

NEWS LETTER



ISSUE 3





2017 OCTOBER NEWS



SUNDAY JAZZ SUNDOWNERS

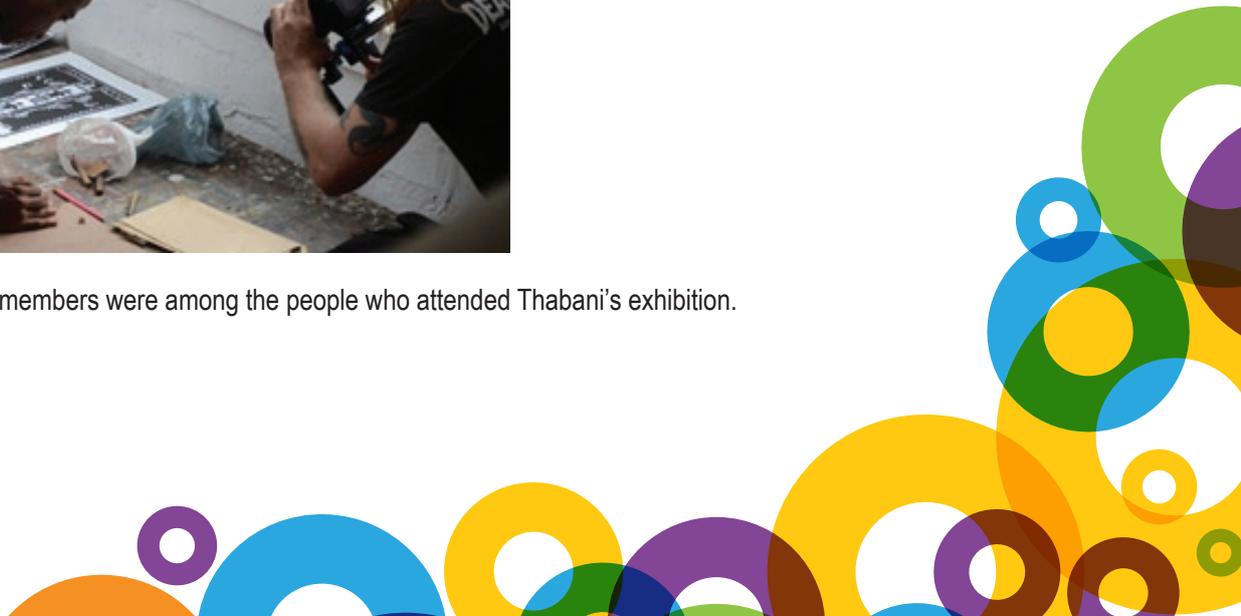
October's Sunday Jazz Sundowners was yet another jolly show with exciting live acts such as Kunle Ayo who opened the October sessions with his performance. This musician got everyone losing their minds when he performed songs such as Joroni, Ori-Okere, Ayobani, Kogbagbara, Best of Both Worlds, Nwa Baby, Water and If by Davido. The second session's band was led by an extremely talented saxophonist Leon Scharnick also featured Dalisu Ndlazi - the Bassist and Sanele Phakathi - the Pianist and the Drummer. The entire band members did what they do best on stage by keeping everyone entertained and moving along to the beats. Mazwakhe Gumede and his band also did an amazing job. The crowd was blown away by the wonderful jazz played by the band. And the 1st act brought by Smindlos made us dance to his sounds.

THROUGH A WINDOW EXHIBITION

During National Disability Awareness Month, which aimed at recognizing talented artists living with disabilities, the BAT Centre hosted the "Through A Window" Print Exhibition which opened on the 1st of October 2017 in Menzi Mchunu Gallery and displayed artwork by Thabani Msomi. His lino cut prints articulated the artist's perspective of viewing the world and understanding life.



The eDeaf Society members were among the people who attended Thabani's exhibition.





1. Tell us about your art background. What influenced you? How would you outline your themes?

- The influence behind my work is my background on how I was raised as a young man growing up. In my childhood I was this person who couldn't read and write back then even now. From my early age, the creative side is something that was there. Back then I would never have thought that one day I'll become a professional visual artist. So somehow to be in this field of art I take it as a call. I get to question many things in our society using my work as a voice to express how I see the world, also interlinking with the people out there in our societies.

