

## PUBLIC DISCOURSE & WORKSHOP PROGRAM

THE 2024 UNAM Performing Arts Showcase includes a public learning program for various creatives.

### **Viewpoints by Dr Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja (Saturday, 5.10.2024, 10H30)**

This workshop will focus on the basics of the performance composition technique known as Viewpoints to assist actors and physical theatre makers to develop their performance muscles. The workshop will explore all Viewpoints namely Tempo, Duration, Kinesthetic Response, and Repetition, Shape, Gesture, Architecture, Spatial Relationship and Topography.

### **Audition Etiquette for Stage Actors by Sepiso Mwangi (Saturday, 5.10.2024, 12H30)**

This workshop will focus on 'Dos and Don'ts' of the audition process, from choosing what to wear to the material you will audition with. It will also address what is appropriate behaviour, how your attitude can impact an audition before you even audition and address your general demeanour. Participants will leave with actionable knowledge and tips that will be helpful for the next audition.

**ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE.**

#### **Mervin C Claasen**

Mervin is a highly creative artist that has great qualities in the field of music performances, acting, script writing, directing, training and clowning. He has been in the arts industry for over 2 decades and therefore, grabbed all opportunities to master the art of performing. Not only is he capable of performing and delivering quality services and has also mastered the art of project management. He is a very passionate artist and believe his contribution as a Namibian creative, will make a difference to the world.

*Mervin can be contacted at  
hozala.cc@gmail.com*



#### **Anina Peters**

Anina Peters is a 4th year Music and Drama student at the University of Namibia. Throughout her childhood, she was always drawn to performing, whether it was just for her parents or for a larger crowd. After participating in high school productions, she decided to chase after the arts and get a Bachelors degree specializing in Music and Drama to receive formal training to accomplish her goals of working in Theatre.

*Anina can be contacted at  
petersanina@gmail.com*



#### **Bupe Chiwala**

Bupe Chiwala is a Zambian born performance artist based in Windhoek Namibia. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree majoring in Music and Advertising. She trains in Saxophone studies, dance as well as Ethnomusicology. She is passionate about stage and screen and aims to use her creativity to connect with audiences all while discovering herself through dance and music. She is a seasoned performer with 8 years of dance experience as a self taught dancer until she came to Namibia. She has won awards as a soloist as well as with her dance group UCDC.

*Bupe can be contacted at  
bupe.evie@gmail.com*



#### **Shennika Gee Whelpton**

Shennika Gee Whelpton is a 4th year Bachelor of Arts student majoring in Theatre. From Botswana, she grew up on the edge of the Okavango Delta with her mother who did a lot of community work. Shennika spent a lot of time growing up with the communities in the delta, listening to beautiful and unique stories. This is where she found the love of storytelling. She has always loved film and theatre. Watching the live performances of The Lion King and War Horse in Cape Town changed her life, and this is when she decided to pursue a career in performance arts.

*Shennika can be contacted at  
shennikawhelpton@gmail.com*



# THE UNAM PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE WEEK

4-5 October 2024

SHOWCASING THE BEST OF  
THE 2024 UNIVERSITY OF  
NAMIBIA'S PERFORMING ARTS  
WORKS IN

MUSIC

DANCE & MOVEMENT

DRAMA



The National Theatre of Namibia and the Performing Arts Section of the University of Namibia are proud to present the 2024 UNAM Performing Arts Showcase Week.

Initiated in 2019, the collaborative project aims to promote the works of final-year students as they embark on their careers in the performing arts industry.

The showcase, scheduled from 04–05 October 2024, presents the best work from senior students in the Performing Arts Section in various disciplines – Acting and Voice, Movement, and Dance, and will feature performances from the Music department and the UNAM Choir.

The UNAM Performing Arts Showcase affords students the chance to showcase their work on a professional stage and therefore challenges them to set up and maintain a certain calibre of quality, excellence, creativity and integrity in the work they do.

