, disconnection and reconnection, and what the wild can teach modern humans about perspective, humility and being fully alive.



BRITNEY IN THE UNDERWORLD
SAT 16h00 & 20h30 • SUN 13h15
50 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN BAND ROOM
R180 | CABARET | PG13

Would you set her free? Experience the spectacle for yourself. Through high-energy musical storytelling and raw theatricality, Britney explores the complexities of growing up in the public eye — the pressure, the glamour and the confinement. "Be careful, you can get in but can you get out?" A cheeky twist on a tribute: "I should tell you her story, my way." At the bite of an apple, Britney pays the price and falls into the Underworld, navigating each trial to the pulsing underscore of Britney Spears' Greatest Hits. Directed by the acclaimed Lisa Bobbert, and performed by the electrifying Kaylee McIlroy, BRITNEY IN THE UNDERWORLD promises a bold, visually engaging, and emotionally charged theatrical experience. Inspired by Britney Spears' memoir and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.



BUMP & GRIND
SAT 12h30 | 70 MIN | SPORTS CENTRE
R220 | COMEDY | ALL AGES

BUMP & GRIND is a high-energy musical comedy from acclaimed South African duo Aaron McIlroy and Lisa Bobbert, delivering a fast-paced explosion of song, dance, and laugh-out-loud sketch comedy. Packed with their signature brand of character-driven humour, the show takes audiences on a wildly entertaining journey through a kaleidoscope of outrageous personalities and relatable situations. From eccentric pensioners and Elvis-inspired performers to self-proclaimed gurus, AI androids, and delightfully offbeat creations, BUMP & GRIND is a helter-skelter ride through the absurdities of modern life. The musical landscape is as diverse as the comedy itself, featuring an eclectic mix of well-loved hits across genres and eras, all cleverly reimagined with theatrical flair. Combined with vibrant costumes, slick production elements, and energetic choreography, the result is a polished, visually engaging show that keeps audiences captivated from start to finish.



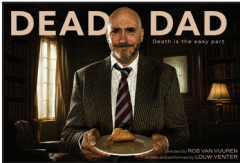
CARMEN RODRIGUES
FRI 20h00 • SAT 12h00 • SUN 12h00
65 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN RECITAL HALL
R190 | MUSIC | ALL AGES

One of KwaZulu-Natal's most dynamic vocal powerhouses, CARMEN RODRIGUES, joins forces with acclaimed musician, producer and creative director, Evan Roberts for the premiere of a bold new theatrical music experience at the Hilton Arts Festival. More than a concert, this emotionally charged production explores how we collapse, survive and ultimately rebuild. Through powerful storytelling, contemporary hits, reimagined classics and original music, Carmen leads audiences on a deeply moving journey from loss to resilience. With Roberts as musical director and on-stage pianist, supported by a stellar live band and orchestral musicians, this is an immersive and uplifting celebration of what we become.



CONSTELLATIONS
SAT 12h30 • SUN 10h00
75 MIN | MAIN THEATRE
R220 | **DRAMA** | ALL AGES

CONSTELLATIONS is a two-hander play by the British playwright Nick Payne. It explores how even the smallest change in our lives can dramatically alter the course we take. It is a spellbinding exploration of love, science, quantum theory, and infinite possibility for heartbreak or for hope. Marianne, a physicist, and Roland, a beekeeper, meet at a barbeque. They hit it off, and go for a drink. Or perhaps they don't. They go home together, or maybe they go their separate ways. Perhaps Marianne is engaged to someone else, perhaps Roland is. Maybe she breaks his heart, maybe he breaks hers. Perhaps they come together and their love story can finally take root and grow, or perhaps it will be tragically cut short. Direction by Jay Pather, production design by Wolf Britz, featuring Mwenya Kabwe & Mark Elderkin.



DEAD DAD
SAT 20h30 | 60 MIN
DRAMA CENTRE | R180
COMEDY DRAMA | PG 13

Award winning writer/performer, Louw Venter, who rose to fame as Corné from Corné and Twakkie in The Most Amazing Show, returns to the stage with his new one-man show DEAD DAD. This cutting, dark comedy is the sequel to his smash hit The Best Man's Speech.

Directed by comedy legend Rob Van Vuuren, Venter reprises his role as the hapless Lukas. But this time, instead of delivering a catastrophic speech at his best friend's wedding, Lukas is tasked with delivering his father's eulogy. What follows is a spectacular emotional derailment. Through razor-sharp writing and a powerhouse comedic performance, Lukas goes through an epic emotional journey in front of friends and family, veering violently between the divine and the catastrophic. Dead Dad is a rare chance to look grief in the eye, give it a good slap in the face, and realise that your life is probably not as bad as you thought.



DRAKIES LIVE '26
SUN 15h00 | 120 MIN (INCL. INTERVAL)
SPORTS CENTRE | **CHOIR** | ALL AGES

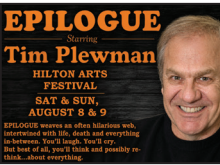
The Drakensberg Boys Choir LIVE in Concert - Affectionately known as South Africa's "Singing Ambassadors", the Drakensberg Boys Choir returns with its trademark energy, versatility and world-class musicianship. From traditional choral works to contemporary African rhythms, this promises to be one of the Festival's musical highlights.



DUBIOUS GURUS
FRI 18h15 • SAT 14h15
65MIN | **BAND ROOM** | R150
MUSIC / **SPOKEN WORD** | ALL AGES

Iain EWOKESSAY Robinson and his father, Jeff Robinson, along with Logan Byrne, find their shared groove in DUBIOUS GURUS.

The performance is a unique blend of poetry and music that is aesthetically aligned with their combined jazz and hip-hop roots. An evening with the Gurus gang promises some spicy Spoken Word along with some superb jazzy musicality, good vibes guaranteed.



EPILOGUE
SAT 16H00 • SUN 12H30
80 MIN | **DRAMA CENTRE**
R180 | **COMEDY** | ALL AGES

For those who fondly remember Tim Plewman's legendary performance in Defending the Caveman, this new work carries the same sharp humour and charm—now enriched by the perspective of a man who has lived, loved, lost, and learned. EPILOGUE is a show about our mature years and is filled with laughter, some tears and even a couple of philosophical moments. More than just a show, this production is an experience — raw, honest, and unforgettable. Written and performed by South African stage legend Tim Plewman, and co-authored with his longtime friend and advertising mastermind John Smeddle, EPILOGUE is a deeply personal journey that weaves between past and present, sorrow and joy, absurdity and insight. With masterful comic timing and emotional depth, Plewman invites the audience into the intimate moments that shaped him —moments we all recognise in one way or another.



FATHER'S DAY
SAT 15h00 | 60 MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE A | R50
FILM | ALL AGES

In this film, 12-year-old Alakhe, raised by his single mother, is chosen to deliver a Father's Day speech at school. Determined to discover the father he's never known, he embarks on a journey that uncovers long-buried family secrets and challenges everything he believes about his past. Heartfelt and emotionally engaging, FATHER'S DAY explores identity, belonging and the meaning of family. Directed by Tumelo Lekana.



FEDA (FESTIVAL OF EXCELLENCE IN DRAMATIC ARTS) MOB FEEL - KEARNEY COLLEGE
SUN 09H00 | 35 MIN | **DRAMA CENTRE**
R75 | **DRAMA TEEN, YOUTH CULTURE** | 13+

FEDA KZN Festival announces an exciting, new, Hilton Arts Festival Partnership. After 25 successful years of celebrating young theatre-makers in Johannesburg, the FEDA Play Festival is thrilled to launch its first-ever festival in KwaZulu-Natal.

Taking place at the Milkwood Theatre at Danville Girls' High School, the festival aims to give young people a powerful platform to create, perform, and share their own stories. FEDA believes that the future of South African theatre lies in the imagination, courage, and creativity of young artists. The winning production, selected at the FEDA KZN Finals on 25 July 2026, will be invited to perform at the Hilton Arts Festival, giving young performers the opportunity to showcase their work on one of South Africa's most respected arts stages.



GOING SOUTH
FRI 20h10 • SAT 12h00 • SUN 14h00
65 MIN | **CHAMBERLAIN MARIMBA ROOM**
R160 | **LIVE MUSIC** | ALL AGES

GOING SOUTH is an original music project formed by husband/wife guitar/bass duo, Nicolás and Katharina Rodríguez López. The name, "Going South", comes from the fact that Katharina and Nicolás are both from the southern hemisphere - South Africa and Chile, respectively, but Going South also has existential connotations, some of which are explored in their lyrics. Both instruments are very present in each song, with intricate and melodic lines that weave together a soundscape of other-worldliness, yet the stories are of everyday hopes, dreams and struggles. Artistic influences include jazz, funk, alternative rock and pop. (Both musicians have previously played at the Hilton Arts Festival with their gypsy jazz quintet - Hot Club D'Afrique.)



GUENTER NERLICH - THE MISSISSIPPI & ME
SAT 16h00 & 20h00 • SUN 10h00
70MIN | **CHAMBERLAIN RECITAL HALL**
R180 | **LIVE MUSIC** / **BLUES, SOUL** & **AMERICANA** | ALL AGES

Get ready to punch your ticket for Guenter Nerlich's THE MISSISSIPPI & ME, a high-octane musical pilgrimage through the American Deep South. This isn't just a concert; it's a soul-stirring, travelogue tracking the very DNA of American music, directly inspired by Guenter's own travels from the neon-lit grit of Memphis' Beale Street straight down to the vibrant heart of the New Orleans French Quarter. Feel the sweat and power of Memphis Soul. Let the haunting echoes of the Mississippi Delta wash over you, where the towering spirits of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Howlin' Wolf and B.B. King still linger in every single chord. Dive headfirst into the swampy, infectious Zydeco rhythms of Louisiana, the moaning beats of the delta blues, and the unmistakable, rolling "Big Easy" piano grooves of Fats Domino and Dr. John. The show features a spicy hot collaboration with the brilliant guest artist Heinrich Pelser on guitars, delivering one-of-a-kind, soul-stirring performances you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss this unforgettable journey of storytelling, deep grooves, and raw sound. Come get renewed—it's a full-blown revival of the music that changed the world!



GUY BUTTERY
SAT 15h00 | 70 MIN | **CHAPEL**
R180 | **LIVE MUSIC** / **AFRO FUSION** / **FOLK ACOUSTIC** | ALL AGES

"Guy Buttery is something of a national treasure", says South Africa's leading newspaper The Mercury. As an internationally recognised musician, this multi-instrumentalist enjoys invitations to play sell-out performances all over the globe. The USA, UK, Australia, France, Brazil, and Italy have all welcomed him back year after year. However, to simply label GUY BUTTERY as one of South Africa's musical phenoms would be an injustice. His international role has surpassed merely performing concerts to foreign audiences. It has evolved into one as an ambassador of South African music, inspiring people across the world with his homegrown style at the very heart of his talent and tenacity. Guy's distinct unification of South African guitar music is the musical advocate for everything positive and beautiful about the place he calls home.



HOMEGROWN
SAT 10h00 | 70 MIN | **CHAPEL**
R150 | **CLASSICAL MUSIC** | ALL AGES

Bringing together four KwaZulu-Natal-based artists of international stature, HOMEGROWN is a celebration of world-class classical music with deep local roots. Featuring acclaimed soprano Nzokuto Teto, award-winning baritone Bongani Kubheka, renowned saxophonist Maxine Matthews and celebrated pianist Christopher Duigan, the programme blends operatic favourites with contemporary works for saxophone and piano. A rare opportunity to experience some of the province's finest musical talent sharing one stage in an unforgettable concert of artistry and virtuosity.



HOW TO COOK YOUR HUSBAND
FRI 18h00 • SAT 16h00 & 20h00
60 MIN | **CHAMBERLAIN MARIMBA ROOM**
R190 | **DARK MUSICAL COMEDY** | PG 16

Marjiet discovers her husband's infidelity and has only one solution - he must die! But how to cover her tracks and dispose of the evidence - that is the question? Influenced by Sweeny Todd and Inspired by Gorden Ramsey, this Michelin star chef is not for the faint heart or for the strictly vegetarian. The hour-long dark-comedy cabaret looks at the themes of marriage, infidelity, consequences and solutions. Including such popular songs as Chicago's He Had it Coming; Sound of Music's How do you solve a problem like Marjiet (Maria); Something Stupid, and Sondheim's, Worst Pies in Bloemfontein (London). Written by the multi-award-winning, Janna Ramos-Violante and starring Lisa Bobbert and Darren King.