- As an visual artist I recognise myself as a free spirit because I get to express myself in any way of feeling that I'm in that certain time.

2. Tell us about your experience on being a runner - up of Top 100, Top 7 & Top 2 for SASOL New Signature's Competition.

- In the beginning of this year 2017 my plan was to enter the Sasol competition and win it, so it was my biggest plan although I didn't make it to number one. However, that has shown me how my work is growing.

3. Now that you have experienced such an amazing experience - where are you heading to from now? What plans do you have? Do you have another new strategy that you want to implement?

- Well I am a man of ideas. I cannot promise much at the moment, as I believe in the Art peace when I see it. Throughout that, I simply live. My next upcoming project, it's going to take me one and a half year to finish. Sasol competition is a good platform to value your work and your ideas, even personally to you as an artist so you know where exactly u are standing.

My next project is going to be an installation piece whereby people come together and install it. The whole idea it is to make a connection between the audience with the artwork, which is also a way of communication.

Title of the piece is Breaking Boundaries .

4. How was your stay in Germany?

- It was great to research on how other countries living.

5. With the works that you are currently producing, did they represent your background as a South African? If so, how?

- Yes they did represent my work as an South African artist, because my work involves the South African landscape and also the inspiration behind it.

6. What similarities do you think South Africa and Germany have in art? According to what you have perceived, do you think we do stand a chance in adopting/ improving in SA?

- What I experienced in Germany is networking. They are very good and professional on it., so I think as South Africans we need to work on that.

- Yes, according to my perspective we can improve - it's all about working together and sharing ideas.

7. If you were to get an offer from any art gallery that wants to sign you in, would you agree?

- Being represented by a gallery from Europe, depending on the benefits that they are offering.





ALVIN ANDERSON

SHARE HIS BREMEN - GERMANY MOMENTS :

The fourth quarter officially marks the end of my journey in Bremen, Germany which has been filled with a lot of highs and lows but all in all has been an absolutely amazing experience that I would never be able to express in words. In the beginning I felt a little out of place but in the end it felt like it had been a life I had been living my whole life yet it had only been a year. In my opinion it is easier to be welcomed than to say goodbye.

I have been back at the BAT Centre for a week, which has been really hectic and if I were to be truly honest it is exactly how I remembered it. In essence I miss the laid back approach that I had at "econtur", my organization in Germany, and flexible working hours. The most exciting part of these last three months in Bremen was the preparation seminar for the outgoing volunteers. I truly found it to be a humbling experience since they seemed to be a fun group of people. The idea of being a part of the seminar by presenting my ideologies and experience during my time was awesome. Also having Nise around for a week was pretty amazing, seeing a familiar face from Durban that reminded me that I would be leaving soon. The workload during the last three months was pretty relaxed and calm as most visa applications for the outgoing volunteers had effectively been approved and the only surprise element had been India which was seemed really tight but in the end it worked out perfectly. Visiting Bremerhaven to see the Emigration Museum was also a wonderful and educative experience, which was a perfect way to close the curtain to an amazing experience.

