

Translate ▼

RSS



Dear UNIMA SA members

- [Our Thanks to Christa](#)
- [A New Partnership](#)
- [Our New Leader](#)
- [Fabricate](#)
- [War Horse in Cape Town](#)
- [The Farmer's Son at the Vrygrond Festival](#)

Our Thanks to Christa

As many of you already know, Christa Robijn was offered a prestigious position at the SOS Children's fund and she felt excited about this new horizon. She has therefore left UNIMA SA to work for SOS.

During Christa's tenure as Director of UNIMA SA we have seen a great increase in financial stability. Active Puppets has continued to flourish under Christa and Cindy's leadership and there has been a significant expansion in UNIMA's commissions, providing much needed work to puppet builders and performers. Christa has given a great deal to the organization over the past three years and we thank her for her time, energy and commitment.

A New Partnership

UNIMA SA and the Handspring Trust have recognized that there are so many common objectives and goals between the two organizations that it really makes sense to share resources. We have therefore chosen to hire a single director to head up both organizations.

We believe that the shared directorship will allow both organizations to be stronger and better at developing the arts of puppetry and using puppetry arts for development.

Our New Leader

It gives us great pleasure to introduce our new director Khanyisile Mbongwa.

Khanyisile is a curator and installation performative artist. She has a background in fundraising and running projects, creating new artistic projects and seeing them through as well as backing up and supporting the development of existing projects. Khanyisile has curated and exhibited on international exhibitions and performed on local and international platforms.

Khanyisile has a comprehensive background of involvement in both the visual and performing arts and has an equally strong interest in the development and transformation of the arts across the city. A founder member of the Gugulective, Khanyisile was in charge of administration and communication. She has worked at Iziko South African National Gallery as an Administrator and as part of GIPCA's team organizing and co-ordinating Live Art Festival.

Khanyisile will bring her own, dynamic flavour to the direction UNIMA SA and The Handspring Trust take and we are excited to see the new direction she will bring to the organisations.

Khanyisile, on reflects on the new position: "My interest creatively is to rethink puppetry as a form of technology - as a way of investigating how we make or rather instruct objects to 'perform'.

On an organizational level - I think the biggest challenge is finding ways to introduce a new audience whilst maintaining the audience that already exists. And this is something I think most creative spaces in Cape Town are in need of, a rethinking of who they are and their relevance - and a repositioning - and how this rethinking is featured within the social development leg of the organization."

Khanyisile quotes Sarah Diamond:

"Collaboration has moved beyond the spheres of research and creation, and the lines between creation and presentation are increasingly blurred. Hence, the role of the curator as an artist and collaborator is significant in a method where the artist moves between multiple roles as a performer, artist, inventor, action researcher and moderator."

Fabricate

A retrospective Exhibition by Handspring Puppet Company 4 Dec - 25 Jan

Events

Puppet creating workshops with experienced art and puppetry facilitator Jill Joubert:

- 15Nov 10am-1 (adults) R200
- 16th Dec 10am-1 (10yrs up) christmas workshop R200
- 18 Dec 10am-12(6-8yrs) R150
- 22 Dec 6-9pm (adults) Christmas workshop R200
- 10 Jan 10am-1 (10yrs up)R200

50% discount for all UNIMA SA members for Jill Joubert's workshops.

Booking essential. Call the AVA on 021 4247436. Organise your own group of (min 10) children and set up a private workshop. Call the AVA for info.

Talks

- Adrian Kohler talks on War Horse puppet design. 25 Nov 7-8pm. Free
- Manipulation demonstration and talk by Handspring Puppeteers Gabriel Marchand and Mandiseli Maseti 6 Dec 11am-12. Free
- Walkabout with artist Janni Younge 17 Jan 11-12am. Free

Performances

- I Love You When You're Breathing: a lecture on puppetry delivered by a puppet. 1 Dec 7-7:30pm Free
- Joey Live: 4 Dec 6:30 pm Free

War Horse in Cape Town

December 5 - 4 January 2015, War Horse comes to Cape Town. The production is presented in South Africa by Pieter Toerien, Rand Merchant Bank and The National Theatre of Great Britain, in association with Handspring Puppet Company.

As of May this year, more than 2 million people have seen War Horse in London, with over 5 million seeing the production worldwide since its opening at the National Theatre in 2007.

During its successful run on Broadway, War Horse received 5 Tony Awards, plus a special Tony for Handspring Puppet Company. The puppets in War Horse are handmade by 20 of Handspring's craftsmen and women. The larger than life horses are each operated by three puppeteers who work together to make the horse noises, bringing the equine puppets to life onstage. There are 23 puppets in total that include a goose, two swallows and two crows. Considering Handspring's pivotal role in the production, Chris Harper, the producer of War Horse said, "... bringing the show to South Africa is a particularly special moment in the history of this show."

On at the Artscape Opera House. Book through [Computicket](#).

The Farmer's Son at the Vrygrond Festival

The Farmer's Son, a 'work in progress' by Siphesakhe will be showcasing at the Vryground Festival. Siphesakhe is a theatre group that's been mentored by UNIMA SA, under its Active Puppets programme.

The Farmer's Son follows the story of Mpazamo who takes us from rural Eastern Cape to the underbelly of the inner-city of Cape Town. When a spoilt young man demands his inheritance from his father, he is hurled into a whirlwind of excess and decadence. He makes some unsavoury friends on his travels and finds himself confronted with difficult choices. He discovers, through hard experience, what it means to be a man.

This story is told through puppetry and its suitable for children aged 13 years and upwards.

Duration: 45minutes

Language: English

Director: Rouxnet Brown

Script reworked by Mongiwekhaya Mthobeni

To see the full daily programme for the Vrygrond Festival, please

visit www.theatrearts.co.za from the 13th November onwards.

All the productions are 'pay as you can'.

Thank you

UNIMA SA

[Unsubscribe](#) info@unima.se from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)
Copyright (C) 2014 Unima South Africa All rights reserved.