You can book for any of the ticketed shows at webtickets or at the theatre box office over the festival weekend.

web

tickets

Live More.



Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to book now!



JAGGED LITTLE TRIBUTE MUSIC OF ALANIS MORISSETTE

FRI 18h00 · SAT 14h00 & 18h00
50 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN RECITAL HALL
R180 | MUSICAL TRIBUTE | ALL AGES

It's time to rewind to the raw energy, electric emotion, and unforgettable sound of the 90s with JAGGED LITTLE TRIBUTE – THE MUSIC OF ALANIS MORISSETTE. Come ready to sing, reminisce, and rock out to the soundtrack of the decade with a stellar local line-up, Colin Peddie, Tory Du Plessis, Paul Cassells and Marion Loudon, as they promise to honour the iconic singer-songwriter whose breakthrough album Jagged Little Pill helped define a generation. Audiences can expect to hear all the favourites, including Ironic; You Oughta Know; Hand in My Pocket; Uninvited, and many more anthems that dominated the charts and left a lasting mark on music history. Whether you grew up with her music or discovered it later, this show will reignite everything you love about the 90s. Don't miss this tribute to one of the most influential artists of our time!



JUST GEEKIN'

FRI 16h00 · SAT 10h00 · SUN 10h00
LIBRARY (THEATRE FOYER) | ALL DAY
FRI R75 | SAT R75 | SUN R75 OR
WEEKEND PASS R100 (MULTIPLE ENTRY)
GEEK CULTURE / GAMING/ART | ALL AGES

Three days of straight geekin' and gaming! One ticket for access to all the E Sports, RPG experiences, learn-to-play TCGs, Artists Alley concepts and comics, book launches, giant board games and plenty of added extras: Cosplay Masquerade, live Celebrity DnD campaign, Trench Crusades, paint your own mini and a dedicated Geek Market. Can we get a collective Whoop!Whoop! for the first edition of Just Geekin' at Hilton Arts Festival!



KAREN AND ME

FRI 16h00 · SAT 10h00 · SUN 10h00
45 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN MARIMBA ROOM
R180 | CABARET | NO U/16

Karen Carpenter - the voice that touched generations. KAREN AND ME sees Shannon Kenny, accompanied by virtuoso musician Alan Judd, on a unique journey to celebrate an international musical great of the 20th century, through snapshots of Karen Carpenter's life and illustrious career. She never failed to garner life-long fans and admirers, and left an indelible imprint on generations of people around the world - from the USA, to the UK, and on Shannon's life in good old RSA. Think We've only just begun; Rainy Days and Mondays; Close to You; her reinterpretation of The Beatles' Ticket to Ride, and the effervescent Top of the World. There is a Karen Carpenter-voiced song for every occasion - first love, break-ups, make-ups, introspection and sheer joie de vivre. Directed by Darren King.



KISS THAT FROG

FRI 16h00 · SAT 12h00 · SUN 10h30
45 MIN | THE LIDGETON THEATRE
R80 | CHILDREN'S THEATRE | FAMILY

The story of the Frog Prince told by two fools. With the use of puppets, masks, a huge dollop of imagination and rather random props, the nutty tale unfolds. KISS THAT FROG is an enchanting tale featuring Bryan Hiles and Kaylee McIlroy.



LUMO PARTY GIESELLE NIEMAND

FRI 18h00 | 180 MIN
BELL TOWER LAWN STAGE | R100
TEEN DANCE PARTY | AGES 12-18 Y/O

Featuring a live set by Giselle Niemand, come and light up the night at the ultimate LUMO PARTY! Join us on Friday, 7 August at the Bell Tower Stage for an unforgettable festival experience created especially for ages 12-18. Expect epic DJ sets, live performances, great food, glowing lights, and non-stop entertainment. Wear your brightest neon or white outfit, bring your crew, and dance under the lights as the party comes alive. Big beats, bold colours, and unforgettable memories await - don't miss the glow event of the year!



MAMA-DEMIC

SAT 12h30 · SUN 11h00
90 MIN (INCL. Q&A) | LECTURE THEATRE A
R100 | FILM SCREENING | PG 13

MAMA-DEMIC is a documentary film by award-winning director and producer, Nicole Schafer. Inside the maternity ward of a busy South African public hospital, doctor Ayanda Ntinga, a single mother of twins, navigates the demands of motherhood alongside her medical career. She dreams of becoming a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology, but budget cuts have reduced the number of training posts. As she faces mounting health and social crises - from staff shortages to power cuts and a rise in teenage pregnancies - Dr Ntinga is determined to make a difference in young women's lives. Filmed in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg. Bought to you by Thinking Strings Media.



MARIMBA MADNESS

SAT 11h30 · SAT 13h30 · SUN 12h30
45 MIN | R80 | CHAMBERLAIN MUSIC
BLOCK LAWN | ALL AGES | INTERACTIVE
MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Have you ever watched an amazing performance from your best-loved marimba band and wished that you could learn how it is done? Then join in on this session and have the opportunity to play on the Hilton College marimbas whilst learning a piece or two to show off to your friends. No prior experience needed, just a willing attitude to learn more about this amazing South-African instrument!



"MASTER HAROLD" ...AND THE BOYS

SAT 14h30 | 90 MIN | SPORTS CENTRE
R180 | DRAMA | PG 13

"MASTER HAROLD" ... AND THE BOYS by Athol Fugard is a gripping one act play set in a Port Elizabeth tearoom in the 1950s, in deep apartheid South Africa. On a rainy afternoon, seventeen-year-old Hally spends time with Sam and Willie, two men who have worked for his family for many years. Their easy banter, shared memories and genuine affection reveal a relationship that seems to transcend the divisions of the society around them. But as the day unfolds, tensions rise and long-buried truths emerge, forcing each character to confront the realities of a country built on inequality. By turns humorous, moving and deeply thought-provoking, the story explores friendship, loyalty, dignity and the impact of prejudice. Fugard's masterful writing combines human drama with an examination of South Africa's past, creating a theatrical experience that remains as relevant today as when it first premiered in 1982. Directed by Menzi Mbuli, featuring Christopher Van Selms, Wandile Skhwatha and Thabiso Mkhize.



MELANIE LOWE

FRI 20h15 · SAT 19h00 · SUN 15h00
60 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN BAND ROOM
R180 | LIVE MUSIC | ALL AGES

MELANIE LOWE is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Durban, South Africa, who first gained national recognition as a finalist on Idols South Africa. She has since built a respected career as a recording and performing artist, including a South African Music Award (SAMA)-winning duet and a SAMA-nominated album. Her music blends emotionally driven songwriting with intimate live performance, creating a strong connection with audiences. Melanie's current live offering centres around acoustic guitar and storytelling, with the flexibility to expand into a fuller, more atmospheric set. Following a period away from the stage, she is now entering a powerful new chapter, returning to live performance with renewed focus and strong audience response.



MIDNIGHT IN PARYS

SAT 10h00 · SUN 12h00
75 MIN | MAIN THEATRE
R220 | DRAMA | 16 +

Midnight in a restaurant / karaoke bar in Parys, South Africa. Outside, a 2-billion-year-old asteroid crater stretches way into the distance beneath a star-bespattered sky. Inside, two strangers meet – one running from the past and the other facing a future they can't escape. As the clock ticks towards midnight, Joanna and Aidan discover they share an extraordinary secret. In true Paul Slabolepszy style, MIDNIGHT IN PARYS is edge of your seat intrigue right up to the explosive ending! Tender, intense and topical, this play that will stay with you long after the final moment, explores the fragility of life – why we are here and what is our journey. This production of a brand-new play brings together the multi-award-winning team of Lifetime Achievement Award recipients – director Bobby Heaney, playwright and performer Paul Slabolepszy, and internationally-acclaimed actress Bianca Amato.



NETPHLIX

FRI 20h00 · SUN 10h30
60 MIN | DRAMA CENTRE
R180 | COMEDY/ SATIRE | PG 13

Internationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning comedian, Sophie Joans, has a new show. This tiny, independent fringe artist takes on the media conglomerate to explore the question: What makes a good story? In less than 52 minutes, Sophie Joans attempts to perform the whole of Netflix, and in doing so, remind us of the power of live performance. Can you beat Squid Game? Is Orange the new Black? Should we call Saul? What were the failings of Sex Education? Is Eve ever gonna get Killed? How many Russian Dolls are there? And WILL A GOOD SHOW WITH GREAT POTENTIAL EVER GET RENEWED FOR A SECOND SEASON? Who knows. But you might find some answers in NETPHLIX - a visceral hour of live performance that will leap out of your screen and into your lap. NETPHLIX made its debut at the National Arts Festival in 2025 to enormous applause and received a Standard Bank Ovation Award.



OPERA TRIOS LOVE TRIANGLE

SAT 12h30 & 17h00 · SUN 11h00
50 MIN | CHAPEL | R150
CLASSICAL MUSIC / OPERA | ALL AGES

OPERA TRIOS: LOVE TRIANGLE is a semi-staged opera performance, with three highly talented opera singers from Opera UCT accompanied at the piano by renowned Vocal Coach/ Collaborative Pianist Dr Lisa Engelbrecht who is also the Musical Director. The theme interwoven into the eight or nine excerpts from works by Handel, Mozart, Strauss, Gilbert & Sullivan, Bizet and Rossini, is love triangles, trysts and intrigue. The singers include soprano Mia-Lana Slier, mezzo-soprano Lilitha Nkuku and baritone Themba Mdalose. This highly entertaining production was premiered at the Suidoosterfees 2026 in Cape Town. The singers are artfully choreographed by Capetonian, Michelle Hough.



OUT OF BOUNDS

FRI 17h00 | 80 MIN | SPORTS CENTRE
R180 | DRAMA | 12+

OUT OF BOUNDS is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning one-man theatre production written and performed by Rajesh Gopie. Through the remarkable portrayal of 28 vividly drawn characters, the play takes audiences on a humorous, heartfelt, and deeply moving journey through family, identity, culture, and belonging in South Africa. Set within a multi-generational Indian South African family, the story explores universal themes of growing up, fitting in, family expectations, and discovering one's place in the world. Blending comedy, drama, and masterful storytelling, Gopie seamlessly transforms between characters, creating an unforgettable theatrical experience that resonates across cultures and generations. A powerful South African story. One actor. Twenty-eight characters. Countless moments of recognition and connection.

You can book for any of the ticketed shows at webtickets or at the theatre box office over the festival weekend.

web tickets
Live More.



Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to book now!



REFLECTION - A PIANO. A BARSTOOL. A STORY.

SAT 12h15 & 17h30 · SUN 11h30
70 MIN | CHAMBERLAIN BAND ROOM
R180 | CABARET | ALL AGES

Join Samantha Landers for REFLECTION: A PIANO, A BARSTOOL, A LIFETIME - a heartfelt evening of music and storytelling celebrating the twists, turns, triumphs, and unexpected detours that shape our lives. Accompanied by renowned musical director Garth Tavares, Samantha shares songs and stories drawn from a lifetime of dreaming, loving, losing, laughing, and starting again. Featuring favourites from Broadway, jazz standards, Disney classics, and contemporary musical theatre, REFLECTION is a moving, uplifting reminder that life's greatest discoveries are often found when things don't go according to plan. Directed by Steven Stead.



ROB VAN VUUREN LIVE!

SAT 10h00 | 55 MIN | DRAMA CENTRE
R180 | COMEDY | PG 16

Rob van Vuuren is a multi-award-winning South African Comedy legend. For over thirty years he has been entertaining people across the planet with his particular brand of crazy. Between creating iconic characters like Twakkie and Namaste Bae, as well as amassing an impressive list of screen credits, he has also become a wildly popular stand-up comedian. Join ROB VAN VUUREN LIVE! for one show only of hilarious stand-up comedy and true stories from the mind behind the madness.



ROCKJUMPER BIRDING DRIVE

SAT 07h00 & 15h00 · SUN 07h00
3 HRS | MEET AT INFO TENT | R950
OUTDOOR BIRDING ADVENTURE
ALL AGES

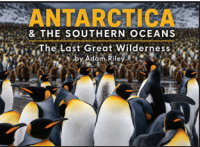
Guided by a world expert Rockjumper birding tour leader, we will explore the beautiful 650 ha Hilton College Nature Reserve in an open safari vehicle, including time along the bird-rich Umgeni River. Expect approximately 2km of walking, mostly on flat or downhill trails/ roads. Kindly park in designated festival parking on arrival.



ROCKJUMPER BIRDING WALK

SAT & SUN 07h00 | 2 HRS
MEET AT INFO TENT | R450
OUTDOOR BIRDING ADVENTURE
ALL AGES

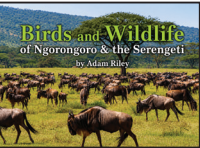
Guided by a world expert Rockjumper birding tour leader, this birding walk around the productive grounds of Hilton College Estate will be an ideal introduction to birds and birding. Your leader will be carrying a Zeiss telescope allowing great views of any perched species. Walking distance approximately 3km on a trail which will include an uphill section, and sturdy shoes are required. On arrival kindly park in designated festival parking.



ROCKJUMPER TALK: ANTARCTICA & THE SOUTHERN OCEANS - THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

SAT 15h00 | 60 MIN | LECTURE THEATRE B
R80 | BIRD & WILDLIFE | ALL AGES

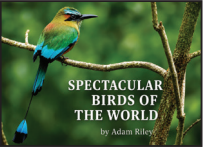
ANTARCTICA & THE SOUTHERN OCEANS – THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS by Adam Riley. Join Adam as he shares highlights from his expeditions across the Southern Oceans and the Great White Continent. Through stunning photography and stories, he'll share his experiences of the remarkable wildlife that thrives in this harsh environment - from vast penguin colonies and great albatrosses to hardy pipsits thriving in far flung South Georgia, dramatic marine life, and breathtaking polar landscapes.



ROCKJUMPER TALK: BIRDS & WILDLIFE OF NGORONGORO & THE SERENGETI

SUN 11h30 | 60 MIN | LECTURE THEATRE B
R80 | BIRD & WILDLIFE | ALL AGES

BIRDS AND WILDLIFE OF NGORONGORO & THE SERENGETI by Adam Riley. The fabled Ngorongoro Crater and endless Serengeti are justifiably world renowned for their remarkable big game populations, including the great wildebeest migration. Less well known is the region's remarkable birdlife. Adam's slideshow will cover the highlights of both aspects of this vast wilderness and include many of his favourite wildlife and bird photos.



ROCKJUMPER TALK: SPECTACULAR BIRDS OF THE WORLD

SAT 11h30 | 60 MIN | LECTURE THEATRE B
R80 | BIRD & WILDLIFE | ALL AGES

SPECTACULAR BIRDS OF THE WORLD by Adam Riley. Adam was given a Roberts' Bird book for Christmas when he was 13 and has been captivated by birds ever since. Making birding his career, Adam has been fortunate enough to have travelled around the world, exploring its wildest places, in search of the world's most spectacular birds. In the process he has visited over 100 countries and seen over 8,500 bird species, many of which he has photographed. Adam's updated slideshow will showcase some of his favourite bird photos coupled with stories of his adventures in finding these beautiful, but often elusive and sadly endangered, feathered jewels.



ROTI QUEEN

SAT 14h00 · SUN 12h00 | 60 MIN
CHAMBERLAIN MARIMBA ROOM
R180 | DRAMA | PG 13

ROTI QUEEN is a vibrant, one-woman play that follows Amrita, a young South African Indian woman navigating love, marriage, and identity within the expectations of family and tradition. Once a passionate dancer with bold ambitions, she now finds herself negotiating the space between her dreams and her domestic reality. Through a dynamic fusion of storytelling, physical theatre, and comedy, Amrita embodies a range of colourful and deeply recognisable characters, revealing the humour and complexity of everyday life. Underscored by Bollywood-inspired music and movement, the performance is further brought to life through the live making of roti on stage, serving as a powerful metaphor for care, culture, and the repetitive cycles of duty. Bold, relatable, and unapologetically rooted in South African Indian culture, the piece celebrates resilience, memory, and the transformative power of storytelling. Featuring Shika Budhoo.



RUGBY MAD

SAT 18h30 | 55 MIN | MAIN THEATRE
R220 | COMEDY | ALL AGES

RUGBY MAD is a high-energy, laugh-out-loud one-man comedy from acclaimed South African performer Aaron McIlroy. In this dynamic solo show, McIlroy dives into the wildly passionate world of rugby, bringing to life a colourful cast of characters who are completely obsessed with the game. From an overenthusiastic referee and intense sideline coach to die-hard spectators who live for every try, tackle, and controversial call, Rugby Mad captures the spirit, humour, and drama that surround rugby culture. With remarkable skill and physicality, McIlroy seamlessly transforms between characters, creating a fast-paced theatrical experience that is both hilarious and impressively crafted. At its heart, Rugby Mad is about passion, identity, and the things that unite people — making it just as enjoyable for those who've never watched a match as it is for devoted rugby lovers. The humour is relatable, the characters are instantly recognisable, and the energy is infectious. Rugby Mad promises a winning combination of comedy, charm, and theatrical flair.



SENT & THE RIVER GIVES

SAT 16h00 | 60 MIN (INCL. Q&A)
LECTURE THEATRE A | R50
FILM | PG 13

This compelling film double-bill celebrates the resilience and potential of South Africa's youth. SENT, directed by Ayanda Halimana, follows seven-year-old Thulile, whose first solo trip to the local shop takes a frightening turn, becoming a powerful story about childhood innocence and vulnerability. THE RIVER GIVES, directed by Mlungisi Ntuli, follows the inspiring EnviroChamps of Imbali and Ashdown as they protect their rivers and wetlands while confronting the social and environmental challenges facing their communities.



SHACKLETON

SAT 12h00 & 18h30 | 60 MIN
DRAMA CENTRE | R180 | THEATRE/STORY
TELLING, HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY | 12+

After a sold-out 2025 season, this acclaimed one-man theatrical triumph returns. A failed attempt to cross the Antarctic Continent leaves Ernest Shackleton's motley crew marooned on a drifting slab of ice in the most hostile environment on Earth. Their only hope lay in a makeshift lifeboat as they attempt a desperate voyage across the world's most treacherous seas to survive. SHACKLETON is a gripping, brutal and deeply human retelling of one of history's greatest survival stories, drawn from the real diaries and logbooks of the doomed expedition. An unforgettable theatrical experience that will leave you breathless and in awe of what makes people do the impossible. Conceived and performed by Brett de Groot.



SIREN

SAT 14h15 · SUN 10h00
35 MIN INCL. Q&A | LECTURE THEATRE B
R50 | FILM SCREENING | 13 +

The award-winning short film, SIREN, tells the story of a young girl stuck in a system that she cannot escape. Written poetically with dialogue rich in Zulu heritage, parallels are found between motherly figures and their subjects. Starring internationally acclaimed talent, characters that burn right off the screen with charisma, creating connections that cross borders. This short film confronts a difficult conversation which hopes to leave audiences aware and asking themselves how they can bring about change. Filmed on the iconic KwaZulu Natal coastline, what dark secrets are hidden behind the beautiful visual landscape? Written and directed by Mthokozisi Zulu, featuring Minnie Dlamini, Zazi Kunene and Elihle Mfenqa. Winner of the Durban 48 film project 2026.



SOUND COLLECTIVE

SUN 13h00 | 70 MIN | CHAPEL
R100 | LIVE MUSIC | ALL AGES

Experience a captivating musical journey where music tells stories, stirs memories, and brings people together.

Sound Collective presents a vibrant programme featuring captivating pianist and songbird Shelley McLean-Downham, acclaimed cellist Nina Watson, and double bassist Logan Byrne as guest soloists. Joined by the Clifton College Choir and a stunning string ensemble, they promise an inspiring celebration of musical collaboration.

From Stevie Wonder and Cinema Paradiso to the timeless songs of Carole King and a touch of swing, Sound Collective offers a kaleidoscope of musical genres spanning classical favourites, contemporary gems, and beloved classics that will delight audiences of all ages. An unforgettable musical experience of exceptional musicianship, memorable performances, and the shared joy of live music.



SRI NIVESHAN MUNSAMY

SAT 18h00 | 60 MIN
CHAMBERLAIN MARIMBA ROOM | R180
CLASSICAL INDIAN MUSIC | ALL AGES

Niveshan Munsamy is an accomplished classical musician trained in India. Carnatic music, one of the world's oldest living classical music traditions, originated in South India and has been preserved and enriched over centuries by legendary composers such as Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Syama Sastri. Renowned for its intricate melodic framework (raga), rhythmic sophistication (tala), and emphasis on improvisation, Carnatic music continues to captivate audiences across cultures and generations. For this concert, NIVESHAN will present a carefully curated programme showcasing the depth, beauty, and expressive power of Carnatic music. The performance will feature traditional compositions, improvisational elements, and works by celebrated composers, offering audiences an engaging journey through South India's rich musical heritage. Through a blend of technical mastery and artistic expression, the concert aims to create a meaningful cultural experience that is accessible to both dedicated classical music enthusiasts and new listeners alike.



STUCK IN DUBAI

FRI 20h30 | 60 MIN | MAIN THEATRE
R220 | COMEDY | 13+

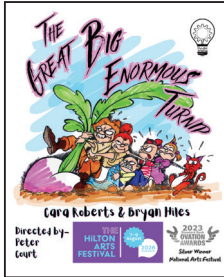
South African comedian Dalin Oliver is back on home soil and ready to hit stages at The Hilton Arts Festival with his brand-new stand-up comedy show, STUCK IN DUBAI, a wild, true story born from an experience no traveller wants. En route to perform at Adelaide Fringe, Dalin was in transit when conflict broke out in the region, leaving him stuck in Dubai for four days. What followed was a surreal mix of uncertainty, humour and viral fame. His social media updates gained traction and Dalin unexpectedly became the "official, unofficial international news correspondent for South Africa," earning both local and international media coverage. In classic South African style, he transformed a traumatic moment into comedy gold, finding laughter, love and lekkerness in his posts, receiving the same in return from his fellow South Africans at home and abroad. Fresh from surviving the wildest layover, and witnessing live missiles, he's bringing chaos and adrenaline fuelled storytelling in a show that promises to be packed with explosive laughter.



THE ANCIENT SCROLLS OF LUKUTONA

SAT 17h00 · SUN 13h00
30 MIN (INCL. Q&A) | R50 | 13+
LECTURE THEATRE B | FILM / FANTASY

The story follows Anila, a faithful elf handmaiden from the forests of Tarasina. She seeks counsel from an ancient tree, discovering that an ancient evil - a dragon returning from the stars - is biding its time to re-enter the world.



THE GREAT BIG ENORMOUS TURNIP

SAT 10h30 & 14h30 · SUN 13h30
45 MIN | THE LIDGETTON THEATRE
R80 | CHILDREN'S THEATRE | ALL AGES

A little old man (grumpy Old Geezer!) & a little old woman (nagging Old Bat!) hate the sight of each other! One day he grows the largest turnip in the world!

Old Geezer & Old Bat then try to pull it out of the ground. Hilarity ensues as they, with the help of the audience, finally learn to work together. With aspects of mime, mask, Commedia del' Arte and warped imagination, this tale will take you into the depths of the deep, dark woods & back!

Winner of a Silver Ovation Award at the 2023 National Arts Festival, it is a romp through said woods & warped minds. Written by Peter Court & co-directed by him & Bryan Hiles; performed by Bryan Hiles & Cara Roberts. Suitable for kids aged 3 to 300!



THE MOST AMAZING SHOW WITH CORNE AND TWAKKIE

SUN 12h45 | 60 MIN | SPORTS CENTRE
R220 | SKETCH COMEDY / PHYSICAL COMEDY / SATIRE | PG 16

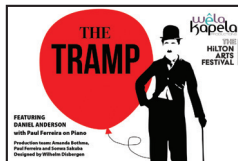
Before influencers and content creators. Before podcasts. Before "going viral" even had a name. There were Corné and Twakkie. The cult comedy icons who exploded out of South Africa's caravan parks and into the national consciousness are heading to the Hilton Arts Festival with what may be their most ambitious, unhinged and dangerously funny live production in years. Expect chaos, clowning, music, mayhem and more. Razor sharp satire and social commentary disguised as stupidity. Featuring Rob van Vuuren and Louw Venter. Be prepared.