Development Cooperation

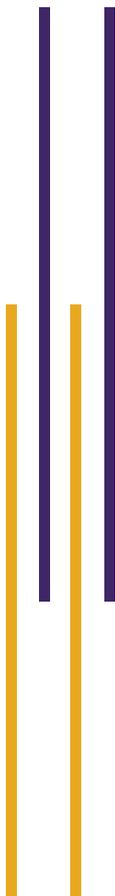
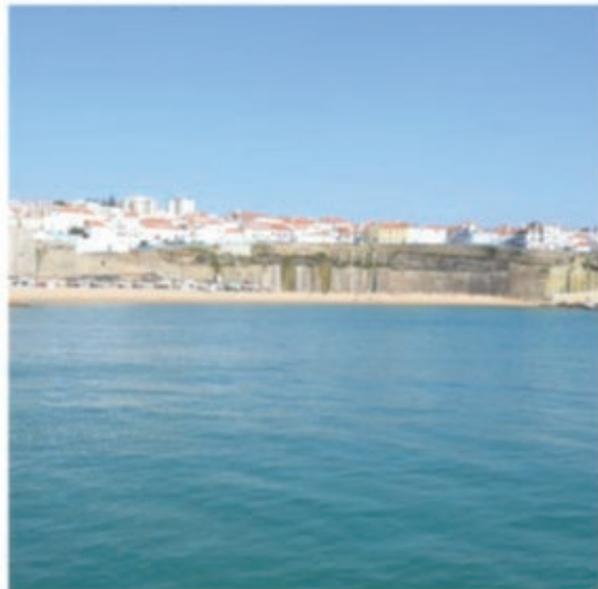
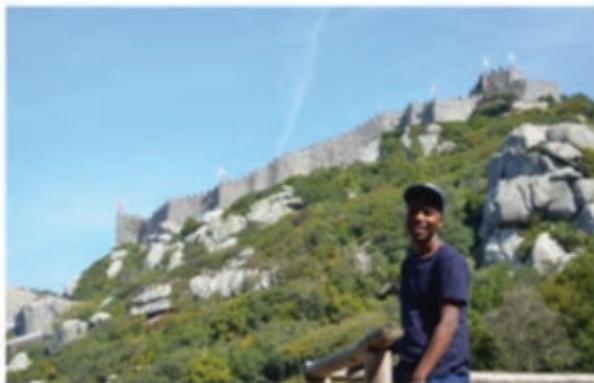
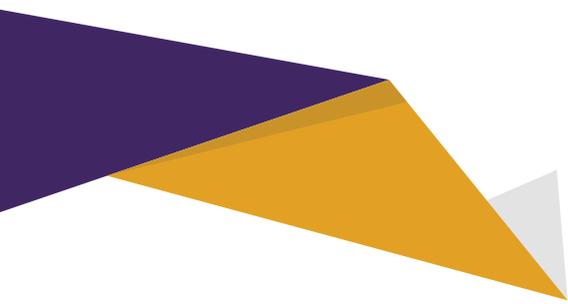
Development cooperation has a critical role to play especially in the sense of the global south meeting the global north. There needs to be some sort of evaluation of the role of the global North: "Sending organisations" should not adapt the perception that it is easier for them to send out volunteers, and at the same time they would not be willing to receive volunteers. In order for a partnership to be one, there needs to be an understanding, balance and benefits. However as much as Germany is a developed country that has a lot of opportunities to offer, there are times where I feel it is outdated in its approach to not being welcoming to volunteers especially if there is a language barrier. A person's ability to effectively execute tasks should not be solely based on their understanding for a language but rather on how can one make it work because the 'one-size fits all approach' is really a narrow-minded approach.

My year abroad has equipped me with knowledge and experiences that make me feel like there should be more opportunities for volunteers from the global south to experience the global north. The opportunity to break stereotypes, racial and cultural perceptions is possible through development cooperation especially if it is executed on eye-level. My desire or hope is for there to be 3500 volunteers from the global south volunteering in the global north in order to close the economic gaps that the global south faces. The other desire is that through development cooperation more partnerships are developed between the global south so that we one day have the capacity and skills to develop our own projects and programmes where we are seen as sending organisations and the global north as receiving organisations. I think it would be a missed opportunity if we as the global south continue to receive volunteers from the global north without the required agreement for them to also receive volunteers from the global south. I find this to be a critical component of creating independency and sustainability in a world based on equal opportunities with partnerships being on eye-level rather than superiority.

Cultural/Personal Development

'Change is evitable' I think I made this statement throughout my entire journey, which I find to be completely true in every sense. Personally I have grown in my ideas and perceptions of various topics that shape the way we live which has inevitably changed. I have a lifetime memorable experience that I can share with my family, friends and colleagues. I met people that were strangers and later would become my family and friends. The most difficult part was that the life I had been living for a year I had become used to it, like I had lived it before.

The biggest challenge for me during these last three months was witnessing my friend Deepika come to terms with her reality of heading home, which was really emotional, so that I just could not help but feel helpless especially during our personal conversations. The relationship she had formed with her colleague who later became a friend or even a mother figure was really tough to watch as they both knew that they might never get the chance to see each other again. In a way I honestly wished I had formed a relationship as close as their one but I was really honoured to have had the opportunity to witness how they learned from each other. I also had the opportunity to travel to Portugal as part of my final travel plan, which was absolutely amazing and the only summer I actually experienced in Europe. The people, destinations and food were one of the best highlights of my final three month journey.





