



## **ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL (HSDF)**

Schools were invited to enter productions with themes that address social challenges learners are facing in South Africa today. Judges found it rather challenging to select the top six candidates from 26 excellent entries. Themes explored by learners in their productions include the impact of social media on the lives of youngsters, the importance of career choices, dealing with temptation, and the effects of power abuse.

Marlene le Roux, CEO of Artscape, says, “This year’s finalists could not be more diverse in their composition and at the same time, the most inclusive. The HSDF really makes a meaningful contribution to these teens’ lives, helping to develop their confidence as young adults.”

Jana Hattingh, Suidoosterfees CEO, says, “It is encouraging to see what themes hold an interest to our youth. We are impressed by the maturity and diversity of topics in the productions. It is also encouraging to see that drama activities have not halted at schools due to Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns. This is evident in the great number of entries of superb quality.”

The finalists are: De la Bat School for the Deaf (Worcester); Hout Bay International School; Martin Oosthuizen High School (Kakamas); Ikhwezi Theatre Company, representing schools in Khayelitsha; Jan van Riebeeck High (Cape Town) & The Pioneer School for the visually Impaired (Worcester).

## **THE PROGRAMME**

### **Friday, 15 October 2021**

11h00 - 12h00	Hout Bay International School	<b>Terminal Act</b>
13h30 - 14h30	De la Bat School	<b>Antony &amp; Cleopatra</b>
16h00 - 17h00	Ikhwezi Theatre Company	<b>Ivili (The wheel)</b>

### **Saturday, 16 October 2021**

10h30 - 11h30	Jan van Riebeeck High School	<b>Om teen treine te skree</b>
13h00 - 14h00	Martin Oosthuizen High School	<b>Neer daal die reën</b>
15h30 - 16h30	Pioneer School	<b>Detensie/Detention</b>
16h30 - 17h10	Judges deliberate	
17h10 - 17h40	AWARDS CEREMONY	

## ABOUT THE FINALISTS

**DE LA BAT SCHOOL: ANTONY & CLEOPATRA**

**WRITER:** Based on the play by William Shakespeare

**DIRECTORS:** Karien Jordaan, Esté Labuschagne and Elzet van der Westhuizen

**CAST:** Paul Jacobs, Attie Koyo, Amahle Jemane, Elvirno Visagie, Zoë Meyer, Buhle Nyitana, Joshua Jacobs, Rodwin Beyers; Voice actors: Gadri Pieterse & Maxwell Baron

De la Bat School's drama journey starts when a play is chosen. The play is then rewritten with the purpose of making it easier to use for learners and to incorporate elements of the deaf culture. A video recording is then made in South African Sign Language, complementing the script in text format. Learners are taught to use lights as cues, enabling them to negotiate dialogue, music and sound effects appropriately while acting.

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**HOËRSKOOI JAN VAN RIEBEECK: OM TEEN TREINE TE SKREE**

**SKRYWER EN REGIE:** Kanya Viljoen

**SPELERS:** Elzaan Daniels, Darren Cloete, Andoné Strydom, Karla Luyt, Faylene van Rooyen, Lisa Best, Seth Louw, Lucas Wildenboer & Mickaylah Japhta

*Om teen treine te skree is 'n nuwe teaterstuk deur Kanya Viljoen, met tien leerders van Hoërskool Jan van Riebeeck in die rolverdeling. Die toneelstuk ondersoek temas waarmee tieners daaglik omgaan, soos kuberafknouery, groepsdruk, sosiale angs en die druk wat akademiese verwagtinge meebring. Om teen treine te skree het vroeër vanjaar op uitnodiging van die Suidoosterfees deel uitgemaak van Die Klaskamer. Jan van Riebeeck se tienertoneelgroep en tegniese span is saamgestel uit leerders van graad 9 tot matriek.*

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**HOËRSKOOI MARTIN OOSTHUIZEN: NEER DAAL DIE REËN**

**SKRYWER:** Brian Kenton (vertaal deur Gerhard Coetzer)

**REGIE:** Barnie Mans

**SPELERS:** Zander Oberholster en Le Roux de Vos

Hoërskool Martin Oosthuizen op Kakamas het oor die jare 'n reputasie verwerf as een van die voorste tienertoneelskole in Suid-Afrika en spog met etlike nasionale pryse, toekennings en nominasies wat tydens 'n verskeidenheid kompetisies verower is. Die skool bied elke twee jaar 'n groot produksie aan met massadeelname as mikpunt, en die hele skool neem gewoonlik aan sulke projekte deel.

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**HOUT BAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: TERMINAL ACT**

**WRITER:** Workshopped by learners

**DIRECTOR:** Nicole Senekal

**CAST:** Antonio Biagi, Tyler Bachle, Noa Elliot, Jenna Gibson, Connor Healy, Ariel Kedem, Max Morris, Calvin Norris & Aaifiya Zafar

*Terminal Act* is the production of a text created by MYP5 drama students. They spent many hours improvising and writing the dialogue, addressing issues relevant to them, such as loneliness, racism, the dangers of social media and the complexity of relationships. Hout Bay International School is well-known for their annual musicals showcasing students' talent in music, dance and acting. Because a musical could not be produced this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, *Terminal Act* was compiled from a series of learners' one-act scripts.

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**IKHWEZI THEATRE COMPANY: IVILI (THE WHEEL)**

**WRITER/DIRECTOR:** Lukhanyo Langa

**CAST:** Ayabonga Yantolo, Anga Gola, Lindokuhle Mgojo, Thamsanqa Dywili & Naledi Somdaka

Ikhwezi Theatre Company is a group of dedicated young people passionate about the performing arts. It was founded in 2015 as an after-school programme, facilitated by the Khwela community-based organisation at Ikhwezilesizwe Primary School in Khayelitsha. The Company was created to serve high school learners who kept returning for drama sessions after leaving primary school.

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**PIONEERSKOOL: DETENSIE/DETENTION**

**SKRYWER:** John Hughes

**REGIE:** Derek Daly

**SPELERS:** Allanzo Mapoe, Refuwe Moses, Jadha Abrahams, Jarred Kroukamp, Elvina Diamond & Anthony Gaitskill

Die Pionierskool vir Siggestremde leerders in Worcester se talent en vaardighede is al by die feeste in Fraserburg en Montagu, die Nasionale Toneelspelkompetisie en die *Shakespeare South African Schools Festival* met entoesiasme en erkenning begroet. Leerders word vanuit die staanspoor by die produksieproses betrek en hulle leefwêreld word heg verweef in die skepping en uitvoering van opvoerings. Gehore word ontroer deur hulle kragtige verhale wat, ondanks uitdagings, met selfvertroue en eerlikheid ten tonele gevoer word.



## ABOUT THE JUDGES

**Herman van der Westhuizen** is the chairperson of the kykNET Fiësta Awards. He served on many adjudication panels, including the Fleur du Caps, the Kannas at the KKNK, the Woordtrofees at the Woordfees, and the Suidoosterfees' NATi Rising Stars project.

**Dean Smith** starred in plays like *Vaselinetjie*, *Braai*, *Die dag is bros* (for which he won the 2016 Fiësta Theatre Award as best supporting actor), *Kinnes* and *Die gangsters*. He is also famous for his role in the popular kykNET soapie, *Suidooster*.

**Charles Banjatwa** is the community liaison officer at Artscape and has read and judged drama works for many years. He is an avid theatregoer and his many years in the industry is testimony to his expert opinions on theatre productions.

**Simone Heradien** is the senior manager of Artscape's Communications and Brand Management team. An accomplished theatremaker herself, she has received critical acclaim for her one-woman show, *The Real Mrs Muhammad*. Simone serves as judge for many theatre competitions, including the Suidoosterfees NATi Rising Stars project.

## ABOUT THE AWARD CATEGORIES

Judges will bestow the following awards in 2021:

Best Actor

Best Actress

Best Script/adaptation

Best Director

Judges' Special Award

Best production