THE OPERA SINGER

SAT 20h30 · SUN 14h30
80 MIN | MAIN THEATRE THEATRE
R220 | DRAMA ALL AGES

THE OPERA SINGER is a one-act play about sacrifice, legacy, and the fragile power of a voice, a personal drama that asks universal questions about memory, legacy, sacrifice and celebrity. It is an encounter between a world-famous diva at the end of her career and a young journalist eager to capture her story. Superficially it is an interview. But as the narrative and evening unfolds, it becomes something deeper: a battle of wills, a confession, and an unexpected reflection of two lives colliding. It asks questions about how an unlikely connection can reveal parts of yourself you were unaware of. What happens when the voice people worship becomes inseparable from the person carrying it. The dialogue crackles with wit and intellect, but it also lands with emotional truth. It's a world-class one-act drama that audiences lean into, because the questions these characters wrestle with - about ambition, love, loss and what makes us human — are questions that belong to all of us. Featuring Fiona Ramsay and Janna Ramos-Violante with direction by Ramos-Violante

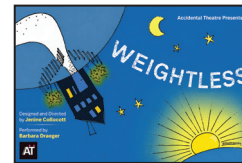


THE TRAMP

FRI 18h00 · SAT 14h30
85 MIN | MAIN THEATRE
R220 | MUSICAL THEATRE | ALL AGES

From the award-winning Wela Kapela team who brought you Vincent, THE TRAMP is a one-man hybrid piece about the life of the greatest comic of the silent film era, Charlie Chaplin. The life of Chaplin is closely woven through his beloved alter-ego, The Tramp, where the line between comedy and tragedy is often blurred. The story begs the question: who came first? Charlie or The Tramp? Accompanied by a timeless soundscape of honkey-tonk music and some musical numbers composed by Chaplin himself, coloured through reimagined pop, jazz, rock and musical theatre songs, the show gives a fresh perspective on the man behind the bowler hat and toothbrush moustache.

Written and directed by Amanda Bothma, featuring Daniel Anderson and Paul Ferreira. Musical direction by Paul Ferreira, choreography by Sonwa Sakuba and design by Wilhelm Disbergen, Andrew Timm and Adino Trapani.



WEIGHTLESS

FRI 18h00 · SUN 14h30
60 MIN | DRAMA CENTRE | R180
PHYSICAL THEATRE | ALL AGES

WEIGHTLESS is a gentle, visually rich theatre piece that follows the memories of neighbours living in a city apartment block. A young girl visits them—draws with them, plays pranks, shares tea. As each character recalls their time with her, we slowly start to piece together a deeper story: her mother is gone. Told through half-mask and Lecoq-inspired physical performance, this is a one-woman show that brings an entire community to life. There's loss at the centre of the story, but also warmth, humour, and care. The production doesn't try to explain anything. It simply lets us sit with what it means to notice someone. To hold them. Even just for a moment. People live near each other but aren't always connected.

WEIGHTLESS asks what it means to care for someone who isn't family. In a time where loneliness is rising and kindness can feel absent from both public life and politics, this piece turns its attention to what's still holding us together. Quietly. Without asking for anything back. Written by Jenine Collocott and Barbara Dreager featuring Barbara Dreager.



WORLD OF WONDERS!

SAT 17h00 | 60 MIN |
SPORTS CENTRE | R180
MAGIC & ILLUSION | ALL AGES

Step into a world where the impossible becomes reality. WORLD OF WONDERS! is a breathtaking, high-energy spectacle that has captivated audiences across the country. This visually stunning production brings together South Africa's top magicians and illusionists in one unforgettable showcase of mystery, skill, and pure theatrical magic. From mind-bending mental feats and impossible predictions to grand-scale illusions and dazzling sleight of hand, every moment is designed to amaze, surprise, and entertain. Expect the unexpected as objects appear, vanish, and transform before your eyes. Watch as reality bends, logic dissolves, and the line between truth and illusion disappears completely.

More than just a magic show, this is an experience—a celebration of wonder, imagination, and the extraordinary talent that defines the art of illusion. If you're looking for world-class entertainment that delivers gasps, laughter, and standing ovations, WORLD OF WONDERS is not to be missed. Cast: Brendan Peel, Li Lau and Wofflock.

You can book for any of the ticketed shows at webtickets or at the theatre box office over the festival weekend.



Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to book now!



web tickets
Live More.

ARNO CARSTENS

FRI 20h30 | 75 MIN SPORTS CENTRE | R250 | LIVE MUSIC | ALL AGES

For the first time, ARNO CARSTENS performs live at the Hilton Arts Festival with his band, David Watkyns and Giovanni Serici. One of South Africa's most celebrated artists, Carstens is a platinum-selling singer-songwriter, award-winning musician and accomplished fine artist. He rose to fame as the iconic frontman of Springbok Nude Girls before launching a hugely successful solo career spanning eight acclaimed albums. With his distinctive voice, compelling stage presence and fearless creativity, Arno continues to captivate audiences through both his music and visual art.



Discover the Creative Soul of the Midlands.

Welcome to uMngeni!

In the green heart of KwaZulu-Natal, the uMngeni region isn't just a destination - it's a living canvas where heritage, craft and countryside meet. Every winding road invites you to slow down, wander, and discover the magic of South Africa's creative countryside. Just over an hour from Durban and five hours from Johannesburg - yet a world apart.

It's more than a place - It's an Invitation.

- Stay in historic hotels, country lodges and charming farm cottages.
- Cycle or hike to iconic spots and through tranquil forest trails.
- Dine on farm-to-fork cuisine, sip craft gin, and watch the mist roll over gentle hills.
- Discover a region where UNESCO-recognised craft, living Zulu heritage, vineyard afternoons and festival lights come together to create South Africa's creative countryside.

www.umngenitourism.com
info@umngenitourism.com

[Insta@umngenitourism](https://www.instagram.com/umngenitourism)
[Facebook: uMngeni Tourism](https://www.facebook.com/umngenitourism)



Connecting culture, craft & community.