ONE ON ONE WITH ZETHE MDLETSHE

KZN's 25-year old jazz musician Zethe Mdletshe, who is the BAT Centre's Ladies Night show organiser, aims to push her career through the NXT LVL Music competition show that is aired every Wednesday Night at 21:20 on Channel 161- Mzansi Magic. Speaking to the BAT Centre Publicity team, she said "I was at point where i really needed something to push my career. A bigger platform. I also loved the fact that it was on a mentorship base. So it was going to allow me to grow as an artist." Asked about the mentor, she finds it is very interesting to work with him - she said "Riky rick, he was really patient with me. He pushed me at the same time as he applauded my good work."

Zethe is also planning to release her first single that was launched on the show and promises to work on her EP in December. She also mentioned that she wants to do a lot of touring and collaborations. The music show focuses on discovering Mzansi's next big superstar is entered by Zethe, Jesse, Theo, Thami and Music 97. Contestants are mentored by DJ Zinhle, Danny K, Euphonik, Riky Rick and Big Nuz. And only one contestant / group will walk away with a prize worth R1 million.

Vote Zethe to 33575 - SMS cost R1.50

Voting opens at 21:30 on the 29th of November 2017 until the 6th of December 2017.

Follow @zethe_m on her journey and don't forget to be part of the conversation by using #VodacomNXTLVL.



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SUNDAY JAZZ SUNDOWNERS

Our first session of Sunday Jazz Sundowners in November started off with a bang! Nkosinathi & Friends showed the audience what they are made of. The band leader Nkosinathi Ntshangase who plays a Trombone was with his dashing talented band members such as Phumlani Mtiiti - Saxophonist, Nhlanhla Moeletsane - Trumpeter, Nhlanhla Xulu - Pianist and Mzamo Zungu - Drummer. This band played various vibey songs such as KwaMashu, Jikeleza, Rise Up and Sjudla Sami, to name a few. The following Sunday had a sensational and talented musician, Natalie Rungan and she unquestionably kept everybody entertained as she played songs such as Heart Aflame, Africa My Home, Come Dance, Saving My Love and did some cover tracks such as For You by the late Whitey Houston. Another sizzling hot performance was delivered by the Quiet Storm band which really proved to the audience members that they are one of the best and existing jazz bands in the industry. The band consists of Philani Ngidi who is the Bass Guitarist / Band Leader and founder of the project, Shem Mahabeer - Pianist, Shaun Petersen - Drummer, Dane Frances - Lead Guitarist. Jazz lovers couldn't stop moving, jamming and singing along to the sounds of Quiet Storm. And the final live performance of the month led by Mduduzi Mahlobo made sure to ooze jazz lovers with his captivating act and kept everybody entertained. His band consisted of Talent Mbatha - Bassist, Luyolo Masaki - Drummer, Thobane Mbatha - Keyboard Player and two talented backing up ladies - Nomkhosi Mazibuko and Sindi Mabika.



21ST POETRY AFRICA

Samthing Soweto stunned the audience at the finale of the 21st Poetry Africa International Festival which took place at BAT Centre!



Sipho Gumede Hall was packed with poets and music fans that attended Poetry Africa.



Edward Escoffet , Spain Poet



Black Ice delivering his poem on stage.



Poet Natalie Molebatsi



Samthing Soweto doing what he does best on stage



Andrew Manyika, Zimbabwean Poet

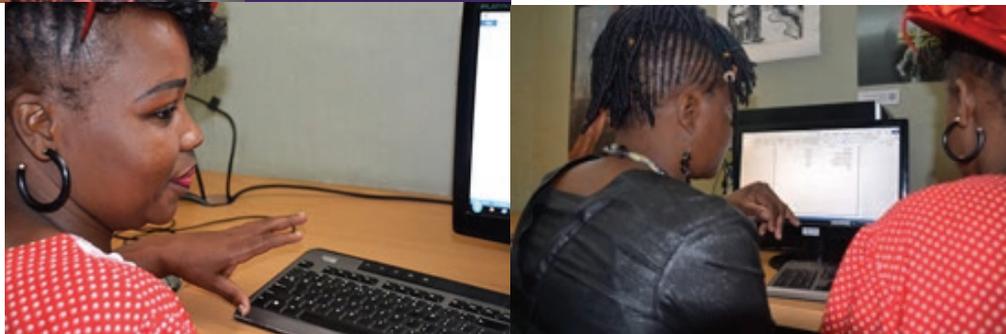


GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY:

Our multimedia centre coordinator, Sizwe Ndzimbovu captured while teaching Maskandi group members "Ukushikisha Kwembokodo" during their computer lesson.

