

SATURDAY MASTERCLASSES

Venue: Artscape isiBaya Room

Time: 10h00 – 12h00

Bookings:
Dial-a-Seat
021 421 7695

Fast-track to opening night

Organiser/Speaker: Artscape & KMH Architects

The very first in a series of Saturday Masterclasses in celebration of Artscape's 55th anniversary will be hosted on 23 May 2026 by Artscape CEO, Marlene le Roux along with Marius Golding (Director of Operations) and the architects Rod Stevens and Kent Stephens from the renowned firm, KMH Architects. The session will be on the design, construction and renovations of the building, also to make it accessible for people living with disabilities. The Artscape Theatre Centre (originally the Nico Malan Theatre) was designed by the firm Kent, Miszewski, Hockly and Partners (KMH), with Jan Maciej Miszewski as the chief architect, opening in 1971. The iconic, brutalist-style complex on the Foreshore was built by Murray and Roberts Construction. Starting in 2017, Artscape required upgrades of the foyers, bars and front-of-house amenities to ensure the theatre is universally accessible to all patrons on all levels and at all venues and is refreshed with new interior finishes. The entire project was delivered in a live environment with no impact on theatre and opera productions.

23 May 2026

The future of arts funding

Organiser/Speaker: Artscape & Africa Melane

Renowned radio host, chairperson of Cape Town City Ballet and vice-chair of Cape Town Opera will facilitate a conversation on the sustainable funding of the arts and new models of funding for creative artists and institutions with Artscape CEO, Marlene le Roux, Beth Arendse (CEO: Business and Arts South Africa) and Cornelia Faasen (CEO: NATi & Chair: Festival Enterprise Catalyst). Representatives from the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), National Arts Council, the City of Cape Town and Mzansi Economy will also be in attendance. The event will be live-streamed.

30 May 2026

Let's dance on 55 - a jubilee open class for all

Organiser/Speaker: CT City Ballet (Lauren Pienaar, Nicci Loxton & Tracy Li)

Step out of the audience and dance with us! As part of Artscape Theatre's 55th encore, we're hosting an open class for a celebration about pure joy – ages 5 to 55 very welcome. No experience needed. Just smiles and comfy clothes.

After a fun 55-count routine you have learnt from us (perfect for practising at home with friends and family, or posting on TikTok), the magic continues with a quick peek behind the curtain. We'll slip backstage for a short, sweet visit to see the dancers putting on makeup, tying pointe shoes, and prepping wigs. Then it's up to the wardrobe where David Pamplin will share a treasure trove of costumes collected over the last 55 years. Try one on, feel the glam, snap a photo – and walk out knowing exactly what it's like just before the curtain goes up.

13 June 2026

The challenges and possibilities of independent arts practice in South Africa: an exploration of different models for building sustainable livelihoods

Organiser/Speaker: Africa Melane (Colin Daries & Mike van Graan)

What does it truly mean to build a life in and through the arts in South Africa today? Renowned radio host, chairperson of Cape Town City Ballet and vice-chair of Cape Town Opera will facilitate a conversation with Artscape CEO Marlene le Roux, Mike van Graan (Owner: MVG Productions & Playwright) and Colin Daries (CEO: The Nu-Era Group, Founder & Chairperson: Arts Capital) to explore one of the most pressing questions facing our creative sector – how independent artists can forge sustainable livelihoods in an environment of shifting funding landscapes, structural inequities, and extraordinary creative resilience.

Drawing on perspectives from institutional leadership, independent practice, and corporate philanthropy, the session explores the realities of navigating a career in the arts without the safety net of institutional employment and what it takes to keep creating meaningfully and sustainably over the long term. The conversation will examine how organisations, funders, and practitioners can collaborate to build a more caring and equitable creative ecosystem. The event will be live-streamed.

4 July 2026

Directors and theatre-makers - where are we from and where are we heading?

1 August 2026

Organiser/Speaker: Rafiek Mamon: Panel discussion

How have the landscape and the make-up of directors and theatre-makers changed through the years? The building is 55 years old - have we done enough in those 55 years to transform the look and feel of who makes theatre, of what is being portrayed on our stages? Who makes the decisions about the aforementioned? Has there been enough poured into the training of and opportunities for, for example, women directors? Of young, dynamic theatre-makers? These are a few of the questions we will explore and try to seek responses for.

Queer Expressions ... An intimate, authentic conversation exploring queer issues of faith and healing

8 August 2026

Organiser/Speaker: Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM)

IAM's programme manager, Marlow Valentine, will anchor an intimate conversation with one of South Africa's leading music artists who will share their story of resilience, personal trauma, sexuality and faith. They will also bless the gathering with their amazing voice and music. The intimate morning of conversation and celebration will conclude with a social over treats and drinks. More details of this event will be shared on the IAM social media platforms including: www.iam.org.za or marlow@iam.org.za

The arts are more than performance! Make a career in arts administration

12 September 2026

Organiser/Speaker: CPO: Louise Howlett

Louise Howlett, General Manager of the Cape Town Concert Series and presenter on Fine Music Radio, will present a masterclass for the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra on careers in arts administration in South Africa. Louise's experience includes working as Organiser of the National Chamber Orchestra and Logistics Coordinator of the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival. The Cape Town Concert Series, which she has managed since 2010 is considered to be one of the finest chamber music and recital platforms in South Africa. She mentors new generation artists and is a keen promoter of classical music in Cape Town. The masterclass will explore career pathways and opportunities for students and young people interested in pursuing a future in the arts sector.

Beyond the stage: Navigating government compliance in a public arts institution

17 October 2026

Organiser/Speaker: Artscape

In this masterclass, Artscape CEO Marlene le Roux is joined by Director of Business Management, André Steenveld and Chief Financial Officer, Yonela Tanzi Schaupp for an insightful conversation about what it truly means to operate as a public entity in South Africa's cultural landscape. Together, they will unpack the compliance obligations that govern institutions like Artscape, from the oversight role of the Auditor-General and the prescripts of National Treasury and explore how robust Supply Chain Management processes ensure that every rand spent reflects the values of fairness, equity, and public accountability. Whether you are an artist, arts administrator, cultural entrepreneur, or simply curious about how public institutions work, this session offers valuable insight into why compliance is not a constraint on creativity, but the very foundation that makes it possible.

The machine behind the magic

14 November 2026

Organiser/Speaker: CTO: Maritha Visagie, Lize Thomas and Nathan Lewis (pianist/coach)

*CTO's Maritha Visagie (Head of Production and award-winning Costume Designer), Lize Thomas (Artistic Manager) and Nathan Lewis (Vocal Coach and Pianist) will lead an integrated discussion, exploring Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* through the lenses of artistic excellence and professional pragmatism. The session will unpack the visual, musical and dramatic nuances of the piece, while pulling back the curtain on the complex financial planning and budgeting required to bring it to life. It will offer participants a rare, comprehensive look at how vocal mastery and scenic vision intersect with the economic realities of opera in South Africa.*