Hilton Arts Festival Merch

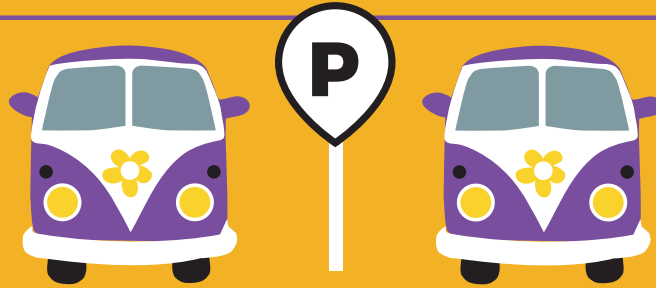
Wear the Vibe

Take a piece of the festival home with you! Explore our limited-edition **Hilton Arts Festival merchandise**, including **stylish caps, trendy bucket hats, cozy beanies, versatile shopper bags**, and a specially curated **commemorative wine** — a tribute to the spirit and legacy that continues to inspire the festival. Find them at the merch stand while stocks last!



PARKING FEE

R100 per car for the festival weekend

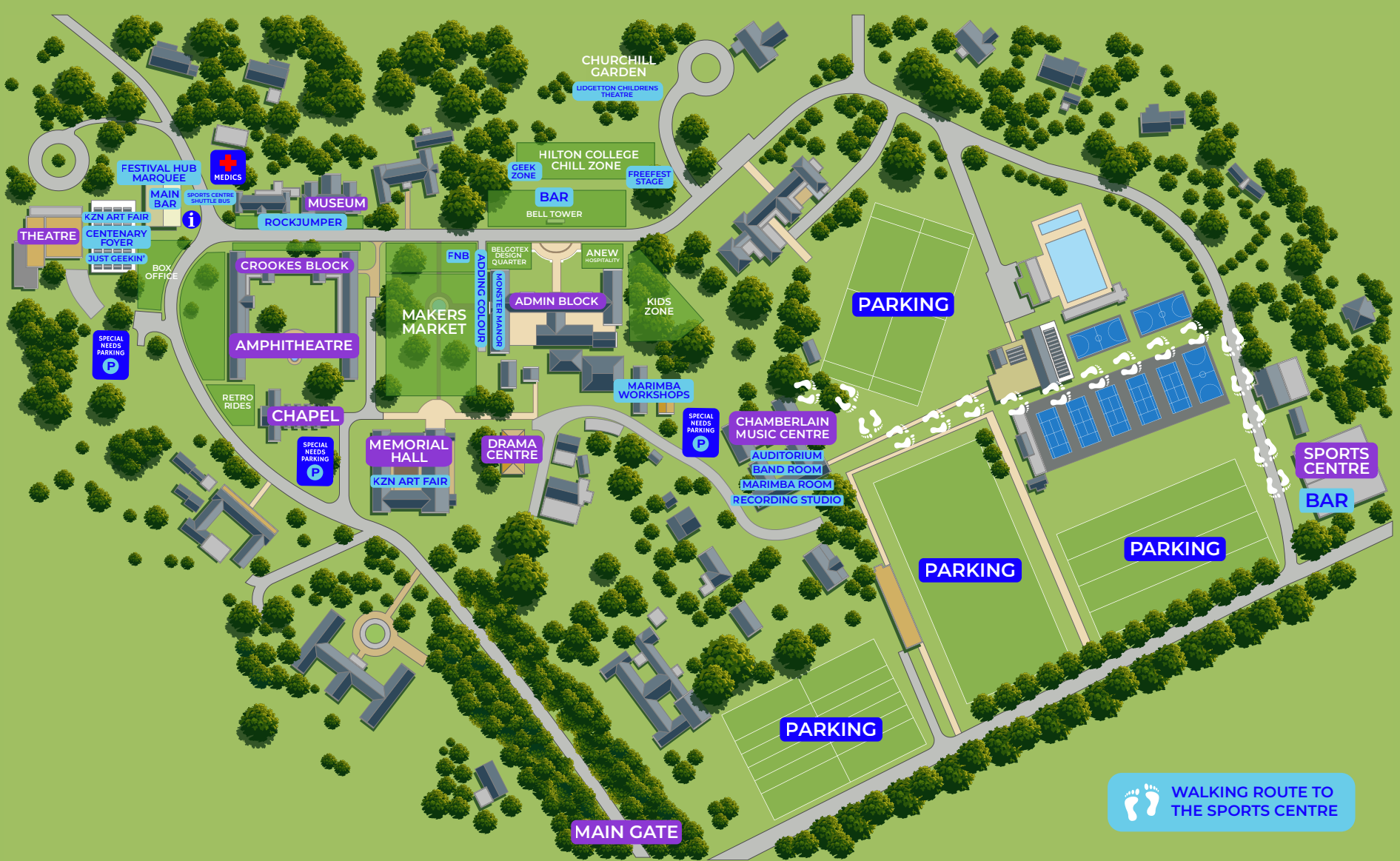


To all our Fans, please note that there is a **R100 per car entry fee (R50 for pensioners)** which is valid for multiple entries over the festival weekend.

Please pay before you leave (like you do at the mall) at the **info tent or the box office.**

Your support is vital in helping us to maintain the standards and the offering.
Thank you!





Thank you to our sponsors



VISA



ANEW
HOTEL HILTON
PIETERMARITZBURG

The Witness

Belgotex™

PRIMEDIA



DWR

EastCoastRadio
KZN'S NO.1 HIT MUSIC STATION

BLACK COFFEE

INSCAPE

THIRSTI™

SAB
To a Future with More Cheers

TOURISM FILM KWAZULU-NATAL
Magical Zulu Kingdom.

BMW Pinetown

SUPERTECH GROUP

MINI
PINETOWN

BAMBURY STUDIOS
RECORDING · STREAMING · LIVE PRODUCTION · AD SALES
WWW.BAMBURYSTUDIOS.CO.za · 0800714747

panda paints
ART SUPPLIES

ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures

village Talk

EXTREME EVENTS
EVENT MANAGEMENT

uMngeni Tourism

Mind Matters Summit™ 2026

momentum multiply