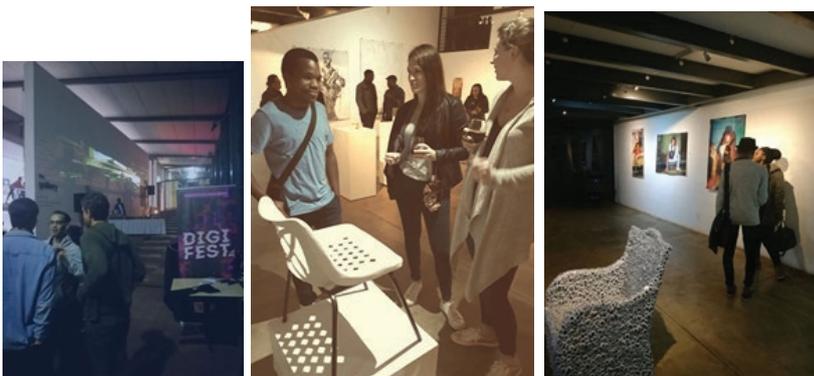


Sizwe Ndzimbovu BAT Centre's Multimedia Officer helping Ukushikisha Kwembokodo with computer lessons.



CAPTURED MOMENTS

BAT Centre's Marketing & Publicity as well as the Visual Arts team was among the viewers who attended DUT's Fine Art and Jewellery Design graduate exhibition on the 12th of November 2016. And the Visual Arts intern Bongumenzi Ngobese's artwork was also part of the installation displayed at KZNSA Gallery. This night was part of the DUTDi-giFest program and brought interesting insights for the BAT Centre team.



Pieter-Dirk Uys - South Africa's performer, author, and social activist popularly known as Evita Bezuidenhout – visited Lungelo's Wax Museum.



OUR LAST RESPECT TO THE LEGEND : BAB' THEO BOPHELA

Family and friends gathered to pay their last respect to the legendary artist Theo Bophela who has made a mark in the jazz music landscape. The funeral was attended by a number of great jazz musicians, such as Abigail Kubheka, Dorothy Masuku, Letta Mbuli, Bab' Welcome Msomi and more. The service was a very beautiful send-off which included joyous performances and touching speeches. Our beloved Theo Bophela, inspirational musician, loving father, husband and grandfather, wise friend and mentor will forever live in our hearts.



From Left: Jazz Legends: Dorothy Masuku, Abigail Kubheka and Letta Mbuli

LUNCH HOUR WITH BAT CENTRE STUDENTS



WITHIN AND OUT: WOMANHOOD, IDENTITY AND NATURE : AN ALL-FEMALE CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITION

The BAT Centre's opening of Within and Out: Womanhood, Identity and Nature : All Female Contemporary Exhibition, aimed to promote female artists which are still facing a challenge of being underrepresented in the province, was attended by a number of art lovers who did seem to be amazed with the artworks displayed at Menzi Mchunu Gallery on the 26th of November 2017.

The name of the exhibition is drawn from the concepts that the artists are unapologetically exploring in their work. Although being diverse, the works have the similar threads of questioning cultural and social construct of womanhood, identity and the woman's experience of her environment.

This all-female exhibition of freshly graduated artists will run until the 28th of January 2018. The focus is based on addressing gender issues and women abuse, initially starting with the "16 Days for No Violence Against Women and Children" running between 25 November and 10 December.

The artists are Amy Waller, Bukelwa Ndakisa, Nokuphila Gwala, Nomfundo Mkhize, Nondumiso Msenti and Sbusisiwe Kubheka. The works were selected from the final examination of the Durban University of Technology 3rd and B-Tech years of 2017.



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