The Showcase also offers workshops on a mirage of topics related to the different disciplines that are taught in the Drama and Music sections. These workshops are facilitated by lecturers, senior students and alumni and offered for free to public members and creatives.

**Dates: 04–05 October 2024**

**Venue: National Theatre of Namibia, Backstage**

#### ABOUT THE UNAM PERFORMING ARTS SECTION

The Performing Arts Section, previously known as the School of Arts, was established in 1982 and comprises of drama, music and visual arts courses. The Section has produced some of Namibia's best theatre makers and performers. Furthermore, it has continued to produce award-winning works and has created strong links with the industry for Industrial Theatre in Namibia.

#### ACTIVITIES & COURSES OF THE SECTION

Diplomas in Drama and Music  
BA Honours degrees in Drama and Music  
Master's Degrees in Drama and Music  
PhD degrees in Drama and Music  
UNAM Choir

#### ABOUT THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF NAMIBIA

##### Our Mandate

To create, produce and promote performing arts in all its dimensions, as a creative expression. To identify, develop and promote creative talents and artistic skills, careers, services and productions, as a response to national challenges, and to grow a creative, knowledge-based economy, as well as nurture national pride and identity.

##### Our Vision

To nurture, develop, present and preserve quality performing arts for the enjoyment of all Namibians.

# DAY 1

## DRAMA & MUSIC

FRIDAY | 04 October 2024 | 18H00

Official Opening of Showcases

### SHOWCASE 1

#### The Boarding House by David H Klein

Adapted by: Shennika G. Whelpton, 4th Year Directing Student

#### Synopsis:

The Boarding House is a dramatic satire, by David H Klein, of the story by James Joyce. Mrs Mooney, the owner of the boarding house of questionable reputation, exploits the wiles of her daughter Polly, and the power of the Church to snare one of her more respectable boarders as her potential son-in-law.

### SHOWCASE 2

#### UNAM Choir Performance

The UNAM Choir was formed in 1992 but only became active in 1997 after the recruitment of Bonnie Pereko who been its lead composer for over 20 years. The group has had international appearances in several African countries including South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda. It is composed mainly of students from the University of Namibia's Windhoek main campus.

### SHOWCASE 3

#### UN(WORKED): Kapena lilonga / Kapepepo / Geen Werk 4th Year Acting Students

#### Synopsis:

This work is a documentary theatre performance which draws on real-life interviews, news reports and auto-biographical material relating to the labour, work and employment crises in the Namibian context. The material gathered is performed verbatim, to allow these final year student actors to reflect on what it means to enter the world of work.

# DAY 2

## DANCE

SATURDAY | 05 October 2024 | 15h00

\*Featuring a special performance by the UNAM Lecturers

### SHOWCASE 1

#### "Fragments of Wholeness: A Journey in Motion" Choreographer: Bupe Chiwala, 4th Year Dance Student

#### Synopsis

"Fragments of Wholeness" is a powerful dance production that follows the emotional journey of a young woman who is devastated by a betrayal from someone she trusted. After experiencing a traumatic event, she navigates the stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and renewal—each expressed through evocative choreography. As she moves through these stages, she gradually pieces herself back together, transforming her pain into strength. The performance is a poignant exploration of trauma, healing, and the resilience of the human spirit.

### SHOWCASE 2

#### Piano Recital: Erina Junius

### SHOWCASE 3

#### Sizwe Banzi is Dead

Directed by: Mervin C Claasen, 4th Year Directing Student

#### Synopsis:

Sizwe Banzi is Dead is a powerful South African play co-written by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona in 1972. The play is set during apartheid, a time of severe racial oppression, and explores themes of identity, survival, and the dehumanizing effects of systemic racism. The plot revolves around Sizwe Banzi, a man struggling to survive under apartheid's restrictive pass laws.

### SHOWCASE 4

#### UNAM Brass Band

### SHOWCASE 5

#### Staff Performance

Music, Dance, Poetry and Monologues

TICKETS ARE ₦50 PER DAY  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR